THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1981 — 86

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Monday, March 17, 1986.

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 10.15 a.m. o'clock.

PRESENT

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

Prayers were led by Rev. Father Ivan Harewood.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD entered the Chamber and took his seat.

Mr. SPEAKER: The House is in session.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, February 18, 1986.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Minutes for the meeting of Tuesday, February 18, 1986 be taken as read.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR

Mr. SPEAKER: I am to announce that I have received Accounts and Statements for the month of January, 1986, as prepared by the Accountant General.

PAPERS LAID

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

The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) Order, 1986.

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

The Auditors' Report and Statement of Accounts of the Child Care Board for the year ended 31st March, 1985.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES and Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN entered the Chamber and took their seats.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

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

A Resolution to approve of the publication in the *Official Gazette* of the abandonment of the acquisition of land at Queen Street, St. Peter.

A Bill to make provision for the management, control and supervision of motor omnibus terminals in Barbados.

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

FIRST READING OF BILLS

On separate motions of Hon. L. S. CRAIG, seconded each by Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, the following Bills were read a first time:—

A Bill to make provision for the management, control and supervision of motor omnibus terminals in Barbados.

A Bill to grant a sum of money out of the Consolidated Fund and to appropriate the same for the service of Barbados for the year ending March 31, 1987.

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

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

Mr. L. L. SISNETT entered the Chamber and took his seat.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Hon. L. S. CRIAG: Order No. 1.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 1.

APPROPRIATION ACT, 1986

Order No. 1 was called — To move the Second Reading of a Bill to grant a sum of money out of the Consolidated Fund and to appropriate the same for the service of Barbados for the year ending March 31, 1987.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW entered the Chamber and took his seat.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN (Christ Church East Central): Mr. Speaker, Sir, as is customary, a little later this month the Economic Report and the Financial Statements will be presented to this Chamber. It is anticipated that the Budget will be presented on April 2 this year.

We hope to publish the Economic Report in sufficient time for all honourable Members to be in a position to have as reasonably up-to-date information as possible about the performance of the various sectors of the economy in the calendar year 1985, although the fiscal year in Barbados, as honourable Members are aware, ends on March 31 in any given year. Today, however, in introducing the Appropriation Bill, I will confine myself to a few general references to the economic and fiscal situation during 1985 — 1986 and the output for 1986 — 1987.

In the calendar year 1985, the Barbados economy did show some signs of resurgence, particularly in the last quarter. However, during the third quarter, the impact of the international recession, particularly in the demand for electronic goods, and the high value of the American dollar, before the famous September meeting of group 5, had its effect on two major sectors of the Barbados economy, namely, summer tourism and the export of electronic goods. Notwithstanding that, it is anticipated that there was a nominal growth in the economy of Barbados, and the final figures will show either a very marginal increase or a marginal drop for the year 1985, depending on the evaluation of the upsurge in the last quarter of the year, particularly in the months of October, November and December, of European and British visitors, and the great increase of cruise ship passengers, together with an upsurge in demand in orders for the electronics industry in that period of time. Nineteen hundred and eighty-five can, therefore, be classified as a year in which the first quarter showed signs of vigorous growth.
10.25 a.m.

In the second quarter, particularly during the summer months, tourism and electronics and other manufacturing suffered from a lack of demand in the United States of America and the protectionist tendencies in the CARICOM market. The last quarter showed a resurgence in the tourist sector from Europe, the United Kingdom, a strong growth in cruise ship passengers and an increase in demand for electronic goods, which is reflected in the export figures certainly for January and February of this year.

Sugar output was about the same level as 1984. Non-sugar agriculture continued to make significant gains, notwithstanding the fact that the heavy rains which were experienced had their effect on actual crop output. Perhaps the most significant gain in non-sugar

agriculture was the realisation by sugar growers and other agriculturalists in Barbados that there is tremendous scope for the export of winter vegetables and agro-industrial products to Europe, Canada and to the United States of America. The psychological hurdle of converting from a traditional sugar planter to a modern agriculturalist received great impetus last year.

Our energy and construction sectors recorded significant growth. In the fiscal year, however, the last quarter, a new phenomenon has developed in relation to energy. It is that, from the 1st February, approximately, the prices of energy in the form of oil have been subjected to new and violent fluctuations. The Government has been monitoring this situation on a daily basis, and the Caribbean Ministers of Finance, Energy, and Prime Ministers have been discussing what impact this new development, assuming it stays permanent, will have on the overall fiscal and monetary situation in the Caribbean. Indeed, economists throughout the world are engaged in a debate on the impact of oil prices in various economies.

It is not too difficult to envisage the impact on the economies of those countries which receive a great proportion or a preponderant proportion of their foreign exchange or their revenue from oil. However, for the rest of the world, one significant point is being made, and that is, there is no guarantee that the energy producers, the oil producers, will allow a very significant drop in the price of oil to be permanent. This is the important point, and it is reinforced from the early reports which have been emanating from the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries' meetings taking place in Geneva.

The Government will be in a position, certainly by Budget day, to outline to the public of Barbados the proposals that it will make to ensure that some measure of balance takes place in the distribution of what is regarded as the sum of money resulting from the drop in the oil prices.

Unemployment in Barbados, like in the rest of the world, particularly in the third quarter, remained at levels not acceptable to the Government. Significant progress was made, however, in the last quarter, like the first quarter, in retaining the number of jobs and in containing the level of unemployment. However, the Government is convinced that the programmes introduced in the last Budget, together with the proposals that will be contained in this Budget, and the public expenditure programmes which are detailed in the Estimates of Expenditure, which will form the subject matter of our discussion this week, will have a beneficial effect, certainly for the next three to four years, on the level of employment in Barbados.

These programmes are programmes which were envisaged by the Government since 1983. They are well set out in the Development Plan 1983—88. It has taken a bit more time, in some instances, for the projects to commence. It must be remembered, however, that in a developing country like Barbados, with a small capital market, with the need to ensure that additional purchasing power generated by increased employment, particularly in construction and in other areas, does not result in a balance of payments drain, it is necessary for foreign components of any particular development programme to be financed by a corresponding inflow of foreign exchange. We are therefore dependent upon our ability to persuade multi-lateral lending institutions, of which we are members to lend us, at as concessional rates as possible, at least the foreign exchange component of given programmes.

Honourable Members will know that, because of the nature of membership of these institutions, procedures and regulations have to be complied with before contracts are awarded. I am pleased to say, though, that as we analyse the capital development programme, we would see that a considerable number of these projects are on stream, will come on stream, and I trust will be completed to the betterment of the infrastructure of Barbados and the potential capacity for earning foreign exchange in the future.

10.35 a.m.

There was a small surplus on the Current Account and the Balance of Payments. Retained imports declined considerably during the first three quarters and they rose in the last quarter. One of the significant features of the economy in Barbados in 1985 was the very low rate of inflation. On a point to point basis, December to December, it was 2.5%. In this fiscal year, on a point to point basis, as will be seen today in the publications, it is 1.8%. There can be no doubt that tremendous progress was made in 1985 in curtailing the level of inflation. But for Governments, that does have a cost. And the cost, particularly for a Government that derives a considerable percentage of its revenue from taxes on international trade or on trade, is a reduction in the amount a given tax percentage brings on an *ad valorem* basis.

Moving, Sir, to the economic outlook for 1986, I have already touched on one very important aspect, namely, the volatility in the oil markets. Our own advisers have advised that, on the balance of probabilities, we can look at oil in the vicinity of somewhere between $15 and $20 per barrel, averaging in the first two quarters around the $15 mark. In the last quarter, the prediction is that, as the demand for heating oil and other seasonal products increase, it will go back to $20.

Aside.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have taken appropriate steps to deal with that.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I know that the repairs must continue, but I hope they continue after we have left here this week, Sir.

Aside.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: The outlook for sugar is that we will have an increase in the physical volume of sugar output. There will be a small monetary increase arising from the fact that the price for the LOMÉ component of our export market will increase slightly. But what is more important, the fall in the value of the American dollar and the increase in value of the European Economic Community Units of Account will result in us receiving, in Barbadian dollars, more than we received last year.

Construction is also forecast to rise, and that is obvious. A drive around Barbados will demonstrate that, while we may not be in what the journalists now refer to as a "construction boom," we are certainly in a period in our history in which there has been a considerable increase in the number of construction jobs available, and a considerable increase in the variety of construction projects which are taking place before our eyes.

The tourism outlook will be dependant on what happens in the summer. The winter position, which is becoming more and more evident, is that there will be a growth this winter. All of the evidence, particularly the Hotel Tax collections for the winter season, indicates that there is an improvement in the earnings of the tourist industry, not only short stay, but long stay.

What is equally important to us in Barbados is that the number of visitors from England and Europe will show a significant increase, not only because of the year in which we are likely to entertain some 3 000 or 4 000 people who will come especially to watch cricket, but also there is abundant evidence now to indicate that the rise in the value of European currencies has created a demand for tourism in Barbados among people in Europe, and our price competitive position has improved greatly. The last quarter of last year indicated this. The first quarter of this year, although not yet finished, has also indicated this, and from a recent visit to England, and from reports that are given me on the predictions of the tour operators and others in Europe, provided this currency position continues, we can expect a much better summer season than last year. Nineteen hundred and eighty-six illustrates very clearly to us all in Barbados the price sensitivity of the tourist industry in relation to the value of Barbados' dollar in Europe.

The electronics industry is expected to grow. As I said earlier, in the last quarter of last year there were indications that the particular problems that arose from the Japanese export domination of certain products to the United States have been arrested. Two factors are largely responsible for that. One was the petition put before the relevant authorities in the United States by a number of companies, which alleged dumping by Japanese manufacturers, and the second factor is the great increase in the value of the Yen and the fall in the American dollar. Already in January and February, there is an indication that our exports of electronic products have reacted to this increase in demand.

At this particular juncture, with the exception of the Puerto Rican market and markets opened to us by the LOMÉ Convention Access, the proposed access in Canada, I am not happy about the prospects for exporters to CARICOM. The evidence is clear that the drop in the oil income in Trinidad and Tobago, together with the incapacity of those who issue licences and foreign exchange to honour their commitments made in Nassau, will continue to affect Barbados' position. Measures adopted by the Government seem to be having some effect in that, increasingly, the anti-protectionist lobby in Trinidad and Tobago is becoming more and more vocal. I am heartened by the fact that the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Trinidad and Tobago recently joined its voice to the voice of those who recognise the sheer futility of giving in to a narrow band of selfish people who wish to protect their inefficiency.

10.45 a.m.

More details of the pattern of the CARICOM trade will be available, as the final trade figures for November have just come in, and we hope by the Budget to have the final trade figures for the whole of last year.

If we now turn to a review of the fiscal year 1985—1986, there are a couple of errors in the Memoranda, about which we will be publishing errata. The current account deficit is expected to be around $20 million. The revenue for the year is now projected at $600 million and the expenditure at $677 million.

I think that I should say a word on expenditure. The expenditure includes a number of extraordinary items which resulted from the fact that the Government felt obligated to provide a change in the support mechanism to the sugar industry this year. Ten million dollars of the $21 million arises from the fact that a grant in that amount out of the Treasury, on a current account basis and not by way of a capital expenditure item, was charged to our current account expenditure.

We also must remember that there was a substantial regrading in the Civil Service in Barbados. Civil servants in Barbados between 1980 and 1985 received salaries and wages improved by a significant amount over and above the rate of inflation. The Estimates will show that a considerable sum was spent not only in regrading, but also

in ensuring that the principle of job retention in the public sector was applied.

It is very important for us to stress the difference between the public sector and the private sector in respect to employment practices. When revenues are under strain in the private sector, it is easier for them to cut cost by sacrificing bodies. In the public sector that has not been the practice in the past in Barbados. That is a material distinction. There is a material distinction between public sector and private sector employment. We have reached the stage now where the level of wages in the public sector, in the opinion of the Government, compare favourably with those in the private sector, and when job security is taken into consideration, the terms and conditions of employment in Government are superior to those in the private sector.

The major areas of growth in the revenue, which is projected to be about 13.2% over 1984 — 1985, are the amounts collected from personal income tax, taxes on international trade and stamp duties. There were marginal increases in consumption taxes and corporate taxes. The full effect, of course, of the reductions in taxes in the last Budget will not be known until the coming year. The ability to write off export earnings will only affect corporate tax next year to the fullest. This year there will be some, but next year, the coming financial year, you will see it. Similarly, the ability of individuals to write off their taxes the amounts allowed for savings in credit unions and the amounts allowed for the cost of the various levies being deducted will not be seen until the tax returns have gone in this April. So that the next financial year one will see the full effect of the tax reductions which were allowed in the last Budget.

We are budgeting, Sir, for an overall deficit of $166.2 million. The capital expenditure last year will end up somewhere in the vicinity of $40 million. Part of this arose because of the facts I spoke of earlier, and that was our inability to start some of the major projects particularly the Airport-West Coast Road, in the last financial year. History will now record the reasons for that. We expect to get $75 million in in-flows of foreign funds, and local funds will be used to the extent of $90 million. There is no doubt that the banks are particularly grateful for the fact that they have a demand in Barbados for funds, for the liquidity in the banking system in 1985 was such that, for the first time for a long period of time, Treasury bill rates dropped below double digits. There was a persistent pattern of over-subscription for Treasury bills and there was a great, and still is, demand for worthwhile bonds and investment opportunities.
10.55 a.m.

In the Estimates for the current year, Sir, current expenditure is estimated at $700 million, this is 8% higher than the original estimate for 1985—86 and 3.4 % higher than the revised estimate as shown in the Memorandum to the Estimates. I do not think that anyone can truthfully accuse the Government of trying to puff its budget when all it is doing is trying to contain public expenditure within an amount which is so small a percentage of the existing year.

It is also interesting to note — and page 2 of the Memorandum sets this out very clearly — that personal emoluments are likely to reach $330 million, $79.4 million more than 1984—85, the last salaries revision year. And this year, the beginning of a new period of employee contracts, will show that the Government has to look for $79 million more this year to pay the wages that were agreed two years ago on a two year contractual basis, with inflation running over the two year period at 4.8% and 2.5%.

We expect, Sir, to raise in revenue $704 million, providing for a very small current account surplus. We expect that this $4.3 million surplus will help us to finance a capital expenditure which is anticipated at $188.5 million. All those who talk about the Government indulging in a reckless and wasteful public expenditure programme for electoral purposes should look at the facts as they are, not what they want them to be. In 1981 capital expenditure was $181 million. This is 1985, five years later, and the budgeted expenditure is $188 million.

Asides.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Whatever the honourable Members say, the projects will be continued and completed to the satisfaction of the public of Barbados. As is usual, we expect to receive financing from foreign and local sources. There should not be any difficulty in getting local financing, Government paper is in great demand in Barbados.

(*Aside:* Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Nobody else wants it.)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: It is a good thing that nobody else wants it, because it gives the Government an opportunity to borrow money at very reasonable rates of interest. That is not a bad thing, because the taxpayers will benefit, because the interest element of their debt charges will be reduced. So it is a good thing that nobody else wants it. The first claims on savings in Barbados are from Barbadians themselves. It is a good thing!

I am proud of the fact that this Government has been able to so manage its affairs that the Government requirements for capital from our own savings can be satisfied and substantial surpluses left for the private sector to participate in development in Barbados, too. That is maintaining a proper balance and order in running the financial affairs of a country, in which the

needs of both the public and the private sectors can be satisfied with your own savings. That is one of the material distinctions between this Government, this country and other countries around us. When they say that they can afford in their fiscal policies to do this and to do that, we can pay our debts, we can help to finance our capital development programme. We have always done this and I hope we will always continue to do this.

If one looks at the source of financing, one will see that the only grant we are going to get is $1.618 million in our requirement of $166 million. We do not finance our programmes by the generosity of other people. Our people have to pay for their own development. The total element of grants that we get in a financing requirement of $166 million is $1.6 million.

There is one point I should have mentioned and I wish to mention it, because it is important, lest I be accused of not comparing like with like, and it is that there has been a modest increase in the Establishment in Barbados, so that all of the increase in the public sector wage costs is not attributable to salary increases. There has been an increase in Establishments, and I am happy about that, because not only have we got job retention, we have got job expansion.

Asides.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: You cannot change the facts. We are employing more people in the Government than we employed last year or the year before. The established posts have been added to by an amount of 818 so far. All of those are not net increases in jobs — because of the history of our employment in Government, you start off in some areas in temporary posts and as the service becomes a permanent service you convert them — but it gives the lie to those who say that the Government is not interested in providing security of tenure for public servants.
11.05 a.m.

I gave a commitment, Mr. Speaker you may recall, that some 900 jobs or 1 000 jobs would be made permanent. The only reason why they have not been made permanent is because of the attitude of the civil servants to one another. We have reached a situation where, everyday, I have to ask whether all the submissions are in from the various departments. And I will say this, because the public must know these things, that even when we establish the jobs, the way the Public Service Commission works, there is no guarantee that the people who are responsible for the appointment machinery are going to disturb themselves with any degree of swiftness. As I say sometimes, I believe that there is greater inhumanity shown by some people in the Public Service to other public servants than by anybody else. The politicians are not to be blamed in respect of this matter. I had the opportunity to tell the unions that the other day. It is nothing to do with the politicians. When we establish the jobs it is out of our hands. As a matter of fact, we give away the power when we establish the jobs.

Eight hundred and eighteen jobs have been created so far. I stand by the commitment. Of course, they will know that they have a terminal date now by which that commitment can be honoured in this session only. They have to return to it a little later.

Asides.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I expect that, during the course of the next 2 weeks, there will be more jobs made permanent. They tell me that another Civil Establishment Order is in the making and that we should get probably another 100 to 120 jobs.

If we go now to the Capital Expenditure, at page 3 we will see where the major increases are of the estimates, in the Memorandum. You will see that the Ministry of Transport and Works takes the pride of place. They expect to spend $46 million this year as opposed to $22 million last year.

Asides

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Well, that is because of the road works and the Carlisle Bay public sector/private sector beautification and expansion of shopping in Barbados. It is there for you to see. There cannot be any doubt about that. The Government's contribution to that is the reclamation, the fishing harbour. The private sector contribution will start from just below the Hilton Hotel, right down to the Electric Company. One is seeing it every day. Every day you see a new one there.

We, also, are not going to forget, while we are doing the big roads, the little ones, the little ones in the tenantries. The 50-odd that we did this year, we are going to continue to increase those. Even Eagle Hall is getting now, Hanschell Land, all of them. St. Joseph, too, Sir!

Mr. SPEAKER: I do hope so.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I know that Christ Church will have some.

So that the tenantry road programme will be the major focus of attention for actual work by the Ministry of Transport and Works. A large amount of this work is subcontracted out. I hope that when this exercise is over, with the Government doing some, the private sector doing some, there will be a great improvement in the technical competence in Barbados about road building. We are going to have an in-depth analysis, a total in-depth analysis and evaluation.

I think the Honourable Minister of Transport can be a proud man in Barbados today. He has produced more than any other Minister of Transport ever had the opportunity to produce. He has produced it in a time frame that is very satisfactory. And what is more, he obviously will be rewarded in due time for his tremendous effort, his great demonstration of managerial competence.

Asides

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: He cannot say it for himself, but I can say it for him, because it is true. You look at the roundabouts! You look at the bridges! You look at the sidewalks! You look at the 50-odd tenantry roads! You look at all of those things. You look at the signs that are all around the place.

Asides

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: You see, you were not there, so you do not know what was said. In any event, we got the results.

Now, Sir, the next one is Agriculture — $17 million last year, $29 million this year. This Government has spent tremendous sums in the restructuring of agriculture and natural resources in Barbados. I had to say that all those people from the aid agencies and others who are constantly preaching to Third World Countries about the need for restructuring economies should appreciate what a tremendous sacrifice it takes on the part of a country to do this without help from abroad. With the exception of some funds under the LOME Convention, Bds $8 million over 5 years, we have had to rely on our own resources and on borrowings, at economic interest rates, to pay for the restructuring of agriculture in Barbados. It is because we have faith, and it is because we believe that it is important for a Government not to neglect agriculture, that we have committed so large a proportion of the resources of Barbados to agricultural diversification, and fisheries is included in that, $29 million.
11.15 a.m.

The third area, Sir, of major increase, is in the area of the Ministry of Health and Social Security and in the Ministry of Education.

In respect of Health and Social Security, the increase there, Sir, reflects the amount of money that is being used to improve the Queen Elizabeth Hospital by the expansion of certain of the facilities there, and the completion of the polyclinic programme at the Glebe in St. George, one of the cities the Honourable Leader of the Opposition said he would not live to see. The Lord is good and just — he allows the Honourable Leader of the Opposition to go up St. George now and see the third city coming on. The Glebe will allow us to continue with the programme of providing medical facilities in a holistic way through the polyclinics.

I am particularly happy, Sir, that during the course of this term of office of the Government, when we start the next term we will have this behind us, the question of health care delivery through polyclinics and through doctors' offices. We will have it behind us. The polyclinics are working to the full satisfaction of the people who go to them. The numbers are increasing, both of patients and those responsible for the delivery of care. We have nothing to be ashamed of on this side in that. I know that considerable progress is going to be made in the course of the next two to three weeks with delivery in the other area, through the doctor's office, as envisaged in the Budget. I am going to speak to the doctors on the 31st March. I know that the National Health Service Board and others are there. I know the specialists are happy now and things of that kind.

The next area of increase of significance is education and Culture. The second World Bank Loan will be implemented in this coming financial year as part of a three-year programme. That, of course, is to be supplemented by money provided by Government. There will be some significant new things about this programme. The integration between education and training, which was started and envisaged in the last Budget, will be carried to its logical conclusion. More and more effort will therefore be placed on the provision of the facilities for the delivery of vocational and work-related subjects, something that is going on all over the world, and we are up there with it, not behind, neck and neck with it.

The programme will also include some money for the expansion and improvement of three skills training centres, so that the people of Kingsland, Wotton, Vauxhall, the southern area of Barbados, like the parents of children at Queen's College and two other schools, will know for certain that their patience will be rewarded and that the new school buildings will be built as fast as we are able to get the architects, the engineers and the project management teams in place. We are not going to go out there without doing the proper pre-planning. We are going to do it, our commitment is there to do it, so that Queen's College, Wotton — or Kingsland now, because it has shifted to Kingsland — will definitely be the two largest areas in there.

There will be a number of primary schools. At Springer Memorial, I understand there will be a major refurbishing job in this World Bank project. What is important, too, is that the savings in manpower that we effectuated in the last World Bank project by the amalgamation of a number of primary schools will now be used to provide additional manpower, new teachers, in the area of vocational guidance, counsellors. Cabinet has already agreed to 25 or 30 of these. We have savings of six

headteachers and a couple of other teachers, but we are moving towards rationalising and re-deploying the personnel.

Finally, Sir, the Ministry of International Transport, in the Capital Estimates. This is really the airport project. We have started. That started later, and you will see that there is a difference between $5 million and $16 million. That is ongoing, but the major expenditure of that will take place in the current financial year.

So that gives the House a clear idea of the capital expenditure programmes. I believe, Sir, that this capital expenditure is targeted to areas which, as I said before, will improve the infrastructure of Barbados, will increase our potential to earn greater foreign exchange, and will provide an investment in our human resources, which again should help in the future, to ensure that Barbados continues along the road of being one of those countries in the world which has managed, despite the hostile international economic environment in which it has to operate, to hold its head above water and to provide for its citizens a standard of living which is better than in most developing countries and not too far away from that in the average developed country.

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

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I beg to second the motion and reserve my right to speak.
11.25 a.m.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES (St. Michael South Central): Mr. Speaker, as Shadow Minister for Finance and Planning on this side, I have listened to many presentations of the annual Appropriation Bill. This year, I believe that what we have heard is a tale of fantasy which seeks to relieve those figures of a constant depression which has pervaded the economic and social scene of this country over the past five years, and which, when one examines these Estimates, gives a clear indication that this will be the pattern for 1986—87.

It is quite clear that even in an election year, the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance is quite unable to generate enthusiasm even among his colleagues, far less among the rest of the country, for the programmes which he is offering the country. He has, Sir, sought to use available information in such a way as to minimize the public perception of the serious damage done to the economy of Barbados by the policies pursued by the Government. He has fallen back on the position which that side has taken for five long years; that by spending huge sums of money, they are putting the capital in place in terms of physical, infrastructural and human resources, so that Barbados would be able to mobilize such capital for the future benefit of this country when the international recovery takes place. It is now history that the national recovery has taken place in the United States, and is probably whipping away, whilst we continue in a state of depression in this country.

That fantasy, Sir, perhaps is best seen in the very first statement made by the Honourable Minister of Finance. He stated that it was customary to have the Annual Economic Report and Financial Statement — I presume, because he is always a little vague on economic and fiscal matters, that he means the Financial Statement of the Central Bank of Barbados — laid in Parliament prior to a budgetary presentation. This is not the case, unless you can say one year makes it a custom. However, I am pleased to know that what was done last year would be done again this year, but it is nothing other than in the realms of fantasy to say that that has been a custom. It was done only on one occasion, after many years of demands from this side.

We are also pleased, Sir, to see that an early Budget will be brought this year, on April 2, because I believe that there is a waning of confidence in this country, with the present caretaker Administration not having the authority to take the correct initiatives in the interest of the country. There is a progressive lack of investment in Barbados, and I think that the sooner an election is called, the better it would be for this country.

Sir, I have heard some figures which the honourable Member tried to use on the question of output in Barbados. He said that last year, in the first quarter, there was vigorous growth — attributable, no doubt, to the tourist industry — there was a fall-off in the second and third quarters and a resurgence in the tourist sector in the fourth quarter, with some increase in demand for electronic goods. That may well be the seasonal performance of the economy in the past year. But when he summed it up, Sir, he said, in no uncertain terms, that all that would add up to would be a minimal increase or a minimal decrease in output in 1985. That means that this Barbados Labour Party would have presided over persistent negative growth in this economy for the period 1981—1985, for which the people of Barbados gave them a mandate in 1981. That is what it adds up to! This question of playing games with the first quarter and games with the fourth quarter and alluding to expected growth in this year is something that we have to be very careful about. The fact is, Sir, that the overall economic performance of this economy, under the present Barbados Labour Party, over the past five years has been one of persisting negative output.

Sir, he then proceeded to talk about this year, trying to signal to the people out there that something dramatic is happening in tourism. Whatever figures you might have for the tourist industry this year — I have no doubt there may well be an increase in the Hotel Sales Tax, I have no

doubt that current statistics might indicate that there has been an increase in the amount of tourist expenditures — I know for a fact that the projections for the summer of this year are bad. That is a fact, and that is despite any depreciation of our currency in respect of European currencies, or currencies any other part of the world.

He apologized to the House, Sir, for the fact that, despite there being a significant increase in the number of barrels of oil produced by the Barbados National Oil Company, he finds himself in the appalling predicament today where in respect of that investment, when you take into consideration the capital cost and the dramatic fall in oil prices — not since February this year; it started before February this year, but certainly persistently over the past year — he has a serious problem in respect of maintaining the viability of that capital investment unless it is going to be propped up by the prices paid by Barbadians for petroleum products in Barbados.

Sir, the current projections that I am aware of are that, unless particularly the British Government should join with OPEC countries in curtailing the production of oil, oil prices may well fall as low as $8 per barrel. I believe, Sir, that only last night the Saudi Arabia Minister for Energy called on the developed countries to join with the OPEC countries to try to determine what would be a reasonable level of oil production in order to keep reasonable revenues flowing to those countries that are largely dependant on oil. This means, Sir, that it is reasonable to assume that the price of crude oil and the price of petroleum products will remain down for a substantial period of time. Because there is no way, Sir, that the United States will ever allow itself to be a captive of the prices demanded by OPEC states in the future, and one can confidently anticipate that oil prices will level off somewhere in the region of about U.S.$14.00 to $15.00 a barrel for a long period to come.
11.35 a.m.

Sir, the Democratic Labour Party is in a position to assure the people of this country from the floor of this House that there will be a decrease in the price of electricity, water, gas, gasoline, diesel, and all related energy products. We say this with confidence, Sir, because we are talking about substantial relief for householders and for the productive sector of Barbados. We are not speaking about manipulations in respect of minor reductions in the consumption tax paid to the Government. We are talking about a reduction that reflects the true cost of energy consequential on the fall of oil prices.

Now, the honourable Member has admitted for the first time on the floor of this House that there have been no employment gains in this country for the past year. It is now known that there were substantial losses in the previous four years and now he admits that there have been no employment gains.

I started off with a brief response to the opening part of his speech, and I want to look now, Sir, at some global factors in relation to this Appropriation Bill. The first thing I want to say is that this Bill provides for expending the Government of some $4 million on current account, and $188 million on capital account. In other words, the Government is planning to spend somewhere in the region of $890 million this year.

I do not believe, Sir, nor does this party believe, that it is necessary for the public sector to be spending this kind of money, because of the serious implications for taxation in respect of our individual and corporate citizens, and also bearing in mind the very high level of the national debt. We do not believe that the only source of employment generation in the present circumstances lies in public sector spending. We believe, Sir, that with an appropriate climate for investment in Barbados, more productive jobs can be captured more quickly, matching the skills available in this society with the private sector. The Government seem not to have learned from its lesson over the past five years, and I believe, Sir, that it is time that we look very carefully and see what is happening.

Sir, if we were to take these Estimates and look along the path of development which this Government is taking, a path which we intend to reverse, we intend to take the opposite direction, and the reason for that is very simple. Last year, Sir, they ended up with a deficit on current account of $20 million, which is the corrected figure which the honourable Prime Minister offered to the House, and which I accept. It has been corrected from $27 million to $20 million. Last year a deficit on current account of $27 million, an overall deficit of some $60 million!

Sir, do you realize what has happened in Barbados over the past five years? On current account alone they have generated an overall deficit of $54 million. This is clear testimony of the incompetence of the present Administration. You will see that in four years out of five they have chalked up an overall deficit on current account to a total amount of $54 million, if we were to accept the figure of $20 million instead of $27 million. But more serious than that, Sir, is that if you were to look at the previous five years, at the comparative figure, that is between 1976 and 1981, you will see that even that Administration managed to generate a surplus of some $54 million between 1976 and 1981. I quote that, Sir, only to show the dramatic deterioration in the discipline applied to the management of Government's fiscal affairs during the period of 1981 and 1986, and why Barbados is in such a mess today.

The honourable Member talked about how he would finance the deficit on capital account. What he has not told us is how the deficit on current account has been financed: 1981 the printing of money, 1982 and 1983 borrowing from the commercial banks, principally domestic; 1984 — that was the year there was a raid of the National Insurance Funds in Barbados by the Government, and to date they have not paid back one cent of the borrowings that they made from the National Insurance Fund, having appropriated for their use over 50% of the total assets of the National Insurance Funds.

There has been a gradual deterioration in the way that current account deficit has been financed. Sir, worst of all, in 1985 — and I challenge anyone over there to deny it, because it is reflected in the Central Bank's statements in their asset and liability position of the $90 million or so, which they borrowed on the Euro-dollar market and from the Japanese — I am saying that about 45% of foreign current borrowings last year went into financing current expenditure in Barbados, about 45%, and you can see it by the dramatic great drop in the holdings of treasury bills by the Central Bank of Barbados, trying to fool people that there has been a significant and drastic reduction in the domestic assets of the Central Bank. The foreign money is a matter of grave concern to every economist outside of the Government as to how on earth the Government could ever reach the point where it is going to Japan and going on the Eurodollar market to raise loans in order to finance a deficit on current account, when at the same time the banking system in Barbados is extremely liquid; liquid for the simple reason that nobody wants to borrow the money, because there is no investment opportunities in the country. That is why the liquidity situation in Barbados is as it is. And, that has been their performance in respect of managing their current account budget.

All of us on this side accept that in a small economy like Barbados, there will be inevitably some deficit financing. But we on this side pledge that that deficit financing will relate only to capital and developmental projects, that it will appear in some relationship to the size of the economy, some in relationship to reasonable revenues that you can extract from people to finance Government's projects, some in relationship to the overall gross domestic product. Indeed Sir, we further pledge that we will try to revert to the practice that has obtained in this country prior to 1981 where, except in years where there are unforeseen stresses on Government's current expenditure, current expenditure makes some contribution to the capital expenditure incurred in Barbados. That is the essence of good public management, that is the essence of good public accounting policy. What you have been doing is quite wrong. It is quite wrong that you should chalk up an overall deficit of $54 million on current account over a five year period.

11.45 a.m.

But, Sir, that is not bad, that is the deficit on current account. During that same period — and many Barbadians would not believe this — the deficits on capital account have amounted to some $885 million, and now this year, if you include this year, you are talking of an overall deficit of $946 million in a five year period.

Do you know where you will see that? You will see that $946 million reflected in the money owed to the National Insurance Board. You will see it reflected in the accommodation of the Central Bank. You will see it in the domestic debt and you will see it in the foreign debt of this country. So that when you see that the public debt of this country — the official public debt I am talking about, I am not talking about the public guaranteed debt and Central Bank debt — has risen by around a billion dollars over the past five years, then you begin to understand why it is so. It lies in that deficit. That is where it is.

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Sir, they see nothing wrong with that. I see everything wrong with it. An overall deficit on current account, overall deficits on capital account, almost a billion dollars of borrowings in a five year period! If the problems of Barbados were alleviated during that period, I would say that there could be some moral justification, there might be some financial justification, there might be some economic justification, but let us look over the period.

That method of financing, which is inherent in these Estimates, we consider to be fundamentally wrong. They are projecting a surplus of only $4 million on current account this year and have also hinted at a significant increase in salaries in various directions, I am saying that on the basis of how you are spending and throwing away money now trying to win an election, you are going to end up with as big a deficit on capital and current account now as in 1981. I am saying that. I am going to get back to that $173 million figure. In fact, before I go any further, Sir, I believe I should substantiate that figure of $946 million to show the public of Barbados the extent to which political considerations determine the fiscal policy of this Government during that period.

I recall that the honourable Member for St. Peter at the time, when he was a disciplined economist and being interviewed in respect of the events of 1981, alluded to the serious fiscal indiscipline that crept into Government's finances in an interview on VOB in 1981, and I quote his exact words. What he was talking about was a runaway deficit, because let me tell you something, Sir: I believe I am quoting from a very eminent authority in the Central Bank, and I am sure the Central Bank cannot be in agreement with this method of financing Government's operations, when he said, and I agree with him, that there

is no fiscal or economic instrument known to man that is powerful enough to control a runaway fiscal deficit. If you look at the runaway fiscal deficits here — I am not a percentage man, Sir, I am a man who looks at dollar bills — I am not a percentage man, I look at the reality of a situation — I am saying that what you are seeing here in Barbados is a runaway fiscal deficit that cannot be correct by either monetary or fiscal measures.

But, Sir, let me look very carefully and give a breakdown at how we arrive at this almost $1 billion accumulation of fiscal deficits. In 1975—76 the deficit in Barbados was in the region of $48 million; in 1976—77, $60 million. Now, I am just going to give you an example of their planning. Under the Barbados Labour Party that deficit was contained under $90 million in 1979—80, but in the two years preceding an election, 1980—81, it jumped to $138 million and by 1981 it was $173 million. The highest deficit which this country has seen so far was in 1981—82, an election year. The next year, of course, the people were fired and sent home and that dropped down to $112 million, $126 million, $147 million, and now it has crept back up this year.

What is interesting — and I want to challenge those with training in economics in this House who will ask me a percentage of what — I am telling you that if you take the $173 million fiscal deficit of 1981 as a percentage of GNP or whatever you like, you will find that it is outrageous. You will also find that at this point in time, five years down the line, that you still have a problem.

Sir, this Democratic Labour Party, when we look back at this method of public financing, we ask what have been the gains over the years. We can see none. We see over $1 billion in debt with a massive increase in your debt service from $20 million a year to $110 million a year. We see increased and indiscriminate spending by the Government without any significant permanent job creation. We see increased wastage, particularly in Government's commercial ventures. We have seen the debilitating effect of excessive taxation to finance these huge deficits and also to meet the appetite of a Government that is committed to spending money, rather than saving money for investment purposes and permanent job creation. We have seen that money go down the dain. We have seen that this process of allocating too large a slice of the economy to the public sector, nevertheless has resulted in the serious undermining of the private sector in Barbados, which produces jobs on a permanent basis and jobs that are relevant to the young people in this country, and tend, by and large, to match the type of skills and educational attainment which they have had within our system.

The only jobs they can produce are for people with hoes. I was surprised the other day, Sir, when I turned off President Kennedy Drive to turn on to the Spring Garden Road to see about 27 young people standing up shoulder to shoulder with hoes, and recognised among those people three of them who were graduates of secondary schools in Barbados. That is the kind of jobs you are offering to people on a short term basis. What is more, Sir, and this cannot be argued, I am saying that at the root of the disinvestments, at the root of the bankruptcies, at the root of the high liquidity in the financial system of this country and the inability or the lack of desire of people with a good record to want to borrow that money for investment purposes is this fiscal programme of the Government.
11.55 a.m.

Sir, as a matter of policy, we intend to reduce that fiscal deficit. We do not believe that we need $888 million to run this country over the next 12 months. We believe that a new Democratic Labour Party Government will reduce the total expenditures on capital and current account by 11.2 %, which will be approximately 4% or thereabouts above this year's spending; 11.2% below what is projected for 1986—1987 or a mere 4% below the 1985—86 figure. Those on that side are capable of remarkable distortions and I want to repeat what I said — 11.25% of Government spending for 1986—87, which would be the equivalent of a reduction of 4% over 1985—86 figure. That means, Sir, that we will be looking for substantially less taxation from the people of Barbados and that we will be able to effect those savings by proper management, by curtailing the losses in the public enterprises and, also, through renewed investment in Barbados, bearing in mind the present tax structure. With increased demand in the society, we will be able to generate additional income to overcome that, whilst, at the same time, reducing the tax burden on the people of Barbados.

I just want to give you a few areas. They are so committed to spending money that they do not believe that you do not have to spend this kind of money to survive. Why should we have to spend almost four times as much money in Barbados in 1987 as we spent in 1975 — 1976. Why? The population of Barbados has remained relatively stable. There are not anymore people in Barbados. And after all that time, Sir, you now have about 20 000 more people unemployed in Barbados. That is the tragedy of it all. After spending all that money over the years, you have bankruptcies on a scale unheard of in Barbados. You have higher levels of unemployment in this country now than you had in 1976 or that you had in 1981. Let us face it, that is a fact. You have borrowed one billion dollars. You have overspent by one billion dollars approximately, and you have higher levels of unemployment.

Is not something fundamentally wrong with this approach to the development of the country? That is the question that we will put to the country. Is there an alternative path for the development of Barbados? I

believe there is an alternative path, and it is the alternative path that we will pursue because, I am sure, that the path of public spending on the scale that you all are indulging in will lead us down to the situation in which Seaga finds himself. That is how Guyana arrived there and that is how Jamaica arrive there — of course, the Government having been advised to take certain decisions by the honourable Member for St. Peter, who was a close advisor to Mr. Norman Manley while he was in office.

If I may continue, Sir, we can look at critical areas, but these areas we will examine more thoroughly on April 3, the areas where money can be saved. But we can look at the areas like the money spent on Parliament, like the money spent on Cabinet, like the money spent on Defence and Security, like debt charges, like the money spent on interest payments. Can you imagine this year that we are paying $71 million in interest payments alone? Mr. Speaker, would you believe that approximately 55% or 60% of all the income tax collected in Barbados will be going just to pay interest on debt, and that a significant proportion of that $71 million will be interest on foreign debt? Are you surprised that you end up with only a slight surplus on your balance of payments, despite the dramatic fall of demand in the economy? I am not surprised, Sir, but it is almost inevitable that that would take place.

Now, Sir, we heard this big song and dance about the kind of money the Ministry of Transport and Works will be spending. I want you all to look at that very carefully. MTW has been spending a lot of money for a long time and the record of employment opportunities in the Ministry of Transport and Works has been very bad. We all remember the lay-offs and the 4-day weeks of the 1970s, in the early days of the Barbados Labour Party Administration. We all remember what has been happening. If you look very carefully, you will see the great disparity over the years between their current expenditure and their capital expenditure. We expect them to try to fix the roads now, everybody is expecting this, but you cannot fool the people in Barbados, because they know that the cost of rehabilitation is going to be substantially higher for them now than if those roads were maintained on a continuous basis over the years; that we would not have had to have gone through the trauma of defective roads, defective drainage over a time and that there would be a constant stream of employment generating over the years.

Sir, we can talk about reducing expenditure because when we implement our energy programme, there will be at least a 30% drop to Government in the cost of utilities, and utilities constitute a continuing cost to Government almost on every page of these Estimates.

Asides

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: It will be implemented after the next elections.

We will not be spending the kind of money that you spent to allow certain persons to live in an extravagant manner. We will not be spending, for example — since I have been asked — not by you, Mr. Speaker — the sum of somewhere in the region of $272 000 on capital and current expenditure on Ilaro Court this year, bordering on almost half a million dollars year after year. We will therefore be able to reduce substantially by altering the style of Government. That is what needs to be altered in Barbados, the extravagant style of Government. If you can alter that, then you would spend less on yourself personally and look after the public purse far better. That is my humble opinion.
12.05 p.m.

Now, Sir, the honourable Member talks about the lower rate of inflation in Barbados. I will now tell you about the inflation in Barbados. The honourable Member boasts of a 2.5 per cent inflation on a point to point basis, taking last year, from January to December, and in the fiscal year 1.8 per cent. That is the boast.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: On a point of order, I just want to get the facts: I said the point to point inflation, December to December was 2.5 per cent, and January 1985 to January 1986, 1.8 per cent. That is what I said. Two point to point references.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I have no quarrel with that, but on another occasion I will talk about the difference between inflation and the prices particularly for the poor people in Barbados. I am sure the prices for them have not been rising at 2.5 per cent or 1.8 per cent, but that will be a budgetary matter, I would think. That is not a matter for today; that is more of a budgetary nature.

What I can tell you is that inflation rates in Barbados are extremely susceptible to exchange rates. There is nothing that affects the inflation rate in Barbados more rapidly than the relative exchange rates; so that the fall in the inflation rate has been due to two things principally: (1) the strength of the United States dollar, which, of course, also occasioned an element of trade deflection, which meant that some goods from non-US sources would have arrived here at a cheaper price, and secondly, as another overriding factor, the compression of the economy and the slackening of demand. Any time you get these two things going together, a high US dollar, to which we are tied, and a fall in output in the economy and a drastic reduction in demand, which reflects in falling standards of living, then you will get a fall in the rate of inflation in Barbados. They are two key factors.

Now this is the challenge that I am going to put to you as Minister of Finance through His Honour the

Speaker? To maintain a low rate of inflation in Barbados in the face of the effective depreciation of the US dollar by 23 per cent or thereabouts over the past six months is a consequence not of natural circumstances within the economy, but largely is a consequence of a decision taken by the five major countries to drive down the value of the dollar through Central Bank intervention around the world. So that if you think that the depreciation of the US dollar has been a consequence of natural economic circumstances in the United States, you are quite wrong. It is purely a matter of a deliberate measure to avoid congressional pressure to put trade embargoes on imports into the United States from Japan and other countries.

But to get back to the point I am trying to make, the falling inflation in Barbados, whereas we welcome it, has nothing to do with anything this Government has done. On the contrary, if you look at the tax policies, every single thing that they have done would tend to increase prices and increase the rate of inflation in Barbados. The basic cause of the fall in the inflation rate in Barbados has been, (1), the exchange rate, and (2), persistently dropping demand in Barbados. They are the two things which have resulted in the present rate of inflation. I will tell you something, too, that if the US dollar remains at its depreciated rate, you will almost inevitably see a climb in the inflation rate in Barbados in 1986—1987. That is almost inevitable.

What we will guarantee the people of Barbados, is that the Democratic Labour Party will set up a regime in Barbados, a fiscal and economic regime, where there would be freedom of trade, and yet the inflation rate will remain within reasonable limits. We will also be generating significant economic growth, not less than 3 per cent per year over a five year period. We will match controlled inflation with increases in output, because that is the basic challenge which is facing economies throughout Barbados: how do you increase output at the same time that you control inflation rates? We will do that; the Democratic Labour Party will do that.

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I cannot do a lecture on economics to you now. I will explain to you in due course. After I have finished, I will come outside.

What I am saying is that, within the context of freedom of trade, we would also be able to control the rate of inflation whilst at the same time increasing the economic output in Barbados. So that when we boast about inflation under the Democratic Labour Party, we are boasting about economic growth, we are boasting about reasonable prices, we are boasting about increasing the output. We are not boasting about hiding behind the value of the US dollar and hiding behind falling standards of living and economic contraction in this country. We are not hiding behind that.

I do not like the remarks made by the honourable Member about the impact of the depreciating US dollar, to which we are tied on tourism and manufacturing, that is, sugar manufacturing. Quite clearly, you will almost inevitably get an increase in domestic dollars from non-US sources; that is, in sugar, for an equivalent value, even if the price remains the same, because of the depreciation of the Barbados dollar, you will get an increase in local dollars. But I want to say this, that we cannot rely purely on exchange rates to influence the movement of people from Europe to Barbados. I believe that you have to look at the domestic cost structure of your tourist plant, because the moment you try to put too much importance to people following changes in exchange rates, you know perfectly well the line down which you are going. The Democratic Labour Party has pledged not to go down that route, I think that you will see in our budgetary response what we will be doing to reduce the domestic cost for the tourist industry, so that despite fluctuations in exchange rates between the United States dollar and European currencies, we can maintain a steady flow of visitors from Europe over the years and maintain a summer trade, and try to restore or correct the financial disablement of the tourist industry and the Barbados Development Bank, which is the main financial institution that has funded the tourist industry over the years.

12.15 p.m.

Now, Sir, I am surprised that the honourable Member should be blaming a $10 million grant to the sugar industry for this year's deficit on current account. It is unfair to do that, because, as I have pointed out, in the years 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984 when you gave no subsidy to sugar, you also ended up with a massive deficit on current account. So it has nothing to do with that. And if you subtract 10 from 27, you are still left with 17, if you substract 10 from the corrected figure of 20, you are still left with 10, and you are still in deficit, which is bad financial management, this year, last year, the year before, four years out of five.

Sir, the question of financing our capital programme. I am surprised that this Government has economic advisers available to it, because clearly it ignored the advice of the Central Bank and the advice of the economists within the Ministry of Finance. If there is one area of activity in Barbados which does not have serious balance of payments significance, one area of capital expenditure, that is in the area of construction. It has very minimal balance of payments implications. Even in housing, which has obviously a larger import implication, the balance of payments implications, again,

are negligible; not negligible, but certainly not significant. Indeed, Sir, from the figures I have seen from well-researched papers down the years, the highest is something like 18% and the lowest I have seen is 8%, from people who have done research. That means that for every $100 that you spend in construction and building, you only need to match it by between $8 and $18 in construction.

The foreign currency implications in this area of development are minimal compared with other areas, so that is not the justification for heavy foreign borrowing. It is because of other reasons — they have a foreign balance of payments problem, not because of the capital programme. Our capital programme in Barbados today, with the amount of liquid funds available, could be financed totally out of domestic borrowings. Today, with the liquidity in the banking system, that can be done. But no, Sir, we have to go abroad for another US or Bds $75 million, I am not sure, and to justify that you are talking about construction! That cannot be right. Your ratio cannot be 75 in foreign currency, 90 in domestic currency and your main thrust of your capital expenditure in construction. It cannot be right. You can fool other people with that. You cannot fool me with that. It cannot be the case.

(*Aside:* What is in the document?)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: What the document says? I have to respond to the Honourable Minister of Finance. If he does not understand what is in the document, that is his problem. But this is a debating forum, and I will not let it go abroad that we, who would be involved in a programme of construction, would have to find $75 million out of $160 million to finance that kind of development. That is for balance of payments support, as most of the borrowings are, and also to help pay back your foreign debt. I believe that you are beginning to reschedule your foreign debt. I am looking very carefully at the accretion in interest payments, and I believe that you are beginning to borrow money now to roll over and pay off some debts. That is why, when the Central Bank's Annual Statement is out, we will be able to deal with that as a budgetary contribution.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: We will do it. We will deal with it then. That is what you are doing. You are borrowing and rolling over your foreign debt. That is why everything is happening in Barbados.

(*Aside:* Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: What is wrong with that, borrowing at 10 and paying back at 8?)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Sir, I said that that was my suspicion, and the Honourable Prime Minister has agreed that that is being done. He sees nothing wrong with it. I am saying now, as a statement, that the Government has found itself in a situation where it has to borrow money, foreign currency, in order to service its foreign debt.

(*Aside:* Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Who said that? You said that!)

(*Aside:* Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Catch the headlines!)

(*Aside:* Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Catch the headlines!)

(*Aside:* Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Talk about dope.)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: They are matters of a budgetary nature. We cannot deal with budgets in Apropriation Bills. In Appropriation Bills you look at revenues, deficits and their implications. When we are ready to deal with things like drugs and so on, they will be budgetary matters. There is one final point I wish to make.

(*Aside:* Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Have you finished already?)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: It is our firm belief that job losses in Barbados will not be stopped and new jobs will not be created.....

(*Aside:* Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Until?)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES:.....unless an investment climate exists in which individuals and companies are willing to borrow money, expand existing enterprises, start new enterprises and respond to the demand local, and regional, and to seek out the large external markets of the world. As a consequence of this, we believe that by a serious restructuring of our approach to public financing, by a reduction in the burden of taxation on individual and corporate citizens.....

(*Aside:* Dictation speed.)

(*Aside:* Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: Go along. Give them dictation.)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES:.....by a corresponding reduction in public expenditure without affecting job opportunities within the public sector, we would be.....

(*Aside:* Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: I am going to correct the papers.)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES:.....able to launch this country once again on the path of growth to the satisfaction of all — and, in particular, the youth in this community — to

generate savings for individuals and for the public, and also.....

(*Aside:* Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: Write. The man is talking to you.)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES:.....Mr. Speaker, to ensure that Government, by its ever expanding role in the society, does not continue the process of compromising the freedoms of the individual in Barbados.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Applause.

Asides.

(*Aside:* Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: Are you going to put that to the people?)

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until 1.30 p.m. today for lunch.

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

The question that the sitting be now suspended until 1.30 p.m. today was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.
12.25 p.m.

ON RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed.

When the suspension was taken, the House was on the second reading of the Bill.

Aside.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, anybody may speak.

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM (Christ Church East): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there comes a time in the life of an Opposition party when it must stop criticising, even though for the most part that is its responsibility, and expose its policy and define its vision so that the electorate can probe the basis of that policy and determine the relevance of that vision to the society. I think that the last honourable speaker on the part of the Opposition recognized that time is running out and at long last they must expose themselves. I fear, Mr. Speaker, that, in so doing, he has confirmed the collective instinct for sometime now, and that is, that the Opposition is not ready, they have nothing to offer and, in many respects, they have not recovered from the route of 1976. Indeed, that is precisely what was revealed in the presentation made by the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central (Dr. R. C. Haynes).

We were treated to a repetition of the very tired expressions which have been used in here by him, and his party too often over the last seven to ten years. We recognize that there is nothing but emptiness in their vision and in their policy, and, in truth and in fact, that they are still immersed in considerable confusion. For after arguing 9/10th of his speech for a reduction in the role of Government, reduction in the debt, reduction in the deficit, reduction in taxation, he ended up by promising, in very measured and solemn tones, an expansion of the role of Government.

What that speech revealed, Mr. Speaker, is that the Opposition has learned nothing and they have forgotten nothing in the last 10 years. We have seen a hardening of their bourbon mentality. That is what we have seen. But I was glad for the speech, and glad too to comment on it, because we on this side continue to insist, notwithstanding what is said by some political commentators in this country to the effect that there is little difference between the two major parties, that on the question of public financing, on the question of economic strategy, not to mention other areas, there is a big division between the Barbados Labour Party and the Democratic Labour Party.

I take you back, Mr. Speaker, to those wasted years, 1971 — 1976, those years in which the economic policy of the Democratic Labour Party landed this country in a season, almost an intolerable season, of economic affliction which brought so much woe and human suffering to the people of this country. They had the opportunity to expand the economy, to create jobs and to reduce unemployment in the period of 1971 — 1976, and notwithstanding so much slack in the economy, they were prepared to do nothing in the same way that they are arguing that they will do nothing if given the opportunity for five years.

The truth is, Mr. Speaker, you have to understand, and I am afraid that the Opposition has not yet understood it, that in this Barbadian society Government has a large and pivotal role to play, particularly in relation to the economy. You have to understand the psychology of the private sector. The private sector will not take initiatives unless the Government is seen to be out there leading the way, and as soon, therefore, as you contract the role of the Government, as soon as you diminish the importance of the public sector in economic development, equally you will see a reduction of activity on the part of the private sector. So though I maintain that Government has

a role to encourage, and to use a hard and offensive word, to "incentivise" the public sector, equally Government must, in the context of the Barbadian society and the psychology of the private sector, play a lead role in the economic development of the country.

What we have heard the principal spokesman for the Opposition contending for is a reduction in the role of Government, which is inconsistent with high employment and high economic activity in this country. Mrs. Thatcher has attempted that in the United Kingdom — with devastating consequences in economic and human terms. Edward Seaga, forced more by circumstances, I believe, than by ideology, is attempting the same thing in Jamaica, with similar results. We in the Barbados Labour Party have set ourselves against that. We believe that the Government has to set the lead here, whilst at the same time encouraging and providing as many incentives to the private sector as possible. But I do not see that high economic activity and high employment in this economy is consistent with any large scale contraction of the role of the public sector and of Government in economic development.

The basis on which he will proceed to reduce Government's role in the economy is because the debt has expanded, the debt is expanding and the level of taxation is high. I want, Mr. Speaker, to comment on both of those arguments. In the first place, it is not fair, it is not sensible, it is not intelligent, to argue that the national debt of this country has grown, if indeed you are interested in giving a balanced picture, unless you simultaneously narrate the fact that the gross national product, the amount of goods and services defined in money terms, has also grown significantly during the period under discussion. And the Government is no different from a private individual in relation to the banks. A private individual cannot increase his borrowings — no bank will allow it — unless his income has increased and unless too his assets have increased. Equally, the international banks which have been lending to the Government will not be particularly impressed with the fact that the borrower is a sovereign Government. They, too, default. The international banks will only lend money if, after careful evaluation, they are satisfied that the Government has the capacity to repay the loan. It is significant that this Government has never, to date, defaulted on any of its payments or on any of its loans. We continue to get a high rating in the eyes of the international banking community, so that whenever we go forward to float a loan, we succeed in doing so without difficulty. That is the first point.

The second point, Mr. Speaker, is this — and we ought to be very frank with the people whom we lead — we have reached the point in this country where very little soft lending is available to us. Given the criteria that are used and which inform lending policies around the Western world and in all the multilateral institutions, we are seen as being prosperous enough and as having reached a level of development where more and more we must finance our development from local sources or from borrowing in the private capital markets. If we therefore, are to maintain our standard of living and improve it, which is our aim in the Barbados Labour Party, and I believe that that aim is consistent with the outlook of the people out there — and if we are not to fail them in that respect — it means that more and more we must make an effort through our own resources. So that I do not see that there can be any sensible policy of a large scale reduction of taxation, large scale reduction of Government's activity, which will mean large scale reduction of economic activity, and at the same time get an increase and dramatic improvement in the standard of living and of employment. And therein lies the fundamental contradiction in the Democratic Labour Party's posture.

But I go further, Mr. Speaker, and I ask — not only for the record, but because you will not be allowed, and I mean you in the Democratic Labour Party, to go through an election in this country without answering the question: if you are going to reduce the taxes on the scale that you are claiming, if you are going to reduce Government's role in the way that you are arguing for, which services are going to suffer? Tell us! I want to know, as the people will want to know, whether you will reduce old age pensions, whether you will take away the health facilities which they enjoy. I want to know whether the Skills Training Programme will be collapsed, whether the quality of education and of public transportation which we now enjoy will be reduced. In life you cannot have it both ways. You cannot suffer a reduction in your income and at the same time have an expansion and an enhancement of your quality of life, because the quality of life costs money, and every child out there knows that. So that you are going to have to face yourself, your tail is catching up with you. That is the important point. You are going to have to face yourself and answer these important questions in the days and weeks ahead.

1.40 p.m.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think it is important, too, that we clarify the position in relation to this Barbados economy, as has been done by the Honourable Prime Minister several times in the last many years in this House, and by many other speakers on this side. The Barbados economy cannot be seen in any vacuum. We do not exist in the world by ourselves, we are part of the larger world in which we live. We live in the sub-region of the English-speaking Caribbean, we are members of an economic arrangement called CARICOM, and we are part of the wider world, with trading links with the United States of America principally, with the United Kingdom, with Canada and with many other countries. It follows, therefore, that whatever happens around us in turn affects

us. We have therefore got to remind ourselves about what has taken place in the international environment within recent years, which has impacted so heavily on this Barbados economy.

I think that point is particularly important, because the Opposition seems to be quarrelling with the strenuous efforts of this Administration to get ahead with the preparation and development of the infrastructure in expectation and anticipation of the day coming when international trade is returned to the level of stability and expansion which it enjoyed in the early days of the Democratic Labour Party in office. I believe that this country fully understands what we are doing. We are trying to avoid chaos, as we have succeeded in doing. We are trying to bring leadership to this country's affairs while at the same time displaying as much humanity as our resources will allow, all in anticipation of the day when international trade is stable and expanding, and when we can then grow in the way that our economy grew in the early 1960s, and throughout the Sixties indeed, before the first oil crisis of the early 1970s.

You make the point — and I refer to the last honourable speaker — that the United States' recession has disappeared and is now about to return, but that our economy did not grow during the time of the recovery of the United States dollar. The first point that has got to be made is that the U.S. recovery was both short-lived and incomplete — it did not last for any more than 18 months — and there were only particular sectors that showed expansion and recovery. During the period of the expansion and the recovery of the U.S. economy, the electronic sector, which is important for us here in Barbados, part of our manufacturing sector, did not show any expansion. In fact, many of the companies in the United States went under and went into bankruptcy. That was due to the fact that the Japanese had succeeded, through totally illegal means, in undercutting the U.S. electronics prices, and because there was generally a surplus in the market-place. That explains why it is that, notwithstanding the general expansion in the U.S. economy, our electronics sector did not recover during the time the U.S. economy was generally speaking, recovering.

But we were affected by other factors. Take our tourism. There can be no doubt that the high U.S. dollar in the last two years or so almost saw the devastation of our summer business from Europe. Because the American dollar had such high purchasing power in Europe, it meant that the American tourists went to the European capitals and the European countries for their summer holiday, and it meant that the European visitors we would normally attract, were our Barbados dollar more favourable in exchange in relation to their European currencies, stayed at home, one, or alternatively did not travel.

We have also to remember the regional factors that have been at work. Barbados continues to be an oasis in an expanding desert here in the Caribbean. I do not know how long we can survive as an oasis in an expanding desert, but the point is that we were not able to expand our trade with Jamaica, the largest population group within CARICOM, or with Guyana, or indeed in more recent times with Trinidad because of the severe economic difficulties which they are experiencing and the protectionist policies which they are pursuing. Our garment sector has therefore suffered and our furniture sector has also suffered.

I am happy to say that the Government has been sufficiently far-sighted to know that our long term future as a manufacturing country depends on exporting beyond the region, and that is the reason why we are taking such vigorous initiatives in relation to furniture export to the United States of America, the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and elsewhere. That is the reason why, notwithstanding the attraction of the CARICOM market, were it available, we are trying to modernise and upgrade our manufacturing facilities with a view of taking our share in the marketplaces of North America and the North Atlantic generally.

I think it was important, Mr. Speaker, to make the point that we in Barbados do not exist by ourselves and that no sensible discussion of what has taken place in Barbados can proceed without putting us in the context of what is happening among our principal trading partners, both within CARICOM and also within the North Atlantic world. It is that major omission, which is there in the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central's speech, which has in the end made it the great distortion that it was.

Notwithstanding the difficulties all around us, we have gone ahead in this country to the very limit of our resources and we have been pushing our development projects as fast as we can, and at the same time bringing as much humanity as is possible to the administration of the Government in this country. When I talk about humanity, I am referring not only to what has been done for the old people, the regime of helpful measures that make the elderly in this country the best cared in the developing world, but I am talking about the fact that most of the people who have lost jobs out there in the last two years in your canvas can say, "Boy, had it not been for the unemployment benefits which your Government provided, I do not know what we would have done." That is what I mean when I talk about caring and humanity. It is something that was completely missing during the time that the Democratic Labour Party was in office, and they argued at the time when we talked about it that we could not bring it into being. We have not only brought it into being, but we are going to expand it for the benefit of those

who may be so luckless from time to time as to be unemployed. That is what we have done for the young people, and for the elderly, I emphasize, which makes this Barbados as a country one of the most caring of its elderly in the entire developing world. That is what I mean when I talk about a caring Administration.
1.50 p.m.

The argument that our measures represent a piece of electioneering, I totally reject, Mr. Speaker, and I want to point you to the fact that in our manifestoes in 1981, 1976 before then, and in our Development Plan 1983 — 1988, we set forth, with simple clarity, all of the measures which are now being undertaken. I refer to our fishing projects: Oistins already completed, the Bridgetown Fisheries Project, the Speightstown and Tents Bay half-way completed. We promised the people those developments and I am happy to say that promise was reflected in the Development Plan 1983 — 1988, and those projects are partly completed and otherwise largely underway.

All that you are seeing around you in terms of road development represent a long-standing promise, many times repeated, by this Barbados Labour Party Administration. It is simply that we were kept back from starting those projects because of the harsh impact of the external economic forces in the last two years, but what you are seeing around you is nothing that has happened out of the blue. It took years, it reflects pre-planning, and, in every respect, it represents what the Barbados Labour Party Administration promised the people of this country. It is so in relation to the decentralized activities, the townships that we are developing across Barbados. It is so in relation to our polyclinic programme. It is so in relation to our school building programme. It is so in relation to our fisheries harbours. It is so in relation to our skills training centres. All of these we promised the people of Barbados, and we are carrying out those promises, so I totally reject any argument on the part of the Opposition that all you are seeing in Barbados is electioneering activity.

I turn now, Mr. Speaker, to the whole question of energy, on which the Opposition spokesman was understandably brief, because it turns out he does not fully grasp what has been happening, and on which he has been boastful, saying that the Democratic Labour Party will reduce the price of gas, of electricity, of water, of everything, because, as he puts it, for the last year the price of crude has been falling. He does not understand the intricacies of the Barbados energy sector.

Now, I must not be misunderstood, or anyone on this side, as denying that what has happened within the last month or so will result in the short term, if not in the long term, in a reduction of energy prices to the Barbadian consumer. But let me put the story in its full context so that the Opposition may understand what is happening and able to contribute to a more intelligent debate. Only a small proportion of oil like sugar — we understand sugar in Barbados and that is why I make the parallel — only a small proportion of the oil traded in the world is sold on the world market. That is the first point that needs to be made, and the reason why that is important is for you to understand that most of the oil consumed by countries in the world is oil that is sold by way of contractual arrangements in the same way that the sugar we export is, for the most part, sold to the European Economic Community as a result of contractual arrangement. It follows, therefore, that when you see on your CNN News on mornings that the spot price of oil sold in the North Sea Brent Market, has dropped or risen, that has no relevance to what is happening in Barbados. It relates to spot prices and future prices that have no relationship to what is happening in Barbados.

We buy imported crude from Venezuela and we sell our local crude here to Mobil, and the oil that we get, the imported crude from Venezuela, is sold to us under a contract, a contract negotiated every year, and the arrangement we have with Mobil here says that when the price of the Venezuelan crude falls, the price to Mobil falls. And that only began to fall in February, so the only time that the fall in the price of crude became relevant to Barbados was February, not before. It is only when the Venezuelan crude fell that the fall in prices became relevant to the Barbados energy situation.

(Aside: Dr. R. C. HAYNES: February in which year?)

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: In February this year the Venezuelan crude fell for the first time in the last year, and three times it has fallen in February. It has gone down now from about U.S. $28 to U.S. $14 per barrel, and that is the fall that is relevant to us here in Barbados.

The second factor that we need to bear in mind is that under the arrangement with Mobil, as soon as the Venezuelan crude falls, the price of the local crude which we sell to Mobil for refining also falls and that that only became relevant as of February this year. That is consistent with the agreement which we have with Mobil, and that agreement dates back to 1965, in the heyday of the Democratic Labour Party. That is not an agreement of our fashioning. It is an agreement that dates back to 1965.

So if the prices continue to fall, or whether or not they continue to fall, the consuming public of Barbados will benefit, and the Prime Minister will have that opportunity shortly, to indicate what will be passed on to the Barbadian public. But only a madman, given the very complexed and dynamic forces at work in the international oil markets, will argue that there will be a consistent downward fall in the price of oil, when already the major banks that finance the exploration of oil, on the assumption that the price would at least be U.S. $20 per

barrel or more, are saying that if the price falls, anymore, they will have to call a halt to lending and that there will be a widespread crisis in the international financial community. I mention that to indicate, Mr. Speaker, the major forces that are at work already trying to push the prices back up, but the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, the well known Chaldean that he is, the economic soothsayer, he would like to tell us that the price will continue to go down and down.

Mr. SPEAKER: And I am happy to tell you that your time has expired.
2.00 p.m.

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: That is a matter of regret, Mr. Speaker, but I just want to conclude by saying that only an irresponsible person will want to hold out to the public of Barbados that there will be some continuing decline in the price of energy over the long future when, in truth and in fact, we in Barbados have little or no control over that situation.

Thank you, Sir.

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN (St. Philip South): Mr. Speaker, the honourable Member who just sat down began by saying that we are accusing the other side of just political posturing, and he went on for the 30 minutes with nothing else but a political speech, apart from the end when he gave us some sort of explanation about what pertains to oil. Most of his speech was political, and I have to respond to a few of the points made by the honourable Member.

The honourable Member who just sat down, in speaking about the national debt said that it is wrong to compare the national debt or the rise in the national debt without taking into consideration the GDP or the growth in the economy. Now, Mr. Speaker, let me state from the outset that between 1981 and now there has been little or no growth in the Barbadian economy, and in certain instances there has been negative growth. In fact, overall, between 1981 and now, I believe the Barbados economy is in a negative position growth-wise. So that argument about taking into consideration the national debt with the growth in output falls down as far as the Barbados Labour Party Government is concerned. That is one point I have to make.

I go on a bit further, Mr. Speaker, and I say this. There are a lot of people who, every time they get up, tend to talk about the GNP, the GDP, and all sorts of things. Mr. Speaker, I will say this: there was a classic example, and it has been stated many times in the *Times* article, that places like Iran and Libya which spend millions of dollars on aircraft and military accessories have a high GNP, but it does not mean that the distributed income of the people living in the country is any higher, because if you are spending your money on buying planes, ships and that sort of thing, your GNP is bound to be high, and that is the point the honourable Member has to understand. It is how you distribute your growth, and the honourable Member who says he has a degree in Economics should not be trying to mislead this House. He knows that the GNP has nothing to do with how it is distributed. The important thing is how it is distributed, and I am going to the end of his speech, because in his speech he mentioned what the Barbados Labour Party has done for the old people.

Mr. Speaker, I do not know if the honourable Member goes into his constituency canvassing. I am not sure he does it, because if he were going into his constituency and canvassing, he could not be talking about what the Barbados Labour Party has done for old people. When I go through my constituency in St. Philip canvassing, I am ashamed. I almost want to cry when old people take me into their houses and show me the holes in the houses and the bag stopping up the holes, and these old people are asking how can a Government that says it is Socialist and a Labour Party Government allow people to live in these sorts of conditions.

You are saying that you did a lot of things for the old people, but what is happening now is that the promises you all made are coming home to roost. You promised the old people that you were going to pay their electricity bills and their water rates, and these people are screaming out now, because what is happening is that you started out paying a little of it, then the last Prime Minister said he never meant paying all. Nowadays you are paying very little, and what is coming home to roost now is that when the Barbados economy was, to all intents and purposes at a fairly high level, you tended to pay part of the electricity bill, but now that the economy is going through hardship, you find it difficult to pay the electricity bill and the water rates for the old people.

I have been getting telephone calls and dozens of people visiting me with their electricity bill asking "Blackie, what is happening?" You all have misled the poor people in Barbados. You told them you were going to pay the bills, and then turned around and said you did not mean you would pay all, you meant you would pay part, and it is only now that the old people understand what the Barbados Labour Party was doing to them.

I am telling you this as well. I would like to advise the honourable Member for Christ Church East, the Minister for Natural Resources and Agriculture, that he had better stop talking about what they have done for old people if he is going to visit old people's homes when he is canvassing because they are going to tell you about it. I am sure you

have got numerous complaints from old people on the situation in which they are existing.

I go on, Mr. Speaker, and I go back to this GDP and GNP business.

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.....

Mr. SPEAKER: There are two honourable Members on their feet. On what does the honourable Member rise?

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order: Mr. Speaker I draw, with quite deference, the rule which says that a Member should be heard in silence. I make no criticism of the Chair. The honourable Members on the other side, I submit, are carrying the barracking a little too far.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let the honourable Member continue.

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker, I was saying that there was an example or there have been many examples of countries with a high GNP, like Libya and Iran, and people living in squalor. Mr. Speaker, I go further. Our national debt, as the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central was trying to explain to honourable Members over there, those of them who can understand, our national debt in Barbados over the past five years has been escalating too quickly for us to be comfortable. When you look at the growth in the Barbadian economy over the past five years and you look at the increase in the national debt, you will see that there is no comparison between the two. One is going steadily downwards and the other is going quickly upwards. That is the point that the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central was trying to make, and the honourable Member who just spoke for the Government has not applied himself to that.

He went on to ask if the Democratic Labour Party is going to reduce all of those taxes or leave the taxes as they are. He asked if the Democratic Labour Party is going to reduce all of those taxes, what services will suffer. I would like to tell you now that none of the services will suffer, and I will tell you why. The amount of taxes that you all have collected since 1981 is quite enough to run this economy. All that has happened is that the Barbados Labour Party is a bunch of bad managers. The amount of revenue you have collected per annum should be managed in a better manner. You all are allowing too much wastage, you have your priorities wrong.

All that is needed is better housekeeping. That is all that is needed. You have a lot of bad investments all over the place, $26 million in Mobil, all sorts of money invested in things that do not help anybody, so all you need is better management of the economy. Change the managers and you will see how the country will be run. It has nothing to do with taxes. You are collecting a lot of taxes and you do not know what you are doing with it. That is what is happening.

I will tell you this. I believe that the members of the Barbados Labour Party do not listen to the people down there. In fact, you cannot listen to the people down there, because I do not believe the people want to hear you. Because if you are going to get up and say what the Barbados Labour Party did for the old people, you must know that the old people outside are complaining, except it is only happening in St. Philip, and I do not believe that, because it is happening in the constituency of the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central and in the constituency of the honourable Member for St. Michael West. It is happening in all the constituencies in Barbados. The old people are complaining.
2.10 p.m.

So I would like to say this, Mr. Speaker, that it is wrong to look at economics as a whole, and just because the economists say this should work so, or that should work so, just take it willy-nilly and apply it to the Barbadian economy. You cannot do it, and that is what the honourable Member for Christ Church East was doing. You cannot do that. We have a peculiar economy in Barbados, a very perculiar economy, and our policies should be geared to what is peculiar to our economy. That is what we should be doing.

I am going to say a few words, Mr. Speaker, about what the honourable Member said about the Government leading in order for the private sector to follow. This has always been the policy in Barbados, Mr. Speaker. This is nothing new. When the Democratic Labour Party was in power, the Democratic Labour Party led and the private sector followed. So if the Barbados Labour Party is leading, or believes that it should lead in order for the private sector to follow, that is nothing new. What we are saying is despite the fact that you are leading, trying to give the encouragement to the private sector, somehow, the private sector seems still unwilling or unable — and I believe it is unable — to make any solid investment in the economy. There may be many reasons why the private sector is unable to take up any one of the benefits or the opportunities afforded them with soft loans and that sort of thing, but you have to look into the reasons why the private sector thinks it impossible to get involved in investment in the country.

Now it is alright to say that you are leading, and you have to lead, but you have been leading and jobs have been lost continuously over the past number of months, over the past two, three, four years. Jobs have been going down

the drain although you have been leading, as you said. So you have to look at why it is that the private sector is finding it so difficult to get involved in solid investment. I have my own views about the reasons. We have stated in here on several occasions that when an economy is in a recession, if you can reduce the taxes that the industries and the manufacturers have to pay, like the taxes for rent, electricity and those sorts of things, those people would be more inclined to hold on their work forces for a bit longer. We have been saying this for the past three or four years, and only within the last two months, has the honourable Member for St. George South (Hon. L. R. Tull) got around to that. If you remember, two months ago he came out with a statement saying that they have a $2 million subsidy for the manufacturing industry.

(*Aside*: Mr. B. M. TAITT: True.)

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: Most of us remember that. We have been telling them that for the last three or four years. In fact, the manufacturers have been complaining about the high rents, the high electricity rates, the hoteliers have constantly complained that their overheads, those fixed costs, are the main things that are keeping them down below. Only recently, you have come around to the idea. But as the same honourable Member said, this is the , "mad dog season", so everything will happen this year.

Laughter.

Aside.

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: You will get investment in industry, you will get investment in agriculture, you will get investment in manufacturing, you will get investment in every single thing this year! Places that have not seen a single street light will be getting street lights now! So the honourable Member for St. Michael West is going to get some and I am certain I am going to get some, too. The first time in five years! But as I said, Mr. Speaker, we are not surprised because this is how the Barbados Labour Party Government operates. Priorities wrong, management wrong, but at election time you do everything and hope that the people come and vote for you and put you back again! And then, for the next four years, they go on again with their bad management, bad priorities, and it will go on so, ad infinitum, as long as you keep them over there.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Applause.

(*Aside*: Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You have 10 more minutes, Harold.)

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR (St. Peter): Mr. Speaker, Sir, when one listens to speeches by members of the Opposition on matters pertaining to public finance....

(*Aside:* Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Go and get a proper haircut.)

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR:....we can sometimes be forgiven if we are led to believe that we live in a pluperfect world, a world in which tough options do not exist, a world in which carefully balanced decisions do not have to be taken, a world in which, Sir, water can be turned into wine and manna can fall from Heaven, a world, Sir, in which there should be no taxes, no debt and all the services that any good Government can provide. This, Sir, is normally good Opposition politics, although I suspect that when it comes from the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central (Dr. R. C. Haynes), it also reflects his total and absolute inexperience in dealing with any matter pertaining to the economy and any matter pertaining to finance.

We know, Sir, that the world in which we live and the world in which we have to construct fiscal policy is far different from that pluperfect world to which the Opposition adverts.

(*Aside:* Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Like in Jamaica.)

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Ours in Barbados is a world, Sir, in which we start with a relatively narrow tax base. Our taxation system, if I may remind the House, Sir, has been so designed as to provide a large number of generous exemptions for all categories of industry and private enterprise in this society. There is no sector in the Barbadian economy which has not benefitted, through time, from a wide range of fiscal incentives designed to make them viable and profitable. So the first fact that has to be taken account of in constructing a fiscal policy is the fact that we are dealing with a country which has a relatively narrow tax base. Against this, Sir, our Government has a wide range of responsibilities flowing from the type of development philosophy which we have sought to guide us. Our responsibility includes the provision of a free education and a free health service. We are committed, by way of philosophy.....

(*Aside:* To what?)

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR:.....to job retention and job expansion as a major responsibility of Government, and our development philosophy also includes providing assistance to the private sector within the limits of the resources available to the country at large.

I must also add, Sir, in discussing the general context within which this fiscal policy is constructed, that we live in a world and within the confines of an economy which is, in itself, very subject and very prone to instability. Very small changes here and there have a very pronounced and exaggerated impact on the functioning and on the structure of the Barbadian economy, as was evidenced last year, Sir, where a minor depression in the

electronic markets in the world had a very pronounced impact on the structure and functioning of our economy. 2.20 p.m.

So that our public financial policy has to be carefully conceived and constructed to balance the commitments of the Government against the resources available to the state to give effect to those commitments. The Estimates of expenditure and revenues which are now before the House fall within that general approach to financial management, that the first preoccupation of Government must be to bring stability to a country which, otherwise, would be very prone to instability. The second principle that has been followed in the construction of these Estimates, Mr. Speaker, is that the Government must continue with its role of making strategic and selective investments in key areas that are likely to enhance the development prospects of the economy at large.

Mr. Speaker, I want, against the background of these broad principles, to start looking at the numbers that we have put in the Estimates, and also to begin to comment on some of the errors of commission, errors of misrepresentation, and errors of — I cannot say ignorance, but shear errors that have been put before the House from the other side. First, Sir, the question of the current account deficit. It is a matter of good financial policy that Governments should try not to incur deficits on current account. Government, Sir, should, wherever possible, raise in taxes amounts of monies to meet their housekeeping requirements. But current account deficits in Barbados, Sir, are nothing new. If the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central was familiar with the economic data pertaining to the functioning of the Barbadian economy, he would know that in 1973/1974 a current account deficit of $15.3 million was incurred on total Government expenditure of $143 million. That is, Sir, the current account deficit in 1973 amounted to 10% of everything that Government spent on housekeeping. He comes to the House now, Sir, and criticises a current account deficit of $22 million on expenditures of $672 million, Sir, which is a deficit of 3% of all spent, as compared to 10% in 1973/1974. You speak about four years of deficits. The deficit in 1973/1974 was followed by a $17 million deficit in 1974/1975. Let me say, Sir, and attempt to give the House the full significance of what we are trying to get across here; that you are condemning a $22 million deficit in the context of $2.5 billion economy, but you turn a blind eye to your record of a $15.3 million deficit in a $700 million economy in 1973.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Sir, a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I further note.....

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

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: I said I rose on a point of order, Sir, and the House is being misled, Sir.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Please, please, the honourable Member or honourable Members on either side will have ample opportunity to make their cases and I do not want these points of orders to interrupt other Members when they are making their speeches. Please continue.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the only point that I want to submit to the House is that current account deficits in Barbados are nothing new and that the current account deficit that we experienced in 1985 was 3% of our total expenditures as compared to a current account deficit of 10% of current expenditures by the Democratic Labour Party in 1973/1974.

I go further, Sir.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order please. Order please. Order please. Will the honourable Member continue?

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: The presentation by the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central reminds me of the kind of analysis that my grandmother presents when she begins to talk about prices in 1910. She tells you about how much a penny could have bought in 1910 without telling you what was the level of income out of which that expenditure would have come. I say that, Sir, to say this, that if we are to be speaking about the size of deficits, we obviously have to have in our minds some concept of the total output of the economy concerned. And it has been a policy of this Government, Mr. Speaker, to bring stability to our public finance in this country by maintaining our public sector deficit as a reasonable proportion of our gross domestic product, which measures the total output of this economy.

When the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central speaks in terms of runaway deficits, he is speaking in terms of societies such as Jamaica, Sir, where you have a deficit amounting to 20% of the country's output. He is speaking in terms, Sir, of countries in Latin America and other such societies where the difference between Government's expenditure and Government's revenue amounts to an excessively large percentage of the output of the society. The United States deficit amounts, on average, to about 6% of that country's total output,

and our deficit in Barbados has been maintained, Sir, since 1981, in the vicinity of 5% to 7% of all that this country produces. The notion, therefore Sir, of runaway fiscal deficits is unfounded, and is based purely on the mischief of the Member for St. Michael South Central when he cites the size of the deficit without comparing it to the total volume of resources and output available in the society to cover that deficit.

I want to go further, Mr. Speaker. Everybody knows that what is important is not only the size of the deficit but the manner in which the deficit is financed. A deficit, Sir, can cause a problem if it is either too large, or if it is financed in such a manner as to either prevent the private sector from having access to credit on its own accord, or if it leads to massive short term borrowing, which creates down stream economic problems where the society is concerned. That occurs in Barbados, Mr. Speaker, and has occurred — I have said in a paper — in 1976 and again in 1981. I have said that, and I will stand by it, that if you have a deficit that is too large in relation to the availability of credit in the domestic economy, or which forces you to have to borrow short abroad, then that deficit is inefficient.

But our deficits fall below 10% of our total output. From the evidence available it is the judgment of analysts of the Barbados economy, whether in Barbados or internationally that the deficits we have incurred are deficits which we can live with, because they are not of a size that prevents the private sector from having access to their own credit requirements, not large enough to force us to do foolish things, like borrowing massive amounts to meet our current expenditures. This deficit, if the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central will carefully look at the deficit contemplated in this year's Estimates of Expenditure, is within that relationship to our total output to the economy that will not either lead to a shortfall in the private sector access to credit, nor will it force us to have to indulge in massive foreign borrowing to finance our current expenditures. If the honourable Member was careful enough to read the Estimates, he would see that, of the total deficit contemplated, this year $180 million, one third of it, is to be met by concessional borrowing, that is, long term loans from institutions such as the IADB, the World Bank and so on, which I think you would agree is the proper way in which public finances should be managed. There is absolutely nothing wrong with Government borrowing long term money at concessional rates of interest to finance the Government's projects — absolutely nothing wrong! — and fully one third of our envisioned deficit is to be met by that type of concessional financing.

2.30 p.m.

The honourable Member criticises the policies that have been adopted by the Government to meet part of our deficits over the last few years from the domestic banking system and from the National Insurance Fund. I want, first of all, to deal with our financing of our deficits from the National Insurance Fund.

The National Insurance funds are the savings of the people of Barbados and there is no finer use to which a society's savings should be put than to be called into occupation to help build a society; to give its people new schools, to give them better roads, to give them polyclinics and the like. There is absolutely nothing wrong with the Government using the savings at its disposal, by way of National Insurance surpluses, to make investments into the long term future of this society. Indeed, the value of the approach that we have been using is that in the past, the National Insurance surpluses used to be invested in the banks and then the Government had to go and borrow from the banks at a high rate of interest — of course, adding in itself to the debt problems of the society. We have turned around that policy, and rather than put the National Insurance surpluses in the bank and then borrow from the bank, we have been drawing prudently from the surpluses accumulated by the people of Barbados to help those people in terms of their development prospects. I say, Sir, there is absolutely nothing wrong with our using the people's savings to advance the people's welfare.

In relation, Sir, to the borrowing from the domestic banking system, the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central was silent on the point. He knows that in a situation of excess liquidity in the banking system, at present Government could secure all of its requirements from the domestic banking system to carry its programme without putting a credit squeeze on the private sector. So Mr. Speaker, if you were to analyse our numbers with reference to what is generally understood as proper principle of financial management, any serious commentator would have to come to the conclusion that these Estimates have been so crafted and constructed as not to put the private sector in a bind where the availability of credit is concerned, not to commit the country to excessive short term external borrowing, and, in addition, that we have a programme, as the Prime Minister explained, where selective and strategic investments are being made in the future of the country.

I must stress that particular point, because the Opposition is now committing itself, by implication, to a massive programme of tax reform which, as I understand it, Mr. Speaker, will mean a massive programme of tax reduction. Countries which have tried massive tax reform programmes have found that they have replaced income taxes by indirect taxes, and the sad experience is that poor people, who were not paying taxes in the first case, ended up by having to pay taxes when once you moved the taxation system away from income taxes toward taxes on goods and services.

The countries with the highest rate of taxes in the world are the countries with the highest levels of commitment to social programmes of the kind that we have in Barbados. I want the permission of the House to quote from the International Year Book on Government Financial Statistics for 1985, because it contradicts the view being put by members of the Opposition that the levels of taxes in Barbados are too high. Historically, the rate of taxes the USA as a percentage of total output of the economy in the United States of America is 39%. Thirty nine percent of every dollar produced in the United States of America goes out in the form of Government taxes. Switzerland, 37%; Sweden, with a large welfare system, 62.8%. In all industrial countries Government taxes amount on average to 39% of total input in the economy. In Barbados, with a commitment to free education, free medical facilities, a welfare system to help the old, the unemployed, the needy, our taxes amount on average to between 25% and 28% of everything that is produced in this country, and it compares with Trinidad where taxes amount to 43% of everything that is produced in the country. In places like St. Lucia it is 31.8%, and so on, and so forth.

Let us begin by understanding that, in relative terms, our taxes as a proportion of what we produce in this country is low by international terms, and are realistic in relation to the volume of commitments that this Government has to carry. If you want to reduce our taxes from about 25 or 28 per cent of what we produce to some mythical figure, you have to give us a very clear indication of which services will suffer. You also have to give us a very clear indication as to what new indirect taxes you are going to impose when once you start fiddling with the income taxes that this country now asks its citizens to pay. There is simply no way that the Democratic Labour Party could abolish income taxes, which now amount to over $130 million a year, without affecting the capacity of Government to deliver public services in this country, and I state that as a matter of fact.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please!

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: All the progaganda and all the wishy-washiness that you have been going around the country with, that you are going to abolish income taxes, is nonsense, because you have, as you know, to adopt a two-eyed stand of tax reform, and our taxes in Barbados are at present relatively low by international standards and are realistic in relation to our commitments.

I think I owe it to the House to explain the specifics as to the causes of the deficit that was incurred in 1985. Mr. Speaker, the deficit in 1985 can be attributable, in any analysis, to three broad sets of factors. First of all, Sir, there was a once and for all grant of $10 million to the sugar industry, and I can only speculate as to what might have been the current account deficit had the House followed the recommendation of the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central and put not $10 million on the Budget for the sugar industry, but $78 million, as he was calling for. The first point!

2.40 p.m.

The second point, Sir.....

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: The honourable Member has just said that I was calling for a $78 million subsidy to the sugar industry.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will tell the honourable Member from now that that is no point of order.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: You mean if a man lies I cannot.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I can tell the honourable gentleman that is no point of order.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: He is lying!

Mr. SPEAKER: And the honourable Member will have to withdraw that. That is very unparliamentary.

Pause.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable Member will have to withdraw those words. That is unparliamentary.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I withdraw the words but I say it is untrue.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, I am trying to establish that there were a number of extraordinary one-shot items of expenditure incurred during the last financial year which would not have been there before, among them is $10 million in on budget financing for the sugar industry. We also have to add the $1 million Livestock Development Fund and the $1 million Non-Sugar Agricultural Export Revolving Fund.

We can add to that the full effects of the concessions that have been granted by the Government to the tourism industry since 1984, which have had a full and most dramatic effect during the course of the present financial year. In October 1984, the House will recall, the Government gave the tourism industry the commitment that in order to bring the tourism facilities of this country up to a level, and up to a standard that would make it more competitive, all materials, equipment and whatever else required for the purposes of refurbishment and renovation would be allowed into this country free of duty and taxes. Our revenues, Sir, were to some extent, reduced by our giving effect to that programme of support

for the tourism industry. We are in the process of compiling, very carefully, the value of the concessions, to counter the charges by the members of the Opposition that the Government is not interested in doing anything for the productive sectors by way of tax relief. It could be as much, Sir, as $10 million.

Thirdly, if we want to be serious or realistic about public financing in this society, if we are worrying about a $22 million current account deficit, we also have to recognize that the pure addition to the wage bill during the course of the last financial year amounted, in itself, to $22 million. I really want to submit to the House that we have to be very careful about the manner in which we grant public sector wage increases in this society. The Government does not pay taxes, people do, and every time we add a one per cent to public servants wages, we are asking the taxpayers of Barbados to find an additional $3.1 million in taxes to meet those expenditures. People who are asking for 20% and 25% increases in wages are asking the Government of Barbados to increase taxes by $60 million and $70 million, not to expand employment, but to increase the wages of those already employed. The facts are, Mr. Speaker, that between 1980 and 1985, the total wages of the Public Service increased by 69% as compared to 49% increase in prices in the society.

So if I may sum.....

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable Member has one minute to wind up his speech.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: If I may sum up, these Estimates have been carefully drafted and carefully constructed in accordance with the best principles of public finance. They centre around a manageable deficit which is not an outlandish proportion of total output, 6% or 7% of projected output, as compared to 20% of output in societies where bad public sector management is at the base of their problems.

I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. B. M. TAITT (St. Michael West): Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate that as we meet to debate the most important Bill that will come before this Honourable House on this day, in this year, the level of debate and discussion, the general attitude, seems to be almost one on the part of a number of honourable Members of a carnival atmosphere, and I believe that that atmosphere must have influenced the honourable Member who just sat down to engage in an area of comparative analysis which, for want of a better way of putting it, is quite unworthy of him.

Mr. Speaker, the first thing I want to deal with is the whole concept of the use of percentages as a measure of determining the effectiveness of what is happening in one economy as opposed to another. To attempt to use analyses for what is proper public spending and make a big reference to, say, 8% in the United States and 6% in Barbados, may, to the uninitiated, give the impression that Barbados is in a thoroughly acceptable position if the particular percentage used falls below that in the United States.

The honourable Member made a statement that I am sure that when he sees it in writing, he will not accept that he said that. He made a statement concerning deficit financing, and cited the United States, where it has been systematically demonstrated that the United States, because of its combination of its Social Security funds and its other revenues, is in a position, where it is doubtful whether its debt will ever be repayable in the foreseeable future. The United States literally has trillions of dollars in debt, but the United States is an economy that is a productive economy and it can afford to take the chances which successive Governments in the United States take in terms of deficit financing and the amount of so-called debt, because they, in the future, believe that they will always have the productive capacity to take care of their needs. Even so, there has been a raging debate in the United States about whether the amount of debt which they have incurred, with the Japanese, for example, is worthy of that economy.

Now, today, we have an honourable Member coming to this Chamber and suggesting that because the percentage of deficit in relation to our economy falls within a certain level, it is publicly acceptable, when the honourable Member does not go on to say that (1) this is an economy that depends for more than 60% on its production of what is imported from outside; and (2), he forgets to point out that the national debt in relation to 1976—86 moved from $258 million to almost.....in fact over $1 billion in that period.
2.50 p.m.

He talked about the percentage of debt to deficit in 1973 without pointing out that 1973 was the year when, for the first time in the history of the world, the price of oil increased by 400 per cent. The honourable Member has used an argument that is unworthy of him to make a point. He is a source of disappointment in that regard, because that was the first time in the history of the world that the oil price, the price of energy, had ever increased in the way it did, by 400 per cent.

Then he went on to say that the deficit was 10 per cent of the total gross national product. I challenge the honourable Member to produce those figures, because I say it is not true. The honourable Members thumped and cheered. The honourable Member could not possibly believe that a debt of $15 million could ever be 10 per cent of the total output in Barbados in 1973. The honourable Member could not have meant that, and they have pronounced to persons in this community who might not

understand what he is talking about. It may seem to be a fascinating thing to be able to show these comparisons in terms of percentages. It is unworthy of the honourable Member.

I go further, Sir. I am saying that if one takes 1973, the 1973 national debt was less than $258 million in Barbados at the time. The deficit financing that occurred in 1973 was once in 10 years. If you take the Estimates, Sir, for 1977—78.....

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: On a point of order; the honourable Member is misleading the House. I said specifically.....

Mr. SPEAKER: That is no point of order. If the honourable Member wants to make an explanation of anything he has said, he is entitled to make a point of elucidation, and that is to correct any misunderstanding of a statement he has made in his speech today.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: On a point of elucidation: I said in my presentation to the House that the current account deficit in 1973, as shown in the Estimates of Expenditure, amounted to $15.3 million of Government expenditure of $143 million, which was 10 per cent of Government expenditure, as compared in 1985 to a current account deficit of $22 million on current account of $672 million, which is 3 per cent. I made the additional point that we have therefore to put the current account deficit experienced last year in its proper proportion by comparing it to those that have been experienced in the past.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Now, Sir, if the honourable Member had said that, there would have been no thumping, there would have been no carrying on, because he went on subsequently to say that we can live with a 10 per cent of our national output. But, Sir, the records will show who said what.

Let me make my position clear. I do not know why in this House in 1986 we should have a debate discussing deficit financing. I do not understand how it can be a political point in 1986 for an honourable Member to get up and say that we started deficit financing. When deficit financing was started, it was started probably because it was recognised that the crab tree type of economics which the Barbados Labour Party was carrying on at that time could not move this country forward. It was recognised that you needed to have deficit financing, not only in Barbados but all over the world, because succeeding generations will have to help pay for capital development. The question is not whether you have deficit financing or not. That is what we call little children economics. The question is what kind of development you have with the kind of money you borrow, and that is where the Barbados Labour Party has demonstrated that it has not the capacity to manage the economy, because, Sir, the question has to be, always must be, how much money have you borrowed, what has the economy produced, what have you done with the money you borrowed, what could we anticipate from the investments which you make that caused you to borrow the money.

Let us examine it. Ninteen hundred and seventy-six is where the beginning of all the problems occurred in Barbados in the context of how you have your public financing, because the Barbados Labour Party, having promised the private sector in this community a certain leeway, allowed itself a certain amount of laxity.....

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I don't care if they remember me or not. The fact still remains that you allowed a level of importation in this country of nonsense, from which we have never recovered, and if you look through the books of this country, if you look through the finances of this country, you will find that it was the indiscriminate opening of the flood gates in Barbados by the Barbados Labour Party in the last three months of 1976, which led to all the confusion in the financing that led to the so-called belt-tightening. The people of this country must not be misled into believing that all of the problems they have now, began yesterday. They began when the Barbados Labour Party in 1977 told the people of this country that they had only 18 months before they reached a level of living equal to that in the United States, and you have put the people psychologically on that road.

By 1980, the year the honourable Member talked of, where he says there was a deficit that met the bad criteria which he set, the criteria which he himself set were met in the year 1980 — I am using his own example — began the other problems which are culminating in 1986, 1984 through 1986, because there was an election year, and in 1980 they again misled the people of this country, and they badly spent funds which were borrowed, they produced products which gave the impression that there was going to be a lot of activity, and I well remember the honourable Member for Christ Church East Central getting in here and saying how the clouds were there, but he could see an opening into the great blue yonder. By the time they had succeeded in getting the Government again in 1981, we had a mini-budget.

(*Aside:* Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: 442 shops you closed!)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Four hundred and forty-two shops! We will deal with that. By 1981 there was a mini-budget, and from then until this day,.....four hundred and forty-two shops? Mr. Speaker, they must

have closed 1442 shops! Mr. Speaker, they did not only close shops, they closed every productive part of Barbados' industrial sector in this country. They closed down the Foundry, they closed down the factories.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order.....

Mr. B. M. TAITT: There can be no point of order. What is this?

Mr. SPEAKER stands.

Mr. SPEAKER: Quiet, please! Order please!

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I was saying, Sir, from 1980 through 1981, when they came with a mini-budget, they did two things: they started closing down systematically every factory in Barbados, they themselves started laying off people, and as the honourable Member whom I do not now see in his place, the honourable Member for St. Michael East (Dr. D. G. Blackman) has said, the first major conflict between the philosophical differences which could be found between us and them started to emerge, because not only did they close down the productive sector, they started themselves sending home people; 400 from MTW, 400 from the IDC, 400 from BMC.
3.00 p.m.

Asides.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Sir.

Laughter.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please. I hear a point of order.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: I hear a point of order.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, on a point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please. May I hear the point of order.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, the honourable Member is misleading the Chamber. It was Mr. Frederick Gladstone Smith, as Minister of MTW, who sent home 400 workers. Nobody in the Barbados Labour Party!

Mr. SPEAKER: That is no point of order.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is not even a point of explanation.

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the honourable Member for St. Thomas (Hon. D. A. C. Simmons) can be forgiven. He has been demonstrating recently that his memory is quite short, so I am not going to deal with him. His memory is quite short and we are not going to deal with him.

The point I am making, Sir, and as can be found in the annals of the history of this country, in the newspapers in this country, is that the long slide of persons being sent home from the statutory corporations began in 1981.

(*Aside:* Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: 1975.)

(*Aside:* No, no.)

(*Aside:* Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: 1974, yes.)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: But, Sir, in the productive sectors, they said they were going to produce x number of housing, then told us that they had produced a large number of housing. The honourable Member for St. James North (Hon. L. S. Craig) can get up and tell this Honourable Chamber that from the time, for whatever reason, he ceased to be the Minister responsible for Housing, the housing industry in this country came to a complete stop.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: The honourable Member, the Minister of Transport and Works, who the Prime Minister attempted to.....

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I rise, Sir,.....

Mr. SPEAKER: On what.....

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I rise on a point of order, Sir.

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

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. At no time, since I have been in here, have I ever said that the housing plant in Barbados came to a complete stop.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is no point of order.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, it is a fact of life. I never said it!

Mr. SPEAKER: No point of order.

reasonable time of their leaving their vocation or other training, then we are going to be wasting time. The Barbados Labour Party has demonstrated the capacity for wasting time in this area for the last nine years, and now the time has come for the Barbados Labour Party to call a halt, or better still, Sir, the people will bring them to a screeching halt.

Mr. Speaker, we will be examining these Estimates in the Committee, and I will be putting, in the context of this broad outline I have made, a number of questions to the Ministers if they are willing to answer them. I will, in fact expand on those areas which I have touched broadly to discuss what is, to my mind, Sir, an intolerable and unacceptable poor presentation of the 1986 Estimates.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is.....

Hon. B. St. JOHN: I have to wind up on behalf of the Government.

The position is, Sir, that at long last we found an issue which will show the great divide in politics in Barbados. Normally, one would seek to document that, but today I want to point, Sir, to another and bigger divide. The biggest divide I have seen in politics here is the divide between the philosophies as expounded by the last speaker and that which was expounded by the principal spokesman for the Opposition on Finance. The two philosophies cannot be reconciled. We are not going to deal with it in here today, though. That will be left for another place and another time. We only will deal with a few of the points that are necessary to be dealt with in reply.

The contributions from this side have been so devastating, in response to the propositions put forward, that we need not take up too much time on it. The first point we have to emphasize, Sir, is that the deficit in Barbados is a small percentage of revenue and a small percentage of the gross national product in Barbados. Whatever the other side says cannot remove the facts, that on current account we have a small deficit in relation to our revenue, and which is smaller than when they ran this country in 1975/1976. Secondly when you take the capital and the current account deficit in relation to other countries in the world, in relation to countries in the Caribbean, in relation to developed countries, the total deficit in Barbados, between 5% to 8% of the GDP, is a very small percentage and the multilateral institutions, whether they be the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, or the IMF whenever they come to give a commentary on the economy of Barbados, they emphasize the fact that consistently prudent financial management by the Government of Barbados has placed Barbados in a very favourable position.

Now I am not going to allow the honourable Member on the other side, the shadow Minister of Finance, to continuously come into this House of Assembly and add up the amount of debt or the deficit each year — so he adds for five years the amount of the deficit, says that it amounts to $900 million — and quite unfairly does not add each year the gross domestic product of Barbados and demonstrate that that comes to $9 billion. So what you are looking at is $900 million in relation to $8 or $9 billion. Now only common decency and fairness in debate would demand that if you are comparing apples, you have to compare apples with apples, and you do not compare apples with pears or something else. But that is something the honourable Member has never allowed himself to do. That alone dismisses him as a commentator of integrity. That fact alone !

3.20 p.m.

Now, Sir, we have dealt then with the question of the deficit as a percentage of revenue, the deficit as a percentage of the gross national product. We now have to deal with the other matters. I am not going to deal with the question of the impossible situation that the honourable Member is advocating when he says he is going to cut expenditure in Barbados, but does not tell us, other than the grand statement that he is going to cut out wastage, in what areas he is going to cut it.

I want to get this clear, and I want everyone to understand this, 45% — and I am going to repeat it — 45% of Government expenditure in Barbados is wages, salaries and pensions. I want the honourable Member to tell us how he is going to cut out wastage in that area other than by reducing the salaries paid, or by reducing the number of people receiving the existing salaries. He must tell us. He does not get away with these statements in election year. Forty-five per cent!

The other charges in Government relate to the purchase of goods and services, and we will do an analysis to show that the purchase of goods and services is such that they come to Government as a result of competitive tendering. Now, again, either the honourable Member is going to cut out the range of the goods and services or he is going to reduce the price of the goods and services. Again, in an election year he is going to be pressed back to the wall to identify each and every area of Government that he is going to either reduce the amount that he paid for the goods and services or the scope of the goods and services. So we are going to push. There is no longer any question of making wild statements unsupported by the facts.

We now come, Sir, to another area, and I am going to leave him, because he is easily dismissible with the reply that has been made by the honourable Member for Christ Church East, the honourable Member for St. Peter, and the few points I have made in reply. I am going to

deal now with the other wing of the Democratic Labour Party, the wing that gets in here and says that there is absolutely nothing wrong with deficit financing. The honourable Member for St. Michael South Central does not agree, though.

The honourable Member also talks about the performance of the Government in relation to.....

(Aside: Mr. B. M. TAITT: You can leave out that).

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: You mean you want me to be sure..... you want the public to say .....

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of elucidation, Sir. I think that the honourable Member either did not understand what I said or would not intend to misrepresent what I said. To say that and to leave it at that point would not be to capture exactly what I said. I draw to his attention that what I said was that there is nothing wrong with deficit financing, that we started it, but that it is what you do with the money you borrow, and the projects and the productive nature of those projects. That is the point, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable Member did not misquote you. Therefore there was no question of an elucidation. If you want the honourable Member to continue to develop that point, you should persuade him to do that.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I am going to develop it, Sir, because the proposition that I am putting forward is that it is because in a community like ours, if you are to push the economy forward, it is the Government that has to have the capacity, particularly in times of difficulties, to be able to push forward the economy. The Government is the leader, the private sector in Barbados is the follower. We know that the honourable Member for St. Michael West does not believe in the private sector. He concedes that 440-odd shops .....

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. There is absolutely no concession of that kind, Sir. I will bring the information to this Honourable House again and show them that the statement by the then gentleman is totally and completely without any foundation of truth. I made no such concession, Sir.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Whether you made the concession or not, the facts are that as a result of the lack of margins granted to the retail trade under the honourable Member's administration as a Minister of Trade and Commerce in Barbados, over 440 shops went out of business.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order: The honourable Member is making a statement to this House as a fact which is not true, and unless the honourable Member can bring information to substantiate the statement, I am saying categorically, Sir, that it is not true. I can bring the information tomorrow for Your Honour. It is simply not true.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: The honourable Member presided over a regime of price control, of licensing in this country, that stultified the whole private sector and public sector economic activity in Barbados, and the honourable Member does not deny the fact that he has just again, in his speech here, given a clear indication that, if given a chance he would do precisely the same thing again. Now, that is where the great divide is.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Sir, if the honourable Member will give way, Sir, I made no such statement and I have made no such assertion. I made no such statement, I do not agree that what he has said is what I said. I never agreed to that and I do not now agree that what he is saying I would do, Sir. I never did it and would never do it, Sir.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Well, Sir, he said that he would control and order profits, profit taking and things of that kind in Barbados.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: When?

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: You said that just now in your speech.

Now, Sir, he said that he would reduce electricity prices. Electricity prices have two components in Barbados. We must examine and expose this hypocrisy. There are two components of electricity prices in Barbados, both of which are subject to public utility regulation, which in itself was the subject of public inquiry in which the Democratic Labour Party had ample opportunity to advance their point of view. It neither received the support of the Public Utilities Board nor the support of the appeal process, nor will it receive the support of the electorate of Barbados. You had all opportunity to demonstrate that electricity pricing was unfair in Barbados. Neither the Public Utilities Board nor the Chief Justice believed you.

The position is, Sir ....

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of elucidation again, Sir. The honourable Member completely misunderstood the speech, Sir. The point is, Sir, I made the point of energy cost, that the cost of fuel is too high. The honourable Member knows that electricity in Barbados is now priced according to the service and according to the so-called fuel charge, and therefore if the price of fuel drops, it must follow, as night the day, that the price of electricity to the consumer must drop. That is the point that was being made.

I wish the honourable Member would not deliberately or otherwise misrepresent what I say, Sir.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Thank God, Sir, that the honourable Member has just demonstrated that he is making a non-point when he says he can reduce electricity, because the same Public Utilities Board has set up the monitoring system or the question of fuel, and the truth is that it has, in fact, gone down already. That is what you fail to recognize, that in January last year the fuel charge was $13.162¢, in January this year it was .08¢, and in February it will go down, and in March it will go down, because the Public Utilities Board has set up a mechanism to allow the flow-through. So when you are saying that you are going to reduce the electricity rates, you are not demonstrating that anything is wrong with the existing pricing system. All you are demonstrating is that you think that the other people on this side of the public do not know that in the world today, the possibility of fuel oil going down in price is very clear.

3.30 p.m.

The Government does not price control fuel oil, and what is more, and these are some things that at this time I am going to bring to your attention, the price of fuel oil in Barbados is dependent upon an agreement signed by the Democratic Labour Party in 1965 – and it has 25 years. So do not come around here and try to make a political issue of something that, 25 years ago, the Democratic Labour Party signed. You signed it.

Do not come in here and talk foolishness about the agricultural industry, because when you come in here and talk about the agricultural industry, I say, and I repeat, that part of the problem of the disposal of sugar in Barbados can be attributed directly to a decision made by the honourable Member when he was Minister of Trade and responsible for foreign trade. I am not saying that he did not honestly arrive at that bad decision, but that is so. What the honourable Member must understand is that we are operating on an economy in which there are a few important areas that we really have no control over. We are at the mercy, because of our smallness, of international forces, so when you talk about bad management, you do not use the sugar industry as an example, because I would then say that you are responsible for the sugar industry's bad management by picking wrong in 1974 – 1975.

Sir, it is also important that we get across a few other points, and they relate to this question of taxes. I want to get this question of taxes across. As the honourable Member for St. Peter has pointed out, it is easy to talk about Barbados being subjected to such a heavy rate of taxation. People must not forget that this Government, this Barbados Labour Party Government, introduced a whole range of tax credits and allowances which mean, in fact, that you have to earn very near to $800 a month before you pay any kind of taxes at all, $145 a week, I gather. So when the honourable Member talks about the levies, I like to hear him talk about levies.

The Health Levy that we have introduced has helped every person in Barbados, including the honourable Member for St. Michael North (P. M. Greaves).

He can talk now, because he knows that, as a result of that Health Levy, he can go to sleep tonight and if he has to go abroad tomorrow, he does not have to go and beg his friends for money to help him. Because the Government has introduced a scheme under which he can go abroad and get up to $100 000. So let us get it straight. Not only have we allowed and agreed that the National Drug Service will be financed directly from the Health Levy, we have also financed the cost of 23 doctors at the polyclinics, the over 65 from age 0 to 16, and people between 16 and 65 can go to the polyclinics and receive attention. People suffering from certain diseases – cancer, high blood pressure, and a few others – can get their drugs free. We have just agreed with the pharmacists, with the specialists at the hospital – and I hope soon with the general medical practitioners to provide, within the context of the revenues from the Health Levy, a range of medical services that all of us should be proud of.

This Government is a Government that cares about the people who are in need, especially their medical programmes, and if you are so foolish as to have false pride that you would not go to a polyclinic, it is your business. I know that there are many people in Barbados of ilks – rich, poor, black, white, blue – who go to the polyclinics and get medical attention and get their drugs free. They are pleased and are happy. When the Estimates time comes, we are going to give you the numbers. They are going to made your head ring. I am proud of that fact.

What is more, in the last Budget, we agreed, as part of the Income Tax allowances, to allow you to deduct the Transport Levy, the Health Levy and the Unemployment Levy. Now, he is going to tell us about the Unemployment Levy. If there is one thing the Barbados Labour Party would be known for in this term is the fact that it introduced into Barbados a modicum of social security to deal with a situation in a country when, because of technological and other reasons, your economy is restructured, and you have to shed any excess. Nodody else has made a more significant contribution to financial security and to the establishment of a minimum purchasing power in the country than the Barbados Labour Party when they introduced that. That is an important contribution.

But you will abolish the levy, too. In your quest to abolish, you will abolish the Health Levy. You will abolish the Unemployment Levy. You will abolish the

Transport Levy, too. Let me tell you something. You go ahead and abolish them. You cannot abolish the 160 buses that have been bought out of the Transport Levy. You cannot abolish the 50–odd tenantry roads that have been built out of the Transport Levy. You cannot abolish the Bridge Road Bridge that has been built out of the Transport Levy. You cannot abolish the Grazettes Bridge that was built out of the Transport Levy or none of the other schemes that have been built out of the Transport Levy.

Let us get it straight. It is easy to talk about abolition. When you are destructive, you talk about abolition. When you are constructive, you talk about the creation, the development and the utilisation of the money for development. That is our position.
3.40 p.m.

Sir, he says he is going to change the price of gas. Well the price of gas is going to be changed. That is known. There is no big thing. What is the big thing about saying that the price of gas is going to be changed, when you know that the agreement that you had signed in 1955 says that the price of petroleum products are linked to an index known as the Caribbean Platts, when you know that the Caribbean Platt fluctuates – sometimes it is in favour of the consumer, sometimes it is against the oil company – and you know in 1974 you agreed to a surcharge. You know that we took off that surcharge and we put it back on after they had demonstrated, but the surcharge is off again. If you have been reading your "Economist," even if you have been getting up early enough in the morning and watching the CNN News, you will know that the big debate is whether the price of gas and diesel other than to the productive sectors in the economy should not reach market prices and be priced competitively in relation. Some people say that the excise taxes in relation to tobacco and alcohol should also go. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, there is no difficulty in answering this problem.

As I said before, the Government has always tried to maintain a balance between conservation and how much should go back to the revenue. The best mechanism that has been devised by man is to use a consumption or excise tax to keep that balance going. There is a point I want to make, and it is that as electricity goes down, it will ricochet through the economy.

The final point I want to make, and the honourable Member adverted to it indirectly, that no economist or anyone has been able to deal with, is that just as in 1973 to 1975 the phenomenal increase in the price of oil caused, according to the honourable Member, a spurt in inflation and an increase in money values or need for money in the world, the reverse is happening now. Are we going to have a decrease in the prices which were established as a result of the inflation? Are we going to have it? That is the great debate.

I know that this Government can be proud of one fact – and the most significant thing about the whole of this debate is that nobody on the other side can challenge the unchallengeable facts – and that is that inflation in Barbados in 1885 was 2.5 per cent on a point to point basis, December to December, and in January 1.8 per cent. The only explanation the honourable Member on the other side, the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, has, is that because we were tied to the American dollar, the inflation was low. He says it has nothing to do with Barbados.

Sir, he says that he is going to be able to demonstrate to the consumer that in the basket of goods they buy, there has been no reduction. Well let him come. I know that the BMC keeps an agricultural index of a wide range of products and consistently, every Saturday when you read the newspaper, you can see how the index is going in relation to the 40 or 50 products. Let him come and let him deny that fact.

I know that there is a record of electricity prices, so that both food and electricity have gone down. I know this. The only thing that causes great disturbance to me is the fact that medical costs have risen far beyond the rate of inflation, and that is why we have introduced the National Health Service to cushion the people of Barbados from people like the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central.

Thank you, Sir.

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

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

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

HEAD 10 – GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Head 10 – Governor-General – was called.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $496 309 under Head 10 – Governor-General – stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 11 – JUDICIARY

Head 11 – Judiciary – was called.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $23 547 under Head 11 – Judiciary – stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 12 – PARLIAMENT

Head 12 – Parliament – was called.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I beg to move, Mr. Chairman, that the sum of $1 339 922 under Head 12 – Parliament – stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 13 – SERVICES COMMISSIONS

Head 13 – Services Commissions – was called.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $359 922 under Head 13, – Services Commissions – as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 14 – ESTABLISHMENTS

Head 14 – Establishments – was called.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $6 743 238 under Head 14 – Establishments – stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 15 – CABINET OFFICE

Head 15 – Cabinet Office – was called.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $3 488 798 under Head 15 – Cabinet Office – as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN (Christ Church East Central): Mr. Chairman, I wish to speak on this. This contains the Electoral and Boundaries Commission. Normally, Sir, I do not reply to emanations from the pen of retirees, but I think that when articles are written which are constructed upon a false and untruthful basis, particularly when the article purports to give proof to what I regard as one of the most irresponsible, reckless positions adopted by a person whose conduct could only be classified as traitorous, I think it is necessary for me to put the record straight.
3.50 p.m.

Aside.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: On two occasions since those irresponsible statements were made, I had to go to the media and point out that the electoral laws of Barbados that apply today are substantially – and I repeatedly said substantially – similar to the laws that applied in 1971, 1976, the by-elections between 1976 and 1981 and the 1981 General Election. Now I deny that I ever said that the laws were the same. I said this, that the law relating to taking a person off of the list was essentially the same, and exactly the same, under our Administration and under the Administration of the Democratic Labour Party, because once you are on the list, the Chief Electoral ....

(Aside: Mr. B. M. TAITT: Why did you not correct it?)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I do not have to because I was coming today for it. That is why. I was coming today for it.

(Aside: Mr. B. M. TAITT: The Press is wrong then.)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: No, no no! You look at the construction. The provision is very clear. Once a person is on the Electoral List, nobody can remove him from the Electoral List, unless he has been abroad for a stipulated period of time and/or has become disqualified, or he has moved from one electoral area and gone to another, and

then he can be put in the other list. That is what I said is the same.

A point has been made about an Electoral and Boundaries Commission and resources. I think that when we had a debate in here on the question of the Electoral and Boundaries Commission, we made it abundantly clear that they asked for a given amount of resources, and we increased the resources, because we told them that, in our view, we wanted them to be armed with a sufficient amount of money to give maximum publicity to the Register and maximum publicity to the electorate in Barbados, with a view to encouraging everyone to inspect the list and to take steps to see that they were on the list. We gave them more money than they asked for. Of course, I would understand that a Democratic Labour Party person could not appreciate that, because the Democratic Labour Party does not appreciate the Electoral and Boundaries Commission. When they had the opportunity to entrench it in the Constitution in London, they rejected it. But we brought it in, and I am happy with it.

I really believe that they are going to do a better job than the honourable Member for St. Michael North (Mr. P. M. Greaves) did in 1971, when the time for the publication of the Register of Electors was broken and you had to pass validation laws in 1971. Why do they not talk when they do their researches and find out that the Electoral List in 1971 was invalid because it did not meet the deadline set by the honourable Member, and it had to be validated, and that people, in September in the 1971 election, who were registered in July, did not know whether they were on the Electoral Register by the date of the election because you had to validate it? But I have the laws. I brought them for you.

(Aside: Mr. P. M. GREAVES: Big lie!)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: You forgot that you had to validate the laws in 1971!

(Aside: Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: That should be on TV.)

Aside.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I am going to bring them out. I am going to bring all the facts because the gravamen of the complaint .....

(Aside: Mr. B. M. TAITT: Was it fraudulent?)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: That was beyond fraud, because not only was the list not published in accordance with the law and had to be validated, the boundaries themselves were changed at a ridiculously late time and they did not even know the boundaries as established. That is a fact! I mean, this is a matter of record. But we attempted to improve that, and I must say that, as a result of cumulative experience over the period, various amendments were made with a view to improving it.

On the question of the monthly list, the Government's position was made repeatedly clear that with the monthly list, experience had shown that between election times people paid little or no attention to it and that people only used to go when the tempo got hot, either when there was a by-election or a general election was in the offing. The honourable Members on the other side must know that. So, therefore, for a monthly list, you substituted a special registration period in which you started with a base list and you added to the list as a result of requests, objections and things of that kind. The 1978 by-election took place on that basis. The two by-elections in St. Peter in 1981 all took place on that basis. In any event, the Boundaries Commission in Barbados, under which the 1986 election will take place, has got complete control on whether they publish monthly, non-monthly or how they publish it. And you have two nominees. Do not let us forget. The Democratic Labour Party has two nominees on the Boundaries Commission. Dr. Hunte and Mr. Asquith Phillips, Q.C., nominees of the Democratic Labour Party, and they have been coming to every meeting; everything they request, they have been given. So do not let us try to think that you can fool the public once again.

But it is not fooling the public in Barbados that is bad. It is the irresponsible conduct of going on the airwaves and in the print media and trying to scandalize your own country. Traitors do that.

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

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Traitors do that!

(Aside: Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Hear you, St. John!)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: That is what they do. And we must nail them when they do it!

Now, Sir, we go further. I believe that at this particular period of time everybody in Barbados would have known that this Electoral List is compiled after an enumeration. I have been informed that the last time they had an enumeration in Barbados was in 1969. The 1976 election had no enumeration. This election will have had an enumeration.

(Aside: They were in power.)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: So do not let us fool ourselves and try to distort facts. The point of fact is that the same person, Mr. Dennis Smith, who is in charge of the election process today was appointed during the Democratic Labour Party's time, and he presided over all of the elections. No doubt, with the passage of time, his competence has increased; from 1971 until now.

I am glad, Sir, that this debate has taken place, very glad that this debate has taken place, because it has galvanized Barbadians into going and getting themselves registered. There is more interest now in a register than there has been for a long period of time. The political parties are out there in the field encouraging people to register. There is one thing that they cannot deny, and that is, that every morning, every night, and during the course of the day, the public media in Barbados, particularly the radio and the television, are encouraging the people to go out and register. The Government is taking every step possible to ensure that all those who are eligible are registered.

4.00 p.m.

I am going to deal with a matter that I hear a lot of, and the 1971 Regulations passed by the other side set it out very clearly, that is if you are a Commonwealth citizen residing in Barbados for three years. The 1971 Regulations make it very clear that if you have been registered here for 3 years and you are a Commonwealth citizen and you can prove that you are entitled to vote. The qualifications and disqualifications for voting are set out in the Constitution and in the Representation of the People Act 1971. We have not amended that. We also have, Sir, to bear in mind that judicial decisions in the Commonwealth Caribbean have established that where a Registering Officer refuses to put you on the register, you can bring a case for damages against him. So that is another check, another very careful check, to ensure that people who are in control of the election machinery understand the seriousness of failing to put people on the register, and that is a very important point.

Now when you are making imputations against the integrity of people, you should remember that it is easy to make these, but not easy to make them stick. Sir 1971 No. 137, signed by one P. M. Greaves, the Member for St. Michael North, validated the electors, and I am going to read it.

> "The Minister in exercising the powers conferred on him by Section 26(a) of the Representation of the People Act 1971 hereby makes the following order:
>
> The registering of electors and registering of foreign service electors for the year 1971 published by the Chief Registering Officer on August 3, 1971 shall not be invalid."

In other words, it was invalid. So you are making it valid by reason only of the publication after the time required by Section 13(1) of the Act. If you want to know about stinkiness and not publishing documents, learn about that. The supplementary register of electors for the month of June 1971 published by the Chief Registering Officer on August 7, 1971 shall not be invalid, by reason only of the publication after the time required by Section 18 of the Act. So you are validating. You are a validator. In other words, that which was not published in accordance with the timetable as set out by you, you had to validate it.

(Aside.)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Stop behaving like a lawyer! Do not call the word "lawyer" with me, man! In September you talked about elections. Election was held in September and the people who voted in September 1971 – you know the people who got on the register by the date in August were not allowed to vote because the register was not published – could not vote. So what was the register that was used in the 1971 election? They want to talk about register, you and your minions with their short memories! You want to talk about registers in time for objections? The register that was used on September 9, 1971 was published July 3. The register of electors, the supplementary one, had to be revalidated on August 7, and the supplementary register for July was published on August 30. The election was on the 9th. That one foreclosed you. You could not do anything about it. You did not have an opportunity to object to it. So do not let us talk about timetables. Do not let us talk about opportunities.

The truth of the matter is, Sir, that there has got to be a cut-off date. I look forward to representation being made from the Electoral and Boundaries Commission about the cut-off date. Give me the cut-off date that they think is reasonable. You give me the date when you think it is reasonable and we will do it. The Boundaries and Electoral Commission is hereby requested humbly by the Government to submit any recommendations that they think fit to ensure to all and sundry the fairness of an election in Barbados. I give them the undertaking that I will bring their views to this House of Assembly for legislative endorsement at the earliest possible opportunity. I also give them again the undertaking that whatever resources they need in order to carry out their purpose of polling and supervising a free and fair election will be brought before this House of Assembly for legislative enactment. Because, Sir, victory will be sweeter when we get it, when we know that there cannot be any question at all that this Government has prevented anyone responsible for the administration of elections from carrying out their functions. That is a clear, unadulterated commitment. And I know of no requests that have been made by the Electoral and Boundaries Commission for any amendment of the law, for any provision that has been denied them.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Two minutes.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Sir, that is the position of the Government. We have amended the law to introduce an Electoral and Boundaries Commission to control the elections, and I believe, Sir, that no one can fairly say that anyone on this side is obstructing the Boundaries Commission from carrying out their functions.

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

I have many honourable Members on their feet. The Right Honourable Member for St. John.
4.10 p.m.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I am not going to say everything that I am going to say in Barbados at this stage. I like being attacked by the Press, I like being attacked by the Prime Minister, I like being attacked by the Members on the other side, because it means that the truth hurts.

I have been accused of not saying anything about the malpractices in Barbados prior to my going to Manila. If anyone reads the *Nation* newspaper and the *Advocate* round about the 12th July, I think it is 1981, one will see almost a full page there where I itemised the different experiences which people had in trying to exercise their right of franchise. Unfortunately, the paper is downstairs in the trunk of my car; if I am given an opportunity I will go and bring it so that I can make it a document of the House.

Aside.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: The Prime Minister has issued an invitation. I want to tell him that one of the first things I would like him to do is to bring in an amendment to the Representation of the People Act. The first thing I would like him to do is to give the country a guarantee that any forthcoming election, like from today on, is not going to be held under the Statistics Act, but it is going to be under the Representation of the People Act.

Item No. 2. I want him to know that there is a lot of disquiet in Barbados over something that has been in the law, as far as I can remember, from 1957 or before, and that is that the Presiding Officer at a polling station, when an elector comes to exercise his vote, writes down his registration number on the stub of the ballot paper when he hands the ballot paper to that elector. I am going to tell the reason for that.

I said that, as far as I remember, it has been there from 1957, but prior to 1981 the Presiding Officers either were not aware, or neglected, or refused, or declined to carry out that simple function. I had spoken to one or two Presiding Officers and Returning Officers when I became aware of the disquiet prevailing in Barbados over this practice, and I pointed out to them that there was always provision in the law for the Presiding Officer at a polling station to write down the number on the stub of the ballot paper.

Aside.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: There was always, as far as I remember, so the honourable Member does not have to tell me it was that way during the DLP's time, because I know it. After all, I have been here from 1951. There was always provision in the law for that, but the point is, it was never done, it was never insisted upon, until 1981.

The reason why I want that removed is very simple. I understand from the English authorities that that is also in the Representation of the People Act, the electoral law of the United Kingdom, and that the reason for that practice is that if there was a petition and, for instance, a blind person protested, or a disabled person protested, that the Presiding Officer did not exercise the vote in the way directed by that incapacitated voter, and they went to the court, it would be a way of identifying the vote of that person. Now, we know, and much as we have been trying to reassure, even with this Government in power, our constituents that there is no way that any politician can have access to those stubs of the ballot papers, the damage is being done by some of the candidates on the other side and their supporters who are going around offering people jobs and telling them that if they do not vote for them, they would know how they vote. I am saying that as a positive fact.

Asides.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Go outside and ask the man in the street.

Loud Asides.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Shout and scream and holler as much as you want to, this is a fact that anybody outside can testify to, that they are being told that they know how you are going to vote, and we tell them, 'No, that is not so.' The only person who can know how you vote is in an election petition if the presiding judge, the Chief Justice or so, breaks the sealed envelope; gets the Registrar to bring the sealed envelope into the court and has it opened in his presence in order to verify a certain fact which is in dispute in that election petition.

A lot of people say they are not going out to vote because they are afraid of victimisation and intimidation.

Asides.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: They are afraid. I am saying this is a fact, whether you scream, holler or not. I can shout, too, although I was not brought up in the gutter to shout or anything like that, like you all.

Loud Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, order, please!

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I am saying this is a fact, that that is the way the people feel.

Aside.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Ask him to keep quiet, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: We must allow the Hansard Reporter to do her work.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I am saying that has been on the Statute Book. I am making a positive statement that the Presiding Officers, prior to 1981, never exercised their authority, and you know it too, because many of you have been in polling stations prior to 1981 and you know that the very first time that this issue has ever arisen, of being able to identify people's votes, was post 1981, and the people are saying now that they are told that the Government knows how they vote. Therefore, to show your *bona fides* – because I know the honourable Member, the Prime Minister, he is aware of this and he has given an undertaking. I am asking that they delete it, because I think that the occasion for something like that arising in the courts would be extremely rare, especially in Barbados. I do not know about the United Kingdom, but we tried to reassure the people that nobody in the Government or the Opposition would know the way they vote, and the people in Barbados do not believe it, because when they see the man or the lady write down on that stub, they feel that is a way of identifying them. I am telling you how they feel. I know it is not so. I am saying that I challenge even the Leader of the House to say that they have the right to know it.

Asides.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I say I do not believe that you have the right to find out how a person votes. The law does not allow you to do that. Go outside and ask anybody, ask any of those people that you see here running the Government side if it is not so. The people in Barbados believe that it is so, and the way to remove their fears and doubt is to delete that provision which was there during the time of the Barbados Labour Party's former regime, and during our time, and which certainly has come to the surface since 1981.

Aside.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I do not think the honourable Member really understands what I am saying. I have never at any time, never, never, never at any time, suggested that any member of the Government, the Supervisor of Elections, or anybody else can tell how a person in Barbados votes. What I am saying is that the people in Barbados now – from 1951 I never heard this suggestion until 1981 people now are believing, and it is not good for them to believe so, because they are afraid to go out and vote. That is what I am saying.
4.20 p.m.

You want to get up and shout?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, order please.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I will, gladly, because that is the only thing you know how to do, get up and behave bad.

Asides

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: You cannot stop me from talking, either in here or outside.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

I am sure honourable Members would like to know that Barbados won the match by three wickets.

Order, please.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: The margin of victory for the Democratic Labour Party is going to be greater than that, so that is no big thing.

Pause

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Well, I am glad that the House has gotten back to a certain level of good humour.

I am appealing to the Prime Minister for their sake and our sake. Barbadians get funny things in their heads. We try to tell them that it is impossible. There is no way that anybody can break into the Registry, especially with the person whom I know is Acting Registrar now, or any other Registrar, and go and interfere. There is no possibility at all in Barbados that that is so. Barbadians get things in their heads, and I heard them say, "the man writing down my number on the stub, and, therefore, he compare the number on the stub with the number on the ballot paper." Therefore, to remove any doubts in the minds of the public, we, both parties, ought to tell the people that it is foolishness that they are talking, but in order to put their minds at rest, we are going to remove that provision. Is there anything unreasonable about that?

The honourable Member for St. James North, for the time being, is taking exception to it because I said the people think so. I did not say I think so. I said that it is foolishness even to think so, but the people out there feel that, and the people get some funny ideas in their heads that you cannot knock out of their heads.

Asides

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Well, then you could only be fooling yourself. This is the first time you hear that? Jack you hear so?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No reference to the Chairman.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I did not make any reference to the Chair, Sir. That is the first time?

Now, I am going to handle my issues at the appropriate time, but the Prime Minister has asked for suggestions. The other suggestion which I should like to make is that we do not spring on candidates on both sides who have already sent out circulars three and four weeks before the elections telling people where to go; a new voters list that sends people hurrying and scurrying from one polling station to another.

I received a document today, from the Supervisor of Elections, which indicates, that they are going to bring out the deletion, the completion and other kinds of lists up to about three or four days before the election. The point about not having the enumeration is an immaterial point because if you have a monthly register where people could go to the Returning Officer when they do not see their names on the church door or in the *Official Gazette,* or wherever it appears, the question of having an enumeration does not arise. You do not have the tax people from the Commissioner of Land Tax Office going around every year before you get a tax bill. It only comes once every three years, but if you have the monthly register where names are added and names are taken off, those who have died, those who have qualified by attaining the age of voting, and so on, the need for an enumeration does not necessarily arise, but what we objected to in 1981 was that we were given assurances on the floor of this House on several occasions, that the enumeration ....

Asides

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I cannot remember him. He probably did, because he is very follow pattern. Whatever the Leader said, he is following.

Asides

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: You said yourself. You said that you are continuing his policies and the King is dead. You said, "The King is dead. Long live the King". What does that mean? You must be following him.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: He may have said so, but, I like to be fair, I did not hear him. I do not always hear, because when they start shouting, I tune them out and I do not always hear. Whether he said so, it is immaterial.

The point is that it was said on the floor of this House, and it is in the *Official Gazette* several times, that the enumeration which was being carried out was not being carried out for the purposes of an election. Why was the Representation of the Peoples Act abandoned? We do not want it abandoned again. It has served us in good stead from 1639.

We want the reassurance that the last register that was published before the writs were issued is the register. There would be a handful of people who would have qualified in that four week time, because people have different birthdays, and there will be some 18 year olds who may be technically disenfranchised, but it is better to have the last monthly register than a register spring on the candidates on both sides three days before the election, before we have the opportunity to check.

My other point is that I am going to try to get an interview with the Commission and tell them my reasons for disquiet.

The third point I wish to make, will the Prime Minister give me an assurance that in order to save a lot of confusion, at least one master list be issued to each political party.

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I thought that was done?)

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: No. There was one master list at headquarters, and only the Prime Minister and the Member for the City (Hon. B. A. Miller) had access to that master list, because they positioned themselves down there in the National Insurance Building. It was the list that belonged to the Supervisor of Election. I had asked three weeks before for a master list and they said, "Sorry, the Prime Minister said only the master list belong ....." so he did not technically have one. He had to go to the office of the Supervisor of Elections.

I think that, in order to relieve the burden of the people walking from polling station to polling station, each political party be given one, in alphabetical order, with the numbers, of course – so that when a person says, "I went down there – my husband voted down there but they told me I have to vote somewhere else," and you cannot find the persons name, you will be able to look at the master list and assist the voter in exercising his franchise.

Those are three of the points that I want to make. These are the Estimates. I could parade all the sins of omission and commission before the Government in the House, but I do not choose to do so at this particular

time. I will be making my representation to the Electoral and Boundaries Commission, if they will hear me, and make them in very simple, succinct and concise form, and then it would be up to them. The ball would be in their court for them to make sure that the elections are carried out in a democratic fashion.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, I just want to make one very straightforward point before I sit down.

The American Revolution was born out of a feeling of the people that they should not be paying tax without representation. Over the years, a large number of people from St. Vincent and St. Lucia have been brought into Barbados to reap the sugar crop, particularly during the time of the Democratic Labour Party, and they were housed in the agricultural communities. The result is that in your constituency, and mine, Mr. Chairman, which, in fact, are the two main sugar producing areas in Barbados, there are large numbers of Vincentians particularly, and a lesser number of St. Lucians, residing.

I have been getting around my constituency, and even long before that I have been hearing from a number of them that they are refused registration for voting by the Electoral Office. I understand the law to say that any Commonwealth citizen, who is ordinarily resident in Barbados for three years or more, is entitled to be registered as a voter, and the Electoral Office is refusing to register my constituents. These people are working in Barbados and paying taxes, are paying all the levies and everything else, and if they are paying tax in this country, Sir, they should be entitled to vote, particularly since they want to vote for you and me. I am just mentioning it publicly because I said I would mention the problem. I want everybody in Barbados to know that a number of people are being disenfranchised by the Electoral Office through some kind of legal opinion that I gather they have in hand, with which I totally disagree. At any rate, it is not the duty of the Electoral and Boundaries Commission, nor indeed the Chief Electoral Officer, to be doing the work of the Immigration Department. It is not their business running around and asking and going to check the police to see whether they were here legally and how long they have been here. As long as they produce credible evidence, and in most cases they carry their passports and on other occasions they carry sworn affidavits that they have been living in this country for more than three years, they should be registered, but they are refusing to register them. And we are going to talk about having free elections!

4.30 p.m.

It is important that that fairly substantial number of people who live in the rural communities in Barbados be entitled to vote. That is the point that I really wanted to make, but I could not pass up this opportunity to make a comment on the contribution of the Right Honourable Member for St. John. I think it is a colossal act of God for him to come in here and do what I consider to be adding insult to injury. The Right Honourable Member is too experienced a man in this country, a public figure, to be making the kind of scurrilous and slanderous remarks he made against the integrity of the electoral system in this country, and indeed the integrity of the country as a whole, and to come in here today and laugh it off, or shout it off, or try to put some reasonableness on it today, as I said, is adding a serious insult to the injury.

When the Right Honourable Member tells the whole world that Barbados is second to the Philippines in electoral fraud, or however he puts it, comparable to the Philippines, it is a statement of such unparallelled scurrilousness that I do not imagine that someone in public life from 1951 should be able to say these things and get away with them, and he will not get away with it. If he says that the people out there are doubtful about who knows how they vote and how good the system is, and whether the system works and whether the voting is fair, he can chalk it up as one of the major contributions that he has made in this country, because, although he is not alone, people take him on more seriously in this country than they take the others. There are other Members on that bench there who have gone across this country for the longest time telling people that the elections are not fair in Barbados, but the people usually treat them like the jokers they are, but they tend to listen to the Leader of the Opposition.

Even though they think that there are some things you don't take seriously from him any more, in these matters they tend to listen to him, and I do not think that by getting in here today and being reasonable can in any way make up for the serious damage he has done to the credibility of this country regionally and internationally.

I am minded to use very strong terms about what he did, because I get around out there, Sir. The honourable Member for St. John could never get around Barbados and talk to people the way I get around and talk to them. He is cut off. The people in the constituency of St. John who have problems find themselves in my garage at half past five and 6 o'clock on mornings – from all across St. John – because they say they cannot find him. That is what they say, and indeed they say they do not know him. A lot of them say they do not know him, so this business about his talking to people is a joke of the highest order.

I have been getting around and I have not been hearing what the Right Honourable Member has said, that people feel that members of the Government or anybody knows how they vote. I have not heard it. I am not saying that the Right Honourable Member did not hear it himself. All I am saying is that I have not heard it. But

even if you are saying that, again I lay that fairly and squarely in the lap of the Right Honourable Member for St. John and other members of his party, because they are the ones who have been sowing the seeds of doubt in the minds of the community, that, somehow or other, something less than fairness is taking place in our electoral system.

What I hear, Sir, on the other hand, as I have been moving through my constituency in the last seven weeks, is that there is a belief that, somehow or other, persons are imported into Barbados and put on the voting list to vote for the Barbados Labour Party. I hear a lot of that, Sir.

Asides.

Hon. L. R. TULL: You tell me I ask for that? The Right Honourable Member cannot speak for me, Sir. I do not think he understands English as well as I do. All I am saying is that the people you brought into Barbados to cut canes, when you used to burn them because you could not get Barbadians to cut them, those people who have been living here and cutting canes from way back when the Democratic Labour Party was the Government and lived all through St. George, and have been living here for all those years, should be entitled to vote, because the law says they are entitled to vote. They pay taxes, they pay levies, they do everything any other citizen does, and the law says they are entitled to vote, and I am taking a serious challenge to the Electoral Office. It is this new Boundaries and Electoral Commission who are telling these people that they cannot get on the list.

I want to say one other thing, Mr. Chairman, before I sit down, because we have a lot of debates on the Electoral Office and the elections in Parliament month after month, year after year, and I do not usually get into them, Sir, because I think it is a waste of time. You hear the same thing coming from the mouths of the Opposition all the time. It is a waste of time, because the people are going to vote for whom they want, no matter what you all say, and I think that the Democratic Labour Party is already preparing an excuse for when they get beaten. They are telling the people that the elections are not going to be fair, so that when they get clobbered later on, and they will for certain, they will be able to say, 'You see what I told you; we said they were not fair'. Now that is little boy politics because people do not take you seriously about that one. That is one big joke.

When the Democratic Labour Party was the Government, they had returning and registering officers who were supporters of the Democratic Labour Party. There is no crime in that, I see nothing wrong in that, but I believe that when they took up the role of registering and returning officers, they should have committed themselves to the exercise of impartiality. But what you had is a lot of chicanery, a lot of dishonesty.

Mr. Chairman, you well remember the 1976 elections. There was a returning officer in the constituency of St. George South, and on election day when the Barbados Labour Party's candidate presented his papers and asked the returning officer whether his papers were in order, he said, 'somebody sent you in here because you are a lawyer and think you are going to trick me? Everybody knows that I want you to lose and I would do anything in my power to get you to lose.' But you see, Mr. Chairman, I have got an answer for those things. My boys went into the school when we were filing the papers and threatened all kinds of mayhem. That is the only way we know to deal with these things. When you get the vagabonds, we deal with them like vagabonds. I have said this already publicly, and it is common knowledge all through St. George South, particularly the Ellerton area. One man up there, I would not call his name, and that is the kind of situation that obtained when the Democratic Labour Party was the Government!

Asides.

Hon. L. R. TULL: J. C. King started off as a candidate in Christ Church West.

Asides.

Hon. L. R. TULL: I know which ones I choose to call. I am going to call yours, too, if you do not give me a chance. J. C. King was walking around Harts Gap – I saw him with my own eyes – saying that he was going to be a candidate.....
4.40 p.m.

Aside.

Hon. L. R. TULL: What Chairman, what? You are entitled, according to the Standing Orders, to call people's names in here. You have been in here 31 years and do not know that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let us go on. Let us get ahead.

Hon. L. R. TULL: You can call names. He does not know the Standing Orders. When you are attacking them, you have to give notice to the Speaker.

(Aside: Mr. B. M. TAITT: That is not true.)

Hon. L. R. TULL: I saw J. C. King walking through Harts Gap; not with the candidate, he was walking around canvassing as the candidate – that is before Daniel took over, Sir – and he then ended up as the Presiding Officer in that very constitutency. And you get in here talking

about elections not being fair? And walking about Guyana and the Philippines and come around here telling the people a lot of foolishness, Sir.?

Anyhow, Mr. Chairman, I really did not want to get into that aspect of the debate. I really want to reiterate, Sir, the point that I made initially. I have over 100 Vincentians .....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Three minutes more.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Yes, Sir?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Three minutes more.

Hon. L. R. TULL: I do not need three minutes, Sir, I need a few seconds.

I have over 100 Vincentians and St. Lucians living in my constituency who have been living there for more than three years, and I want to know that all of them will be entitled to vote on Election Day; not as a favour to me, Sir, but in accordance with the law as it is today. So I want the word to go out to this Boundaries and Electoral Commission and to this Chief Electoral Officer that I will be taking legal action if they continue to deny the people of my constituency who are entitled to register as voters to be so entitled.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman,.....

(Aside: Mr. P. M. GREAVES: No, no. It is time I got in on the act.)

Mr. B. M. TAITT (St. Michael West): Mr. Chairman, there is, first of all something, I have to do. I am going to make this newspaper a document of the House. It is the *Barbados Advocate,* Monday, March 3, 1986, and since I am going to quote from it, the Rules require that I make it a document of the House. The honourable Member, the Prime Minister, when he spoke as leader in this debate, said that he had not said that the laws are the same. He went on to say that he was speaking about the law relating to the removal of persons from the list. I cannot question the Prime Minister in what he said. What I could say is that the *Barbados Advocate* of that day had a headline, Sir, in what is known as bold print, "ST. JOHN: LAWS ARE SAME." Now, Sir, the newspaper is written in English and there can be no doubt about it. It goes on, in the subhead, "PM gives reasons why elections fair." And then the lead paragraph went like this:

> "Prime Minister Bernard St. John has assured party members that there have been no changes to the electoral laws of the country.
>
> "Speaking at a one-day seminar of his ruling Barbados Labour Party (BLP) yesterday, Mr. St. John said that the laws currently governing the electoral system in Barbados were the same laws which governed the system in 1976.
>
> "The statements by Mr. St. John came as he again put aside doubts about the fairness of the electoral system in the country."

(Aside: He is telling lies.)

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Go ahead.)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Sir, I am going to make it a document of the House, under the Rules.

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: What does that prove?)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: If he is reported in the daily newspaper on the front page, as I have just read, and he is saying that he did not say so, he has at his disposal all of the machinery – a Press Officer, Government Information Service – why was there not a denial? Why did he not get up, send to the newspaper and say, 'You have published a slander on the Prime Minister, you have published a libel, you have misled the population. The Prime Minister did not say that. He said, and quote as follows. If he allowed it to stand, Sir.....

(Aside: Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: For what?)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: The Rules are so straightforward that if he allowed it to stand, Sir, that is what, for all practical purposes, we understood him to say and it is proper.....

(Aside: Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: That is your business.)

(Aside: Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: That is why I am going to carry you to court just now.)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: What?

(Aside: Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Carry you to court.)

(Aside: Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: You, too.)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I am not going to deal with the others on that end, Sir.

The point is, Sir, I do not understand how the Prime Minister could expect that a statement reported in this fashion about the laws, when all of us in here, as Parliamentarians, know that the law was amended in

1978 to change the manner in which you can get a cut-off with elections, which was important. The only reason in 1978 that we were able to catch the 600 persons who came on the list between the final list and the cut-off list was because we had in 1978, as the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central would confirm, a little army of people. We were able to find 600 people within three days. That is fine for a by-election. It cannot be done in a General Election, because you do not have that army. And we argued from then until now that the monthly list was necessary, even though the argument was put, as we heard it put again today, Sir, about the fact that some months no one was on the list and therefore it was uneconomic. We have always argued, and we argue now, that no sum of money in pursuit of the concept of freedom can ever be too much, and that it is better, and it was better then, for people to have spent the extra money required to publish a list with no one on it than to have the confusion which followed.

Then, there was the question of the Statistical Act as opposed to the Representation of the People Act. We asked, as the honourable Member said, a number of times in here, and the late Right Honourable Member for St. Thomas gave us an assurance,.....

(Aside: And Bree, too.)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: .....The late Right Honourable Member, you are not dead yet .....that it would not be done. Then we had an amendment in here that did it. We also had, Sir, another amendment in this Honourable Chamber, of which we have spoken.

I go further. There is a debate raging in Barbados now in which a number of people are saying that this is the first time since Mr. Barrow – I am quoting what they are saying, Sir, – went to the Philippines that they are hearing about unfair elections in Barbados. Joan Benjamin is either crazy, a liar or dishonest, or all three, because if the newspapers and the other press in this country would report matters that are against the Barbados Labour Party as they hear them, they would have said a number of times that in this House, I said more than once that 1 800 people, and I went so far as to say 1 832 – and I challenge the Government to go and check the list for the 1981 Election – were on the list up until .....

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Which list?)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: In Barbados, 1 800 people .....

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Yes, out of 170 000 people, because there were people who had ID Cards, there were people whose names appeared on the list, I think it was of May 27, and by the time the list was published those 1 800 and whatever number of people were taken off. That is the fundamental problem which has never been researched by any newspaper in Barbados, and it has never been refuted by the Government. The reason it has not been is because we know that they cannot refute it! That is the issue. And we hear now that they are saying that they only heard about illegal elections in Barbados, yesterday! That is dishonest. That is intellectual dishonesty of the highest order. We have been saying, across Barbados, since 1981, all the things that we are saying now. We did not start saying them yesterday.

On the question of sophistication in relation to the use of the computer and what is possible, I have said before, and I am going to say it again, if the Prime Minister, as he just said, would give the Electoral Office whatever they require, the Electoral and Boundaries Commission owe it to the community to have total complete control of any electronic instrument which they use for election purposes. They have no right being dependent on the Data Processing Unit, or any other data processing services. In the same way that the Income Tax Commissioner has access to his own computer, in the same way that the National Insurance has access to their own computer, elections in Barbados are sufficiently important – indeed, they are the most important thing in this country – that they should have their own computer, if we must use a computer. And I say to you that if the Electoral and Boundaries Commission is so misguided that they cannot come and ask for a computer, the Minister of Finance has a responsibility, and the Prime Minister has a responsibility, as an exponent of freedom under the Constitution of this country, to draw to their attention that the country would be much better off if we gave them the money to get their own computer.

Asides.

(*Aside:* Hon. B. A. MILLER: You have a representative on the Commission.)

(Aside: Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: You questioned the computer, too.)

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: You questioned the computer, too.)

4.50 p.m.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Now I am going to be cursed and called all kinds of idiot because I say so. The honourable Member wants Vincentians who are here illegally to vote and he is not a fool, but I am calling for a control of election machinery.....

Aside.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, order, order. No cross-talk.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: The honourable Member cannot dispute the fact that the election machinery should be in

total and complete control of the Electoral and Boundaries Commission.

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: No problem with it at all.)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: There you go. The Minister of Finance says that he has no problem. Give them the resources. The Chief Electoral Officer has to know that you said in here today that you will spare no effort. I would move that this Bill be amended to include whatever amount. Go back and check it. We will vote for it, because we wish to be assured that no one, whether it is a clerk, whether it is a chief, or whether it is somebody in the middle, has any interference. Let us blame the Electoral and Boundaries Commission for any faults which occur.

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: If they are and they are claimed. You see, we must not go to the ridiculous. I am going to take on the honourable Member now, Sir, the ex-Attorney General. It is not right that anyone, who has the knowledge, training, and capacity which he tells us he has, to come here and make certain statements which create unnecessary strain on the Electoral Office or the Chief Electoral Officer. He knows, Sir, that the word that spells "resident" may have one kind of meaning for ordinary people and it has another kind of meaning for legal people. He knows that what constitutes a resident in a country is usually defined to suit the particular Act. What the electoral people apparently are saying to those who come is that, 'We wish to see from you some evidence that you are a resident in Barbados.' That is all, I understand.

I have a man who was born in Trinidad. I am going to take up his case with the Chief Electoral Officer. I have a man who was born in Trinidad some 60 or 70 years ago. He came here when he was four years old. He has been a fisherman. He brought up his own sisters in this country. But he does not know when he was born, because there are no records. He is a man who got lost at sea and was brought home by the Government of Barbados as a national of Barbados. He is in a unique position that he can show in the newspapers that he was accepted by the Government of Barbados as a national when he was lost at sea. The Barbados Government used its resources to bring him home, and the honourable Member knows that the Government only could have done that if they accept him as a national.

(Aside: Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: Home – that is not true.)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Home, man. We are talking a matter that is beyond you. Do not get into this.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, order, order.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: They brought him home. As the honourable Members know that in the whole question of nationality there is the recognition, that one had been lost at sea, was brought home and it was made public. I am not arguing whether he is a national or not. What I am saying is this. He has been living here for over 60 years. He had an old ID card. When the lady went to enumerate him, she asked him for his birth certificate. He said – 'Well, I do not have one'. She said, 'Well, I cannot enumerate you', even though he had been enumerated before. He was on the register. So now he is going to be removed from the register on the basis that the enumerator did not find his birth certificate. Now he cannot find anybody who is old enough, who knew his parents, who can give him an affidavit. He has problems, too. So the honourable Member should know that this whole question of what constitutes residency is not a matter for the Electoral Office.

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: The point is, he was born in Trinidad. The man I am talking about was born in Trinidad. So there is no question about that. The point I am making, however, is that if we need to change the law so that we define a resident for the purposes of election, then let us do that, or let us make the law clearer so that everybody can understand it. Let us make the law clearer so that everybody can understand it, because if the honourable Member is right – and I do not know if he is right, I have not myself examined the law....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Two minutes more.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I beg your indulgence.

Section 7 of the Representation of the People Act says what the honourable Member said – "Section 7(1)(b) is a Commonwealth citizen (other than a citizen of Barbados) who has resided in Barbados for a period of at least three years immediately before the qualifying date."

Section (d) says – has resided in that constituency for a period of at least three months.....

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Yes, which one? The regulations. Apparently Sir, he is saying that the regulations are the ones which say that once you are ..... I am not going to get in it until I see it.

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: The fact is that whatever the law says in Barbados now, if they are able to show, they can

only show our law would have to be faulty. Because what is known as a resident is well known in international law. It is well known under our Nationality Act. Whether it is a question of fact or law, it is still well known. When a man is a resident, for example, Sir, if you go to the United States – Mr. Chairman, I beg you indulgence to finish the point – if you go to the United States on a B2 Visa, which is a visitor's visa, you can stay in the United States for 400 years, you can stay in the United States for 40 years, but until you get a resident visa, you are not an ordinary resident in that country. That is what their law says, and, according to the Immigration Act of Barbados, as I understand it, you have to be a resident for a certain number of years before you can apply for citizenship. We amended that law here. We defined "resident" in a particular way and, therefore, it is not outside the realm of reasonableness for the Election Office to ask for proof of residence. That is all they ask for, and, therefore, for the honourable Member to get up and say that he has some people who were there .....well, everybody has some.

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: We want to find out. We have people in the constituency who have been given to believe that they are going to get amnesty if they stay long enough.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Okay, time. I have three honourable Members on their feet.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I am just going to say something brief. I am sure you saw me first. Yes, Sir, you will speak after me.

Sir, on this question of residence, I am going to speak generally in response to the honourable Member. But the first thing we have to remember, Sir, is that the Regulations of 1971–89 deal with the residential qualifications.

> Section 3 says: "For the purpose of registration under the Act, a person shall be deemed to reside in the polling district in which he was an ordinary resident on the qualifying day."

Section 4 says: "No person shall for the purposes of the Act be deemed to be ordinary resident in any polling district to which he has come for the purpose of engaging temporarily in any employment of a seasonal character."

Section 5: Subject to Regulations 3, 4, 6 and 7 the question whether a person is or was ordinarily a resident at a particular period shall be determined by reference to all of the facts of the case."

Regulation 6 – Listen, Regulation 6: .... The place of ordinary residence of a person is generally that place which has always been or which he has adopted as the place of his habitation or home whereto when away from there he intends to return. Specifically when a person usually sleeps in one place and has his meals or is employed in another place, the place of his ordinary residence is where he sleeps.

Aside.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Be careful of that, the honourable Member for St. Michael West, Sir.

Regulation 7, Sir: Generally a person's place of ordinary residence is where his family is. If he is living apart from his family in another place, the place of ordinary residence of such a person is that other place. Temporary absence from a place of ordinary residence does not cause the loss or change of ordinary residence provided that any person who has more than one place of ordinary residence may elect in respect of which place he desires to be resident.

Now those are four very clear and distinct indications as to how residence is determined for ordinary residence for the purpose of registration. We are not talking about the Registration and Immigration Act or anything else. This is a very serious matter. These are the regulations made by the Minister under Section 68 of the Representation of the People Act.
5.00 p.m.

This is a very material point, that this is obviously going to cause a disturbance to all honourable Members, because all of us have in our constituencies people who regard a particular place that they have been going to regularly, sleeping, having a woman or a wife or whoever it is there with them, eating their meals for the last three years.

Aside.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: They hang up their hat, they pay rent and all, so there is no question or doubt, and this is not anything to do with legality or illegality.

(Aside: Mr. B. M. TAITT: Some people do all these things at three different places.)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: If that is so, the Act says you can choose which one you want for the purpose of registration. It says that; any person who has more than one place of ordinary residence may elect in respect of which place he desires to be registered. So if the honourable Member wants to make his choice, he can do that, too. That is the position.

All I want to say is that we feel very strongly about this and we will have to draw to the attention of the Commission that these regulations are in existence.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE (Christ Church West): Mr. Chairman, I wish to make a few points on the elections in Barbados. With all respect, I want to say that elections in Barbados have, generally speaking, been conducted with the utmost fairness, and I take issue very strongly with people who will seek merely because we are getting into an election period, to give the impression abroad that there has been fraud in elections in Barbados.

There are several reasons why I say this, Sir. I refer to the most recent case which came before our courts, the case of Arthur V. Leacock. Those of us who participated in that case can say, as indeed the judges say, that the margin of error which occurred was insignificant, and although there were a few irregularities which occurred on actual polling day, basically there was no evidence of fraud whatsoever on the part of any officer officiating at the poll, or any allegation of fraud against either of the candidates or their agents. There was, however, as there will be in these matters, some evidence of human error.

It is not possible for us ever to rule out in any election the element of human error, regardless of whether that error occurs on the part of registering officials or, indeed, on the part of our own election agents and assistants. We have changed Governments in this country, under both political parties, in which the electoral machinery was at the time under the direction of Ministers of the Government of both political parties, at one time or another. This is more than one can say for some other countries in the Caribbean, and this is more than one can say for several countries in the world, whether it be the Communist countries, or the dictatorships, or the military dictatorships in other parts of the world. One has to recognise that.

Barbados stands out, contrary to what the Right Honourable Member for St. John has said, as a model democracy in the conduct of its elections. Both political parties from time to time have had reason to criticise some aspects of the conduct of elections, but I do not seriously believe that either political party, in their heart of hearts, believe seriously that elections in this country are being conducted fraudulently.

In my own constituency, some 1964 names were removed from the register. I do not believe that there is another constituency that has had such a large number of persons removed. I have just got the monthly list which has been published and some 487 are being restored to that list. True enough, we have found the human error. We have found the human error, for instance, in one case where the husband in a house was left off, but the wife was on. We have found the human error on the boundaries where you might find someone voting in Christ Church West and some person else living in the same house voting in St. Michael South East. The boundary is an imaginary line. It has never indeed crossed my mind to make an allegation of dishonesty on the part of the registering officer because this happened. It never has crossed my mind.

In polling district Z.B, some 800 persons were left off the register, their names were taken off the register this time. Although the person who was principally responsible for the registration in that particular polling district came from the constituency of the honourable Member for St. John, I could never believe that they were taken off because he came from that parish. I do not believe we do Barbados any good by making people outside believe, for short term political purposes, that someone is deliberately keeping people off the list, or putting them on the list, unless there is direct proof of so doing.

5.10 p.m.

I have had my own assistants check out the deletions in some instances where people who have gone overseas have had their names deleted. We can state, for a fact, that some of them have not been overseas for five years. I will give you one example. The Fitzwilliams who were in Polling District Z3C have gone to live in the United States, but they have not been outside of Barbados for three years, yet their names have been removed. I have not sought to put them back on, because I first checked with Mr. Fitzwilliams, and he said, "We are overseas. We are likely to come back in the period of time." So it is not true when I hear arguments that they have kept people on who have spent more than five years outside. I can give you another example of the Gorings, who come back to Barbados annually, whose names were taken off when the registering officers went around, but who sent by their son to say that they are returning to Barbados this year, as they usually do every year, and they must remain on the list.

If Members really take time and not now go into short term political gain and do their homework about their electoral list, a lot of the allegations would be removed. It is easy to make a political speech, I suppose running down whoever is the Government of the day, on the basis of electoral fraud. It sounds attractive, but it is not true here in Barbados. I know that it is now the order of the day for the Opposition and other people to make all sorts of insinuations against the past Prime Minister and to pit the Labour Party in such a way as the allegation that the 1981 elections were not fairly conducted. That is nonsense. The Democratic Labour Party knows it, too.

It is untrue to say in any way that people have gone in and fed into computers. That is a gross lie on the

electoral system in Barbados. It is also a gross lie to suggest, as is being suggested from some of the platforms, and in letters to the Press, that special voting cards were brought into Barbados consigned to Mr. J. M. G. M. Adams in 1981. A leading member of the Democratic Labour Party, a former Minister, wrote that nonsense to the Press and wants me to reply to that sort of allegation.

I do not believe that we politicians do ourselves or the public of Barbados any good by dragging down our political system, by creating a lack of confidence in it, by dragging down our country before other persons, when we know that there is really no genuine factual basis for so doing. I would be the first to admit that, both under the Democratic Labour Party and our Government, in elections you get errors. I believe that the Chief Electoral Officer would be the first to admit that there are errors and that he has a duty, and does correct them every day. I believe the former Minister of Home Affairs would be the first to admit that there are errors committed in administration day in an day out, but I hope, that like me, he would have the courage to say that this has never been deliberately done.

I want to deal with a few of the issues that I heard, and one is about trying to gerrymander elections. Sir, I came into this Parliament with a baptism of fire the like of which very few people have witnessed in Parliament. I came in during the heyday of the Democratic Labour Party in 1971. The Honourable Prime Minister has spoken of some of the features of the Election Laws and the changes made suddenly therein leading up to the elections at that time – the change in boundaries in his own constituency then, particularly in the Pilgrim Road area, where people did not know where to go and vote. That was a fact of life.

(Aside: Mr. P. M. GREAVES: They were sent information.)

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Well, this happened. The honourable Member has said *sotto voce* that they were sent information, but they were sent information that had them confused, because as the Right Honourable Member for St. John said, the polling stations were not known before some people had sent out their circulars. So you had confusion. I am not making an allegation here of a lack of *bona fides* on the part of anyone, but there was confusion then. The honourable Member must face that. He can get up and reply to it if he likes.

I have seen in my own constituency, and this is a fact, a person who was a potential candidate – and announced as the candidate against me and then stood down for Mrs. Frazer to run – in charge of the biggest polling area in my district, ZB1. That is a fact. But it did not prevent me from winning the box and beating them. It is a positive fact that the present candidate against me was in charge of Z8. Well known party bearing, office holding members of the Democratic Labour Party in direct control of the actual machinery on election day. The honourable Member knows that.

Asides.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I am talking facts. When the Democratic Labour Party are going to shout foolishness, I talk facts to them. That did not prevent me from cutting their tails, as we usually say, Sir. The reason is that I ensured that I did the homework in my constituency, that the people were registered, and I ensured that my polling agents on the day were alert. What is more, if there was any skulduggery, I would have resorted to the law courts.

I have heard the Democratic Labour Party shouting from their housetops. In 1981, none of the candidates of the Democratic Labout Party, either those who had lost or who had won, or any of the supporters of the Democratic Labour Party that were supposed to be disenfranchised, brought a case before the law courts of Barbados. The law courts are open, and still are open. Although the criminal cases may be statute barred, the civil ones, I doubt whether they are statute barred. The Democratic Labour Party, if they believed genuinely in their case of a fraudulent election in 1981, with the barrage of lawyers on that side, would have gone into court and have the case tested.

The Barbados Labour Party, in the by-election in St. Peter stated that there were irregularities, not fraud, that could have affected the outcome of the elections. But I am going to show you how the Democratic Labour Party operates. When it looked as though in the first by-election the party going after the then candidate might have won by one vote against Sybil Leacock, the honourable Member for St. Michael West got up and shouted fraud. They were going to take it to court. On the recount the next day, it looked as though Mrs. Leacock won by one vote. The honourable Member for St. Michael West and the Democratic Labour Party said there was no reason to go to court. One should accept the outcome of the electorate. We took it to court.....

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, if the honourable Member will give way.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I am not giving away on this. The honourable Member can come a little later.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, if the honourable Member will give way.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I am not giving way on any point of order.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order. No, Sir, he has to — he cannot mislead the House — he has to add that the honourable Member for Christ Church East Central also felt that way.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I do not have to add to anything the honourable Member is going to say. I am illustrating how the honourable Member, for short term political purposes, and that is all this argument is about, is prepared to shout to the roof tops.

When, however, we took it to court, and we had the position, Mr. Chairman, where in all the votes that were cast, there were only about 14 votes that came into contest, the 3 judges of the electoral court, in their written judgement said that it spoke highly of the electoral system in Barbados that the irregularities were so small and were of human error. I would rest on their commendation of the Barbados system over that of the Right Honourable Member for St. John, who, obviously, is interested in regaining power. The judges are disinterested persons. They had an opportunity to look at the system, and that is why I was deeply hurt when I heard the Right Honourable Member for St. John dragging Barbados down and saying that we were worse in elections than the Philippines or Guyana.
5.20 p.m.

Now, Sir, the honourable Member for St. John is known to attack elections by saying he does not believe that you have democracy because you go into the ballot box every five years, that is when Bishop was in power. You will remember that, but he is a person who has contributed to this island, and therefore when he makes a speech of that nature, it is taken seriously. Whether it is respected is a different matter, but one must take it seriously, and I take seriously that sort of thing, because I do not think it does himself, or his party, or Barbados any good to make this sort of allegation.

Sir, I want to make one final point. The Barbados Labour Party in 1965 and 1966 at the time of the Independence debate, along with people in the under-forties and the Barbados National Party, campaigned up and down the breadth of this country for an independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission. I was privileged to be at the Independence talks and heard the Right Honourable Member for St. John saying that there was no need for any such Commission, that elections have always been conducted in Barbados free, Ministers are responsible and Parliament is where it should be responsible. Sometimes now when I hear the Democratic Labour Party talk, I wonder if it is the same party that only ten years ago, 20 years ago, were so badly against an independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission. Being cast in their role of seekers after power once again, they take on different colours of the chameleon. They shift their views in order to change their present political position. It is an unfortunate set of circumstances.

I hope that we can reach the stage in Barbados where we will continue to be a model for other countries. Honourable Members must know that the Commonwealth has used Barbados, our electoral officers, our election machinery, as a model in Uganda, in Zimbabwe and elsewhere in the Commonwealth. That speaks a lot, and I end as I began. I think that it is in the interest of both these political parties, if they wish to maintain the respect of the public, when they speak on matters such as this, that they must begin to separate short term partisan political gain from the long term interest of this country's good name. There will be irregularities, there have been irregularities; human error will creep in. We both have a duty on all sides to eliminate, or at least minimise as much as we can, any human error in the electoral system. I believe that both parties are committed to this. But I am sorry indeed that because of the nearness of an election, we must misrepresent what is going on, Sir.

Finally, Sir, in Christ Church West we are going to make sure that our list is clean and perfect, and when the victory is repeated, I wonder what else they would say.

Mr. P. M. GREAVES (St. Michael North): Can I speak now, Sir? Thank you very much.

Mr. Chairman, I listened very carefully when the Honourable Prime Minister was introducing this Head, and I can only say that he is becoming a bit confused in the dying days of the Barbados Labour Party Government. The system that we use for elections to some extent was the system that was set up in 1971. It has been substantially tampered with — corrupted, if I may put it that way — between 1978 and 1981.

I have been asked by the honourable Member for Christ Church West (Hon. H. deB. Forde) to give my voice as to whether or not elections in this country are fair. I believe that the elections in this country have been substantially fair, but there have been substantial irregularities, and irregularities of the order, Mr. Chairman, to make one wonder if, in fact, some of these irregularities have not been deliberate. I will give you examples of what I am talking about. I will not just make that statement without saying what I am referring to.

In the last enumeration exercise concluded in October last year, there was a list published, I think it was on 30th June last year, which showed that there were about 7 000 persons on the register for St. Michael North. At the end of that enumeration exercise, they only came up with 4 400 names out of the 7 000. There is an area called Crest View Terrace, Eden Lodge. There are six

apartment buildings in Crest View Terrace. No enumerator at all went in Crest View Terrace. There are four apartment buildings in Downhill Drive, Eden Lodge. No enumerator went to Downhill Drive. Six and four are ten apartment buildings. In Division Drive there are two short blocks. No enumerator went to these two short blocks. Those are 12 blocks in the new Eden Lodge area to which no enumerator went. I do not know whether to call that an irregularity or a deliberate omission, and I believe that there is a name for a deliberate omission.

I want to say this: I do not believe that in respect of the registering officer at the time, because he has since then been replaced — I do not believe that there was any intention on his part to be faulty. I do not believe it. Nobody went to Clermont. Clermont is a big residential area. Perhaps there are reasons for that. I can go on, Mr. Chairman, but I believe that St. Michael North was the only constituency in which, after the enumeration exercise had officially closed, the enumerators were sent out again a second time. The register published on January 31 contains 7 225 names, and there have been fairly substantial additions to that register in the monthly list just published a couple of days ago. That is the position as far as that enumeration is concerned.
5.30 p.m.

Sir, there was no enumeration in 1976. It is true, as the Honourable Prime Minister said. And do you know why? Because there was no problem at that time with the list. There was no problem at that time with the Register. There were little things, but there was no substantial problem at that time with the Register. The main problem with the Register arose with the use of the Statistical Act out of which to compile a Register of Electors in 1981. Then the problem began. That is where it started. That is where it had its beginnings. That was a departure from all the principles, all the regulations and rules; regulations made under the Representation of the People Act. That was the problem. That still remains the problem today. And to this very day, Sir, because of that, we have the Register in the state that it is in today. Despite all the assurances given that that Act would not be used for election purposes, in fact, it was so used. And a Bill was brought into this Parliament so that that exercise carried out could be so used. So do not come and say that there was no enumeration since 1969, because there was an enumeration in 1979 and 1980.

Aside.

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: It was not. It was said for that purpose. But it was an enumeration just the same.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: On a point of order, Sir: I would be very grateful for a clarification, because I challenge the honourable Member's statement that there was an enumeration in 1979 and 1980. The last enumeration was in 1969. The next enumeration was the one that has just taken place. There was none in 1979, none in 1980!

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, an enumeration was carried out in 1979 and 1980 under the Statistical Act. That is what I said. You must not have been in this country or you were asleep.

(*Aside:* Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: No enumeration!)

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: How do you mean "no enumeration?" Everybody in here knows there was such an enumeration. Where were you? Out of this country? You must have been Rip Van Winkle or something.

(*Aside:* Dr. R. C. HAYNES: How did they get the new ID numbers then?)

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: Exactly. Where did they get the National Registration number from?

Asides.

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: How do you mean, ask what? Let common sense be your guide and be our guide and do not get up and talk foolishness. You are the Prime Minister. You should not be talking foolishness.

(*Aside:* Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Let us go and canvass.)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I was enumerated in 1979 and 1980. I was. As a matter of fact, do you know how I was enumerated? I will say it now. I had to go to the Electoral Office to get myself enumerated in 1979 and 1980. I had to go there, along with Asquith Phillips. The two of us went there. Nobody came to my house at that time. Do not tell me there was not. There was a head count, if you do not want to call it an enumeration then. There was a head count in 1979, 1980, under the Statistical Act.

(*Aside:* Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: 1976. 1969, 1971, 1976.)

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: I do not mind what file you read from. You can read from any file you want to read from. I know what happened in this country, and you should know, too.

(*Aside:* Mr. B. M. TAITT: All sensible people know.)

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: And any sensible person. The whole of Barbados knows.

(*Aside:* Mr. B. M. TAITT: Except him!)

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: The Prime Minister does not know what is going on.

(*Aside:* Mr. B. M. TAITT: Why do you not retire?)

Laughter.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please, please.

(*Aside:* Mr. B. M. TAITT: You do not have any deputy. That is the problem.)

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, there was substantial interference to the Representation of the People Act, as passed in 1971. Substantial, Sir!

I want to continue with something else. Since that the monthly lists were abolished, and what is more, Sir, the Prime Minister said that in between an election and a by-election, people did not make use of the supplementary registers. But at what point in time was this abolition done? After the former Member for St. Michael South Central, Mr. F. G. Smith, resigned and before the by-election in 1978. In the interim then, Sir, between his resignation and the by-election, these amendments were made in 1978.

(*Aside:* Mr. H. A. Blackman: True!)

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: That is your position.

I want to go back a little bit. The Representation of the People Act requires that there must be a register published on January 31 of each year. In 1971 we did not have the Representation of the People Act that we have now, and this is the Act that requires that publication. This Act had its commencement on June 1, 1971, not January 30. So, therefore, a register had to be published subsequent to the commencement of this Act and before a General Election, because a General Election was due at that time, Sir, some time in 1971. So we had to have a validation, because there was no publication on January 31, 1971, because this Act was not existing.

I want to go further. In the elections that were held on September 8 or 9 — I do not remember the exact date — 1971, the Register that was used was the register that was published plus the supplementary register up to the end of July. Not the supplementary register up to the end of August, the end of the July, because the names for August could not have been published by the time the elections were held. If one were to look at the Act itself and read the Act, one would understand that there could not have been a publication of the supplementary register for August 1971 before the September 8 or 9 elections. It could not have been.

(*Aside:* Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Validate it.)

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: Validate it or not, it could not have been used. It was not so used. That publication would have come out somewhere in the third week of September containing August names. So the question of validating that does not arise. That is absolute nonsense!

I want to come back now, Sir, to this question of changing of boundaries.

(*Aside:* Hon. B. A. MILLER: It started in 1971.)

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: Nineteen hundred and seventy-one what? When the last election was held in 1966, under what system was it held? Under double member constituencies. The singles started in 1971.

(*Aside:* Hon. B. A. MILLER: Gerrymandering started in 1971, too!)

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: Do not tell me of any change of any boundaries, because the singles started at that time, Sir. And if the Prime Minister is in the same state of mind now as he was then, and one believed at that time, as I believed, that the change in the boundaries in Christ Church — what it was called at that time? — the one he eventually lost in — would indeed have helped the Prime Minister, because it included then, for the first time, a part of what is traditionally thought to be, and known to be, a Labour Party stronghold, St. Patricks. St. Patricks was not originally supposed to be on. After the Boundaries Committee sat in 1964, that part of Christ Church was not in the constituency which the Prime Minister represents. But it was added on to it, and he still lost!

(*Aside:* Dr. R. C. HAYNES: He is going to lose again, too!)

Laughter.

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: He is in that state of mind, now.

(*Aside:* Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: What about you, Richie? Your people in St. George are going to undermine you.)

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: I do not want to waste time with him over that. And the Prime Minister knows, he knows. In fact, the constituency still maintains that part of St. Patricks to this day.

(*Aside:* Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: To his disadvantage.)

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: That gerrymandering has not been changed. It still remains there, part of it. They say, to his disadvantage. Somebody else is complaining now.

(*Aside:* Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: That is true.)

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: The Prime Minister was complaining before, but now that it is shown in fact that he had no reason to complain, now somebody else starts to complain. But the Prime Minister knows there were reasons for that change. He knows! Because in 1964, Sir, when the Committee sat there was no Atlantic Shores.

Aside.

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: In 1964, when a Committee of the House sat as a Boundaries Commission, there was no Atlantic Shores in those days. But in 1971 there was a substantial community in Atlantic Shores that made a complete imbalance at that particular time. So he knows, Sir, but he has not got the courage to get up and say it, that that was the reason for the change. But he still lost when he should not have lost!

(*Aside:* Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Wicked!)

(*Aside:* Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: And won again!)

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: Yes, you won again. I accept that you won again and I congratulate you for it. But you should have won that time. So do not blame it on any change of boundaries. It should have made you stronger not weaker.
5.40 p.m.

Asides.

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: I want to deal with one point here, Sir. I have dealt with that already. I am not going back to that again.

Mr. Chairman, I have heard the honourable Members for St. Michael West and St. George South complain about persons who, in their opinion, should be on the register, and who are not. I could give you an example of that. There is a young man living in Eden Lodge. He is about 20 years of age — 21 years of age. He has been living in Barbados — he was born in England of Barbadian parentage. He is a citizen of Barbados by descent; not only can he become a Commonwealth citizen, but Barbadians are also Commonwealth citizens. But he is a citizen of Barbados by descent and, for some unknown reason, he came to Barbados when he was about two years of age. He has gone to school in Barbados and, again for some unknown reason, he cannot get himself on the electoral register.

Aside.

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: Yes, he is entitled. I have promised to take him myself to the Electoral Office and get the young man registered, because that young man should be registered. But these are some of the things, Sir, we come against from time to time.

I thought that I should respond to some of the things that the Prime Minister said, because from time to time, when he finds himself in difficulties on this particular matter, he tries to point his finger at the Member for St. Michael North. He does it all the time. He cannot take his own lashes. But he has got to learn to take them, because, Sir, there will be more lashes. I do not need them, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Two minutes.

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: I will be sitting right now. There will be more lashes coming his way shortly from now, by the end of, perhaps next month.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I did not expect to get up.

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: You have spoken twice already.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I am entitled to speak a thousand times in a debate.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I have not spoken in the debate yet.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: That is your business. You got up after me. There is another thing.

Aside.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, order.

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

SUSPENSION

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I beg to move, Sir, that this sitting be now suspended until 7 o'clock, Sir.

Aside.

Hon. H. B. JOHN: Seven o'clock, what is wrong with that? Of course, it is 7 o'clock. We started at 10 o'clock.

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

The question that the sitting be suspended until 7 o'clock was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the House accordingly.
5.50 p.m.

ON RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, just for the record, I would like to repeat that I have a Supplementary Notice Paper and I shall give notice now of the following Resolution:

> A Resolution to grant the sum of $750 000 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1985—86, Part II — Capital, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1985—86, No. 32, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

I propose to do this Resolution during the course of this sitting, Sir.

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

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

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

Certain remarks made at this stage by Dr. R. C. HAYNES were ordered to be expunged from the record by the CHAIRMAN.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES (St. Michael South Central): To start all over again, Mr. Chairman, what I was saying is that, like all involved in the political life of this country over the past two years, I was shocked to see the Prime Minister and the Leader of this country and of the Barbados Labour Party make the statement that there were no changes in the electoral laws of Barbados since 1976, particularly as he himself has participated in debates on measures which came before this House involving major changes in the electoral laws of Barbados. There can be no doubt, Sir, that the integrity of the electoral system was substantially weakened by the amendments of 1978 and the amendments of 1980. Of particular reference, Sir, was the amendment in 1978, which abolished the requirement for the publication of monthly lists, and I am calling on the Government from the floor of this House tonight to bring in the appropriate amending legislation to restore the publication of monthly lists as a legal requirement. At the moment, Sir, this is being done at the discretion of the Electoral and Boundaries Commission, it is not a legal requirement, and I am calling on the Government to correct the error which they made in 1978 and let us have, once again, monthly lists, and make it legally binding on those who administer the electoral process to make such lists available to the people of Barbados.

The second point I wish to make is that it is essential that there should be a cut off point for registration at a reasonable period prior to the date of an election. I say this for a variety of reasons, and one of the factors that could influence the cut off point should be the number of new people who might become eligible during that period. In other words, if the cut off point, say, is 14 days, it is possible that a few people in each constituency could become 18 years old within that 14 day period.

The second factor should be the capacity of the Electoral Office to investigate complaints. As it stands now, you can get the final list three days before an election. There are errors that can occur at several points in the preparation of that list.

Thirdly, human errors may occur within the Electoral Department, but when it comes to the mechanics of compiling that final list in the Computer Department, it only takes a minor error in programming for the purposes of the compilation of a list in order to throw probably two or three thousand names off the register, or to have two or three thousand people placed in the wrong voters' list. When that happens and you are presented with a list three days before an election, even if in your own constituency you are able to identify all the mistakes, and you present a list of those errors to the Electoral Department, they do not have the administrative capacity to investigate them and have them changed. This is a serious problem and it is a grave risk to which the electoral process in Barbados is being subjected. Either you have the will to decide here in Parliament that it is essential for the integrity of the electoral process and a prerequisite for free and fair elections that you should have this as clean and as accurate as possible, and therefore enact the appropriate legislation in order to do this, or we will be failing in our duty.

This affects all of us, and whether a person is disenfranchised because of fraud, or disenfranchised

because of administrative errors, or disenfranchised because of computer errors, it does not matter to the person who has been disenfranchised. The fact is he has been deprived of the right to vote by one process or another and may be wronged. If the final result is that that citizen who is entitled to vote is being deprived of the right to vote, then this ought to be a matter of concern to us.

I also believe, Sir, that, as we approach an election, it is clear to me that there is a need for a substantial increase in the resources available to the Electoral Department in order to investigate various submissions made to that department. Many candidates, of course, will be busy submitting the names of persons who have been omitted from the list, the names of persons who have gone into other districts since the last enumeration and their names do not appear on their list of names of persons who have moved out of the constituency for more than three months, and also many names of dead persons and others whose names are still on the register. I can tell you that it is a fact that although you submit that information, the Electoral Department has a problem in not being able to respond to the demands of 27 or 54 candidates or more out there in the field, and there is a need to put more and more people into the field in order to investigate complaints or check that information sent to them as correct.

It is important that the Electoral Office must be in a position to investigate each request for an addition to the list. Any person requesting that his name be put on the list, that should be investigated by the Electoral Office before that step is done. That means a substantial increase in the number of people employed by the Electoral Department at this time before an election. If you all have clean lists, and you win the election, fine. If you lose the election with clean lists, you lose the election. But I feel that people would, on the whole, feel very upset if they lost the election by a narrow margin, when they know within themselves that the lists were not clean lists, and we have to make a definite effort in this regard, Mr. Chairman.

There is no point saying that there are not problems with the list. The recent enumeration has made it clear that there are many problems with the list, and I certainly would not like to go down the line of the honourable Member for Christ Church West, who took his usual sanctimonious approach to these matters, because he himself was the person responsible for the defective legislation that relates to the Representation of the People Act now. It was the Member for Christ Church West, when he was Attorney General, who came on the floor of this House and quite sanctimoniously tried to tell people why it was necessary to have a situation where a final list can be produced three days before elections. It is now the same Member, who I know for a fact has discovered that there are hundreds of persons on his list whose names should not be on the list, who has had someone calling people in this constituency.....
7.10 p.m.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of order: The honourable Member is deliberately misleading the House about any knowledge and "he knows for a fact," unless he has put people on the list in Christ Church West where he lives. I would like him to tell me the names that he says that are on the Christ Church list that should not be there.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, like all other constituencies, I have seen the returns for Christ Church West, and there are a large number of names deleted and published by the Electoral Office, and you had a copy of the names that were deleted from that list in December last year. You had a copy like everybody else.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of order: The honourable Member ought to know that in my speech, if he was listening and not using vehemence for argument, I said that 1 964 names were deleted from Christ Church West. I also made the point that 487 have been restored, and I aso made the point that I would not make wild allegations against people registering, even although the registering person for the area of ZB1, where most people were deleted, came from the constituency of the Right Honourable Member for St. John, and may have a name that I see is the surname of a founder member of the Democratic Labour Party. Despite all of that, I made no such allegations. If the honourable Member wants recklessly to make allegations, he can make them.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I have made no allegations. All I am saying is this that when this matter was raised again and again on the floor of this House, the honourable Member for Christ Church West, in particular, was most severe in his criticism of the Opposition when we pointed out that there were large numbers of names on the lists for the various constituencies that should not be there. He has now conceded that there were 1 934.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Let the honourable Member bring the records of this House on any occasion that I have spoken in here on electoral matters. One thing I try not to do is to make a statement that I cannot stand by either today or in terms of history.

The honourable Member must know that in any five year period people will come off the register if they have died, if they have moved out of the constituency, and will go on if they have moved into the constituency. I was in the honourable Member's constituency. I am no longer there. I wrote to the Chief Electoral Officer asking to be transferred because I was not enumerated. Unlike honourable Members on the other side, I would not come in here and shout the fact that my name had been left off. I

was not enumerated, that is a fact, but I am not going to make allegations that.....

(*Aside:* Mr. B. M. TAITT: The honourable Member left the constituency. Nobody did not put him out. He left).

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That was a rather long point of order. It was really an explanation.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I agree with the Honourable Attorney General that a lot of the defective legislation that exists in this country is due to the honourable Member for Christ Church West.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order. Let me deal with this blasted liar. I want it struck from the record. I have never made any criticism of any predecessor in office of the Barbados Labour Party. I have my own views about the former Attorneys-General of the Democratic Labour Party, and I hope to God that I get a chance this week to express a lot that I have found on the files about them.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I notice his views about the restoration of the balance in terms of the rights of men, and so on.

If I may continue, Sir, there has been a lot of debate in this Parliament on the status of the residents in respect of the electoral process. I would like to tell the House what is the history behind that, and the history is this, that until 1980, it was that word or words which would mean "resident" was or were always interpreted by the Electoral Department as someone having legal residence, that is, having taken out their papers or having reasonable evidence that they have lived in Barbados for a period of three years and more, and were a Commonwealth citizen. That was the interpretation put on it until 1980—1981. It was your predecessor in office, the former Prime Minister of this country, who directed the Electoral Department that the word "resident," for registration purposes, should simply mean "being present physically in Barbados" and it was on that basis.....

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: That is a fact.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, order.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: The honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, and Minister responsible for Electoral Affairs, sitting in his place now did not give that directive. I am not saying that you did. I am saying that a directive was given to the Electoral Department that the word "resident" should be so interpreted and that is what the Electoral and Boundaries Commission have reversed. Having reversed that decision, I believe that they are probably over-shooting a bit now and are insisting not only that you should have reasonable evidence of being resident in Barbados, and being a Commonwealth citizen, but are also interpreting the term "residency" as meaning that you should have legal, and provable legal residency in Barbados. That is the difficulty being faced in St. George South, in St. Michael South Central and the difficulty, I understand, in most constituencies. But it does constitute a disability, and there is a need for the Attorney General of this country to give an interpretation of what those words mean, "persons resident in Barbados, or persons residing in Barbados for more than 3 years who are Commonwealth citizens." There is a need for a clarification for this Parliament, and you are the legal advisor to this Parliament.

Let me tell you something. Your constitutional position makes the Attorney General of Barbados the legal advisor. I will accept legal advice probably from the Attorney General. I would not accept the legal advice from the Prime Minister, because if he were the Attorney General, he would give a different quality of advice then when he is Prime Minister, so the final word I want to hear on this matter is from the Attorney General. We want him to get up in his place and tell us on the floor of this House what is his interpretation of that. Does it mean someone who has been in Barbados for more than three years who can demonstrate he is a Commonwealth citizen, and who may or may not have taken out his papers, and may be said to be here illegally? Because what is happening is that many of these persons' names would have been on the register before and they would have voted in Barbados for many years, and now they are being told that they cannot vote.

7.20 p.m.

I understand and sympathise with the problems facing the Electoral and Boundaries Commission, because they had to deal with that directive which was sent to them, which resulted in a lot of persons who were not eligible, because they were not here for three years, getting on to the register. You see, Sir, sometimes you can be a member of the Government and you do not know what is taking place. I will bet you that until I told the Prime Minister about that directive tonight he never knew about it.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I do not believe it up to now, because it came from the mouth of the honourable Member! If any other honourable Member in here had said it, I would believe it, but since it came from you I would not believe it.

(*Aside:* Dr. R. C. HAYNES: But it is true.)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: What is true what!

Sir, we have had a lot of talk in here about the compilation of the register. I want to make it abundantly clear that I have heard no talk of any substance in respect of this present register being compiled. There was an elaborate enumeration, and I still say, with access to all the information, that the last enumeration that took place under the Representation of the People Act in Barbados was in 1969. I still say that the Democratic Labour Party held an election in 1976 and did not have an enumeration in accordance with the Representation of the People Act, and that the 1976 register was therefore a register that contained people who were last enumerated in 1969, and therefore it had on a number of people who were abroad from Barbados for longer than the requisite period of five years, but there was no way of knowing who these people were and of taking them off.

One of the fundamental points that arose out of the 1976 election was a report from the Chief Electoral Officer saying that the Representation of the People Act prevented him from taking people off the register unless he had proof that they had lived abroad for five years, and I say, and I maintain, that the law has not been changed, and the gravamen of the point I have been making all along is that the circumstances under which you can be removed from the register, and the circumstances under which you become eligible to be on the register, are the same today as they were in 1971. They have not been changed. I would understand you would not understand this, because a register can only have on people who are eligible to vote, and you can only remove people who should not be in the register. That is the fundamental point about a register. Does it comply with the law in relation to eligibility and does it comply with the law in relation to disqualification? None of these laws has been changed. That is a point that none of you has been able to reply on.

I am going to deal specifically with the honourable Member for St. Michael North. The register that he compiled was compiled when he was Minister responsible, and it deprived people of having a reasonable period of time to consider the register because of the fact that he had to validate lists that were published after the date that he himself had specified as the date by which the lists should be published. I have no doubt that you did not understand it then as you do now.

(*Aside:* Mr. P. M. GREAVES: That is baloney!)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: You had to pass a validation law, because you set a date for the publication of both the June and the July lists as well as a main register and the supplementary registers. Neither of those dates was met, and you had to pass a validation law, because they were published after the period of time. You, having specified a period of time for the people to be able to read the register, and the time having passed, you validated it. It meant that the people had lesser time than they had before, if not you would not have needed to validate it. Now, Sir, I know that there is no register that has been compiled in the Barbados Labour Party's time that had to be validated. But you broke the law and you had to validate it.

Now, Sir, the substance of the point about a cut-off point is a very important point.

Asides.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I am talking about the register of electors. I am not talking about any Appropriation Bill, so don't come to me and tell me that you are coming to this election law with any pure integrity. What foolishness are you talking about? Your administration of the electoral law was definitely impure. And to talk about computer break-in! You all computerised the election register, not in Barbados, in Trinidad. You did it outside the jurisdiction of Barbados.

(*Aside:* Mr. P. M. GREAVES: I said that two weeks ago.)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: It gave you greater opportunity to have fraud.

Sir, there have always been questions of the cut-off date. That is a reasonable point. There must be a cut-off date. Now when the law was amended in 1978, it provided for a special registration period when an election was called, and in that special registration period, 12 days were given for claims and objections, which was a longer period than the period that the law was originally, seven days, and it was extended; so that far from preventing people from objecting or making claims to get on the register, the period of time was extended from seven to 12 days. That is an important point, an enlargement of the time to give the public greater opportunity for scrutiny!

I have already explained that when you cast doubts on the integrity of the people who compile the register, you are casting doubts upon the integrity of the very self-same person that you appointed originally to be responsible for the compilation of the register, namely, the Chief Registering Officers. He was appointed by the Democratic Labour Party and is still in office. That is why I have to repeat it, because up to now you do not understand it. When you say that, when claims and objections are taken and you ignore the point, you all continue to ignore the point that the Representation of the People Act cast a special duty on the Chief Registering Officer in respect of objections and claims, and, as I said, jurisprudence has established that where you fail to carry out your duty, you can be the subject of a court suit.

Fundamentally, whenever all is said and done, the chief protectors of a register are the people themselves and the political parties. If you do not do your homework, you cannot complain or quarrel. So that the myth about the monthly list is exploded when one takes into account that every January, and the law was not amended, a register had to be published. If any election were called subsequent to a January, a new registration, a special register had to be prepared. So you start off with your January list, assuming the election was not held in January, and you moved on with your additions and your substractions. And this time — let us forget the past, let us deal with this one — this one is being compiled, for the first time subsequent to 1969, with an enumeration.
7.30 p.m.

(*Aside:* Mr. P. M. GREAVES: That is not true. You are wrong on that.)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Now, Sir, I can move off. We come now.....

Aside.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Well you know.....

(*Aside:* Mr. B. M. TAITT: You are scrambling.)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Now, Sir — I am not scrambling — we now move to the position of the recommendations from the Boundaries Commission. I have asked the Boundaries Commission to tell us what representations have been made, by anybody, in respect of the existing laws.

(*Aside:* Mr. B. M. TAITT: What did they tell you?)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: None!

(*Aside:* Mr. B. M. TAITT: Wait a minute. They told you none?)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: None!

(*Aside:* Mr. B. M. TAITT: I do not believe that.)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: None!

There has been a question with respect to Commonwealth citizens. Now we hear that. That needs clarification.

(*Aside:* Mr. B. M. TAITT: So how come they publish a monthly list?)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I was the one that said that I agree with the publication of a registration list.

(*Aside:* Mr. B. M. TAITT: If you said you asked them and they told you none...)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Cross talk is not allowed.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Do not bother with him. Do not bother.

(*Aside*: Mr. B. M. TAITT: Give me a chance.)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I have a letter, one that I am sure that all honourable Members would have received, which sets out very clearly the proposals of the Electoral Commission, and I am going to put it on record, because it is important. It is, "REF. NO. 204/28" and it says....

Aside.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: No, we must spend the time. We must spend the time. We must not be head off with this argument about the integrity of the register. You must understand the technique of the Democratic Labour Party. It is Goebellian! What they want to do is to say one thing in Parliament, so that their yardfowls go hopping around Barbados telling the other thing, which is the lie. Do you not hear the Leader of the Opposition in here saying that he personally does not believe that anybody can see how you vote, but that the people out there believe it? Do you not hear him saying that he does not believe it personally, he knows that you cannot see it without a court order? But that does not stop the Democratic Labour Party from telling the people outside that that can occur. That is their technique. The technique of lies! The technique of insinuation!

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, order.

(*Aside*: Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: That is Richie's style.)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: That is what we have to deal with. The Leader of the Opposition said in here today that he, Errol Barrow, does not believe that anybody knows how you vote. He said that in here. He said he knows that we over here do not believe it. But he said he knows that does not stop people out there, nor does it stop the Democratic Labour Party from disillusioning them. Not even by accident can you speak the truth!

Aside.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Now, Sir, the Electoral and Boundaries Commission.

Aside.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: We are going until 8.00 o'clock. I am replying on behalf of the Government.

(*Aside:* Mr. P. M. GREAVES: I am coming after you.)

Aside.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Are you really making a lot of sport about here?

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

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: "The Electoral and Boundaries Commission has directed that Monthly Listings affecting the state of the Register of Electors be resumed with effect from the month of February 1986, on an administrative basis, until the necessary legislation has been enacted,

2. The new Monthly Listings will be provided as follows:—

(a) Insertion Listing

(b) Deletion Listing

and will be in respect of each Polling District."

Sir, the significance of that is....

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

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: ....that every month in Barbados a list will be published setting out people who are inserted. People who are deleted, another list, an additional feature. They talk about fairness? We are going to talk about fairness, because you are not going to tell the public the extraordinary steps that are being taken to give the lie to the story that the list is being compiled in an unfair or a fraudulent manner. They are not men and women enough to get up in here and say that you have no question of doubt about the integrity of the list being prepared for the forthcoming election. You are not going to say it. I am going to demonstrate to the public of Barbados that every step has been taken, will be taken, and has always been taken, to ensure that the electoral list in Barbados is as free and as pure as possible.

Applause.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I am not talking about it, but you said it.

Now, Sir; "An additional feature will be a remarks column. The following remarks may appear as under —

Insertion Listing	*Deletion Listing*
New Voter	Deleted
From P.D.	To P.D.
(Polling District)...	(Polling District)...
New Address	Left Address
New Name	Name Changed
New Number	Number Changed

The Register of Electors published on the 1986-01-31 will be used as the base Register"

That law has not been amended. The base register has always been the register that is published in January. The January register is the base register. In 1971 there could not be a base register in January.

(*Aside*: Mr. P. M. GREAVES: Exactly.)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Right.

(*Aside*: Mr. P. M. GREAVES: That was the validation.)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: No. That was not validated. You are looking at the excuse now. I mean, look!

(*Aside:* I do not believe you.)

Asides.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: We go further. I mean, these are important things that should be published.

"I set out below explanations in respect of certain remarks —

Insertion Listing

New Voter

This refers to a voter whose name was not on the register published on 1986-01-31.

New Number

This refers to a voter whose registration number was incorrect or who may have changed nationality.

Deletion Listing

This refers to a voter who had changed address within the *polling district*.

I attach a copy (ies) of the Monthly List for the Constituency (ies)"

Sir, these are matters that are clear. I am positive.

Aside.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: No. Because I regard it as an insult, not to me — I do not regard what the leader of the Opposition or what has been said in the newspaper as an insult to me or to you — I regard it as an insult to Barbados, a serious charge that any Administration in Barbados perverted the election machinery. I have to use the opportunity to disabuse the public's mind of it. So that is the position.

Now, Sir, what else are we left with? The last point is the Commonwealth citizen. We have to deal with that. So therefore we have monthly lists. In fact, and I keep saying that the 1978 amendment — and I have the information on that — provided for 12 days for claims and objections and improvement and the others. So where are we in difficulty now?

(*Aside:* Dr. R. C. HAYNES: The specific cut-off point.)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Now the specific cut-off point. The law has not changed. The law says the electoral list which has been compiled immediately preceding the election. In 1971, it was six weeks before.
7.40 p.m.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: If the honourable Member will give way.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: If I may take the chance of believing that the honourable Member is being genuine in trying to find a solution to the problems faced, I would like to draw to his attention that it is not only the number of days that you have to consider, but you have to consider the resources available to the Electoral Department to investigate complaints at that critical period. So either you improve the capacity of the department, probably by putting in about 270 people on a temporary basis, one person per polling district during that two or three week period, or you make the time longer so that they can investigate the complaints.

One final point I would make, Sir, is that I think the law also needs to be amended to deal with the question where, to the certain knowledge of both the Electoral Department and the candidates, a person no longer lives in a particular polling district, but, because they do not know where he now lives, no change in his status on a list can be made. In other words, if you make representations that there are 150 people on your list whom you can demonstrate no longer live in your constituency and you cannot at the same time say that they are living in St. Philip at such and such a place, then you can have no changes on the list. I think we need legal instruments to deal with that problem.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Prime Minister, you just have two minutes more.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I just want to show you something, Sir. You will see the difficulty where the other side does not understand, Sir, because the honourable Member is challenging Section 9 of the Act, and Section 9 says very clearly,

> "A person registered pursuant to this part shall remain registered unless and until his name is deleted from the register because (a) he has died, or (b) an objection to his registration has been allowed, or (c) not being a foreign service elector he has been absent from Barbados for a period exceeding 5 years, or (d) he has become disqualified for registration as an elector under this Act or any other enactment imposing disqualification from registration as an elector."

That law has been there since 1971 and that gives you the lie to the story that anybody can put on names.....

Aside

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I am arguing very honestly.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I admit that is the law. What I am saying is that the law creates a problem that, in a sense, can frustrate the administrative process of creating clean lists, because there is no mechanism for so doing. All I am asking is whether the law should not be looked at again to see whether it can be improved on. That is all I am saying. I am not questioning whether it is the law or not. We either are going to examine this problem honestly or we are going to get into the area of distorted political argument, at which you are a past master.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: At least you conceed I am a past master of something.

Laughter.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Now that you have been argued into submission and you readily confess that what, in truth and in fact, you want is an amendment to the law and, therefore, humbly withdraw all wrongful accusations

of distortions and perversions, I am willing now at this late stage to say that if you make those representations, we will look at it on this side.

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

(*Aside:* Mr. B. M. TAITT: No, no, no!)

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I beg to second, Sir, that Head 15 stand part.

(*Aside*: Mr. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, no, no!

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: There is a motion before you, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, order.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, there is a motion from this side that Head 15 stand part. You have to put the question.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, order.

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: I have risen to make my contribution. I will be very brief.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will have to entertain the honourable Member. I cannot entertain you.

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: Sir, I will be quite brief, I want to respond to a few points raised by the Honourable Prime Minister which, perhaps, he does not want me to be heard on. I want to deal first of all with the question of reflecting on the integrity of the Chief Electoral Officer, and I want to make it quite clear, Sir, that nobody on this side has at anytime queried, by word or in any other way, the integrity of the Chief Electoral Officer. That is the first point.

Second point, Sir. Nobody on this side has raised any doubts whatsoever about the efforts being made by the Electoral and Boundaries Commission. Nobody has any doubts about that whatsoever, because we believe on this side that they are making a valiant effort in order to clean up the mess that the 1978 amendment to the Representation of the People Act has put us into, as well as the conduct of the compilation of a register under the Statistical Act.

Aside

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: Well, under the Representation of the People Act, but based on information that was collected under the Statistical Act.

(*Aside:* Mr. B. M. TAITT: Under enumeration.)

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: That Sir, under enumeration. It was enumeration. As a matter of fact, the former Prime Minister referred to it as enumeration in his.....

(*Aside:* Mr. B. M. TAITT: Put it in the record. Read it in the record.)

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: I do not know where it is now. I cannot put my hand on it immediately, and I honestly do not know exactly where it is now. But, Sir, the former Prime Minister....it is in that book there, man. As a matter of fact, Sir, I have a reference here, when the Honourable Prime Minister was referring to the statement by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition that nobody came to see him, and he read into the record of this Chamber certain entries made somewhere — I do not know where — "but from some file", and it reads as follows, Sir, at page 4563 of the debates 1980, July 1st to December 6, 1980 — 4563:

> "Rt. Honourable J. M. G. M. Adams. The report of the Registering Officer reads as follows: — A Registering Officer — There are no Registering Officers under the Statistical Act —
>
> "Mr. Alfred McClean, one of the duly appointed enumerators, acting on my instructions, visited the residence name 'Kampala', Paradise Beach, Black Rock, St. Michael, in search of Mr. E. W. Barrow who purportedly resides there in order to register."

One of the enumerators!

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please, order.

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: One of the enumerators!

Actually again, Sir, in another debate again, Sir, this is the Honourable Prime Minister:

> "Honourable Members are asking questions about voters and it makes a good point, because so far as I have allowed myself to be led into talking about voting, I have specifically avoided trying to trespass on the answer to be given to the Leader of the Opposition. I would just say that there are all sorts of people honestly misled. The honourable Member for St. Philip South was hopelessly led astray."

—That was Sir Ronald Weekes in those days, Sir. —

> "He does not understand what was going on."

That is like the Honourable Prime Minister today, Sir.

> "There is a Permanent Secretrary in the Government with advance degree qualifications who has refused to co-operate with the enumerators and has failed to learn two fundamental things."

I do not want to read anymore, Sir. It just gives the untruth to what was said at some point here today. The conclusion simply is this, Sir, that there was an enumeration exercise carried out in 1979—1980 as a result of which information collected then was used for the publication of the 1980—1981 register. That is a fact, Sir, and no amount of refutation on the part of the Prime Minister can change that fact. It is, Sir, a fact.
7.50 p.m.

But I want to go back, Sir. Nobody on this side, I want to repeat, has pointed a finger at the Chief Electoral Officer. The only person who has come close to pointing that finger is the Prime Minister himself, when he said that the printing of the 1971 register gave opportunity to have fraud, to use his words.

Mr. Chairman, in 1971 the information, the list, the names, all associated with it, were taken to Trinidad by the hands of the Chief Electoral Officer himself. He did not send them by any officer, he did not send them by anybody, he himself took them and he himself brought them back to Barbados. So if there was an opportunity to have fraud, then the Chief Electoral Officer would have to be in collusion with whatever was going on in Trinidad. As a matter of fact, I was at that time Minister in charge of Elections, and he himself said at that time that he spent sleepless nights observing and checking what was going on and going into the computer there in Trinidad. I have no reason to believe that anything untoward was done by the Chief Electoral Officer in Trinidad at that time, and if the honourable Member for Christ Church East Central, the present Prime Minister, has any suspicion to believe so, let him say so and produce the evidence that the Chief Electoral Officer interfered with the 1971 register in Trinidad.

Asides.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: On a point of order, Sir: The honourable Member on the other side is the one who is saying that they want a computer for the Electoral and Boundaries Commission because they do not want anybody else to have access to the computer. It is you all who are talking about it, so what do you expect now? The same Chief Electoral Officer that you have all the confidence in is the one compiling this register.

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: That is correct, Mr. Chairman, we want a computer for the Electoral and Boundaries Commission, and we want the Chief Electoral Officer being in charge of it.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: On a point of order, Sir: The honourable Member may care to tell the House when he took it to Trinidad whether he was in charge of the computer.

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: I haven't a clue who was in charge of any computer in Trinidad. I do not know which computer he took it to. I had no interest at that time in which computer he took it to. I had every confidence in the integrity of the Chief Electoral Officer at that time, and I still have now, and I have never changed that because I believe him to be a competent officer, and we on this side believe him to be a competent officer. I make that statement here for our side.

I want to make this point, and I will not be diverted from it by the Prime Minister. We want a computer for the Electoral Office so that the Chief Electoral Officer can take charge of that computer and that the Electoral and Boundaries Commission can control this. We do not want any more Government Ministers planting themselves in the computer room when the list is being published. We do not want any more Government Ministers doing this, we do not want that again, a second time.

Loud Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order! Order! Order, please! It is clear that this matter has been fully ventilated.

Loud Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I must have some order, please. There must be order in this Chamber.

Asides.

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: Nobody on this side has ever told any lies on the Chief Electoral Officer.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: The only body who abused anybody here is in the Senate. The only public servants abused, were called vagabonds, but not in this Chamber, and not by us, not by Democratic Labour Party members...

Loud Asides.

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

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: Those of us who were present at the recount of the votes at the Alexandra School would recall who cursed whom.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: We are not cursing in here.

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: The Prime Minister has made a sweeping statement, unsupported by anything,

about the validation of the register and the very people not having a reasonable time to check. You can only validate something that is already published, you cannot validate something that is not published. It is already published, because people already have it in their hands, so what is the big thing? To come and make such a stupid statement is unworthy of any Prime Minister. It is a silly statement, except that it is true. Sir, it was not the first time we were operating under that system. I have heard the Prime Minister say the validation was in respect of the August monthly list.

(*Aside:* Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: They broke the law.)

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: Which were the three? Give us the three. If I broke the law, the Prime Minister broke the law when you had to bring validating Acts in here so as to be able to validate the Appropriation Bill, only last year, Sir. To validate it, he broke the law.

Mr. Chairman, I agree with you, Sir. I honestly believe that this matter raised here has been fully ventilated. I honestly feel that we can move on from here, and for that reason I will take my seat.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, I beg to move that Head 15 stand part and in so moving the Head...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I now will put the question.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, as I understand it.....

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

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I am speaking to the matter before the House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, there is only one honourable Member standing, and that is me.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. The Honourable Leader of the House.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG (St. James North): Sir, in moving the Head I have a brief comment to make. This Government has been accused of rigging an election. This Government has been accused publicly on the floor of the House of rigging an election; it has spread across the Caribbean and beyond the shores of the Caribbean. As a Barbadian I do not believe that even in the days of the Conservatives there was any rigging of elections in this country. I do not believe that when the DLP was in office, they had ever masterminded the rigging of an election, and during my tenure of office as a Minister of the Crown I am confident that at no time I was ever associated with any person in this party in setting out to rig an election.

It is a sad day for all Barbadians when we boast of a model country, our morals, our educational system, our health — the social, cultural and political life is one of which all Barbadians can be justly proud, where countries in the Caribbean and beyond the Caribbean see this country of ours as a model country, they take a lead from this country — it is a very sad day for the Leader of the Opposition to have made the statements, backed up by members of the Opposition, that elections have been rigged in this country.

Finally, Sir, I can only consider the person or persons who set out to rig an election for the Government to be complete political idiots. In the St. Peter by-election, we spent countless hours in the counting stations — to end up in court to determine one vote. The honourable Member for St. Michael West Central (Hon. V. L. Johnson) scrambled home by 52 votes, the Member for the City (Hon. B. A. Miller) by 88 votes. I would like to know what kind of political idiots can we have on this side that would mastermind the rigging of an election, then give our own candidates a sweat in a counting house to determine one vote, and still lose at the end of it.
8.00 p.m.

It is an unfortunate debate. It is a bad thing to say. I would like to disassociate myself with any comments made by anybody in this country that Barbadians go to the polls under the guise of an election that is rigged, and worst of all, coming from the Leader of the Opposition. It is the worst thing he has ever said about his country. It is nothing else. In the evening of his years he has done no more than a disservice to a country that, I believe, he loves.

Mr. Chairman, with those few comments, I beg to move that Head 15, as amended, stand part.

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

The question that Head 15 stand part, as amended, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that you report progress to His Honour the Speaker and ask for leave to sit again.

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

The question that the Chairman report progress to His Honour the Speaker and ask for leave to sit again was put and resolved in the affirmative without division,

and Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until 10:00 a.m. tomorrow, March 18, 1986.

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

The question that the House stand suspended until 10.00 a.m., Tuesday, March 18, 1986 was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the House accordingly.
8.05 p.m.

ON RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is now resumed.

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

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

HEAD 16 – PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

Head 16 – Prime Minister's Office – was called.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $521 013 under Head 16 – Prime Minister's Office – as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. B. M. TAITT (St. Michael West): I want to raise a question. I am not sure about these Estimates. We are at Head 16. Mr. Chairman, is Immigration under Prime Minister's Office now? I see Immigration on the page before 9 under.....is that Head 17 – Defence and Security? I am just double checking. Is this the way it is? Okay, I see.

The question that the sum of $521 013 under Head 16 – Prime Minister's Office – as amended, stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 71 – CAPITAL – PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

Head 71 – Capital – Prime Minister's Office – was called.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $200 000 under Head 71 – Capital – Prime Minister's Office – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. B. M. TAITT (St. Michael West): Mr. Chairman, I do not believe that there has ever been what may be termed final accounts for Ilaro Court. Could the Minister give us some indication, so that we would know once and for all, what the total amount spent on Ilaro Court has been in order to restore it or prepare it to be the Prime Minister's residence? One has to assume that it is now the Prime Minister's residence and that what we have now would be the caretaking expenses. I wonder if we could get some indication, finally, on what the amount has been for the capital development of the property which has become the Prime Minister's official residence?

Hon. L. S. CRAIG (St. James North): Sir, in response to that, I give the honourable Member the assurance that later in the day – I am not postponing the Head – whatever information is requested of us here, as soon as the persons come in who are responsible from the Ministry of Finance, I am quite sure we will make this information available to the honourable Member, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I am not sure in the circumstances whether the Head ought not to be postponed, because if one has anything to say on the Head, it will be determined by the kind of response which one gets to the question asked. If the Head is passed, the Rules do not allow for this matter to be discussed again, even though the information might be supplied, so I am wondering, if it would not put the Minister out, since the information would be made available later on, whether we could not move on to another Head and allow this matter to hold in abeyance.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, the Head can be recommitted. Surely I would not postpone it; it can be recommitted.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I take that, Mr. Chairman, as an assurance from the Leader of the House that the matter will be recommitted as necessary.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Does any other honourable Member want to speak on this Head?

The question that the sum of $200 000 under Head 71 – Capital – Prime Minister's Office – stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 76 – CAPITAL – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE

Head 76 – Capital – Ministry of Education and Culture, was called.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $14 229 653 under Head 76 – Capital – Ministry of Education and Culture – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. B. M. TAITT (St. Michael West): Well, Sir, it seems as if we are going to begin this morning to discuss education, pages 77 – 85, and I wish to indicate, Mr. Chairman, that there are a number of areas that one would wish to raise a number of questions on in this connection.

Sir, yesterday the Prime Minister, in the second reading speech, indicated, in a rather summary way, that the second World Bank loan, as I understood it, was going to be used to do a number of things, and I think he mentioned Queen College, and he mentioned a school in Christ Church, Kingsland, I believe.

(Aside: Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: The school is Wotton.)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I am not sure if that is a secondary school. Is that the one for which he pushed down the canes? This is a school at Wotton, Subhead 16, and he also mentioned that he was not sure. I wish the Minister would indicate whether the Lodge School has been completed. I think that the Lodge School was being completed.

Now, Sir, there has been a policy of the present Administration to amalgamate some of the institutions. Some of the schools that were located in certain areas have been amalgamated, and as a result, I think I heard the Prime Minister saying that there were savings, but I imagine that that aspect of the education policy should properly be discussed under the Current Estimates as opposed to the Capital Estimates. I wish to deal with two aspects, well more than two, but I wish to start by looking first at the Textbook Loan Scheme.

Mr. Chairman, an educational philosophy which suggests that there should be free education must have, as a concomitant part of that policy, arising out of the same philosophy, an understanding that the individual child would be able to meet its full potential in the school room without hindrance arising from position of birth or conditions and circumstances of the environment within which the individual lives, and it is in that context that we developed a philosophy which suggested that a child would be given every facility and every opportunity to get education, to the best of that child's ability to absorb that education. The Textbook Loan Scheme was designed with that particular philosophy in view. The idea was that a child who came from a certain level in the society would not be hindered from enjoying a high quality of education because of an economic inability to provide books, to provide the wherewithal. That scheme, therefore, was introduced, and intensified by my colleague, the honourable Member for St. Michael South (Mr. L. E. Sandiford), and the Textbook Scheme developed into a position where every child going to every secondary school in Barbados was guaranteed to receive every book that was prescribed for the course of education which that child would receive.

10.10 a.m.

Ever since the dawn of the Barbados Labour Party Administration, there has been a systematic drawback of the benefits which accrued from the policy outlined by the Democratic Labour Party. The drawback was demonstrated in a decision that was implemented some time ago to charge examination fees. These examination fees had been promised, incidentally, by the late Prime Minister in a speech made, I believe at Coleridge and Parry – I could be wrong as to where – but I know that he did say – in fact he said in this House, now I recall – that where students advanced the fees and those students were successful, those fees would be returned. I have to say, Sir, that I am aware of many instances in which, to date, fees advanced for examinations have not been returned.

(Aside: Hon. B. A. MILLER: Particularize.)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I go further and say that indeed provision of the fees themselves constitute a hardship for a substantial number of persons in the community. That, in itself, begins to defeat the very purpose, the very philosophy, behind the policy which made education free.

I go further, Sir, and say that it is within my knowledge that many reference books, in the context of the educational system in Barbados, now have to be purchased by a number of parents in the community, such books not now forming part of the Textbook Loan Scheme. I have always found it difficult to understand what kind of an education philosophy can recognize that you have need of a textbook for geography but you may not have need of a reference textbook; for example, a dictionary. I am told, too, that the Bible does not form part.....

(Aside: Hon. B. A. MILLER: Never did. Even in your time, man!)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: .....part of the Textbook Scheme, but that religious education forms part of the subject matter of education. There seems to be an inconsistency there, Sir. It seems to me that if you are providing religious information or Religious Knowledge as part of your subject matter and you are providing books, you have

to provide books that assist in the learning of Religious Knowledge and other related subject matter. If the basis on which the books for religion are not provided is that the State does not wish to impose any particular religion on the students in a particular institution, then that is a matter which may be open to debate. But it seems to me, from my information and my going around the constituency, that a substantial number of parents are finding that required books in the schools are not being provided under this scheme, and that, as a result, many students are either doing without the required books or their parents are having a tremendous amount of difficulty maintaining them in school.

Mr. Chairman, I know there are a number of people in Barbados, and perhaps in the Caribbean, if not around the world, who deplore the concept of free education. They believe that there is too much "freeness" being handed out to them. They believe that Government has gone too far towards taking taxpayers' money and squandering it by giving it to a number of what they perceive as shiftless persons, persons who, if they had the willingness, would go out and earn enough money to see them through. But you and I know, Sir, that that kind of thinking is not only antideluvian, but it is dangerous, in that it seeks to separate the society and put the society into the position where a special form of elitism, based not on merit but on position, becomes the order of the day.

The Textbook Loan Scheme, and the whole context of free education in Barbados, is based on a deep understanding of the need in a society such as ours for every single member to be able to contribute to the society to the highest level of his potential. And, therefore, unless one is purblind, one should be able to see that any contribution made towards the development of a child by provision of free education can only redound to the total credit of the society. We have witness of this, Sir, in the large number of persons who have demonstrated, either through their academic brilliance or their particular skills, through the last 20 years and beyond, that Barbados has been the beneficiary of the long term policies of free education and free facilities for those who wish to pursue education to do so. As a matter of fact, the philosophy which I am now here decrying has recently manifested itself in the misguided policies which we have heard about emanating from Jamaica, where a number of students who left Jamaica to come, for example, to Barbados, in the understanding that they were going to be allowed to fulfil their promise and their potential in various fields of endeavour in the university, may, in fact, not be able to complete their studies because this new philosophy has invaded them as a result of an all-pervasive directive which seems to have come from somewhere outside of the region, that one of the ways in which these countries make sure they continue to get whatever assistance they can from various quarters will be to carry out a policy that is rooted in a conservatism and is rooted in a selfishness that can mostly be found in large continents that are more or less self-sufficient. Such policies have no place in small developing countries, and I hope that it is not the intention of the Barbados Government to pursue such a policy.

I have read, for example, that there are people who are saying that education is not a right, it is a privilege. Mr. Chairman, that is utter nonsense!

(Aside: Hon. L. R. TULL: Who said that?)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I have been seeing certain persons writing to the Press in Barbados putting forward the view. And I have heard some so-called enlightened people in this community .....

(Aside: Hon. B. A. MILLER: Do you know anybody in Barbados like that?)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: .....pushing forward the view that education is some kind of privilege and it not a right.

Mr. Chairman, there is no more fundamental right in the development of the human being than the right to be educated, the right to have at his or her disposal all types of ideas freely and without hindrance so that he can develop his or her potential. It is in that context that I deplore the approach to the Textbook Loan Scheme which sees, very slowly, an encroachment on the very principle behind the scheme on the basis that it is costing too much money, the result of which many children are having tremendous difficulty.

10.20 a.m.

I turn now to school uniforms which, as you will agree, Mr. Chairman, is part of the thrust of what I am saying in regard to a fulfilment of potential. This provision was first made available by the Barbados Labour Party as an election gimmick. It was said by the Barbados Labour Party that they would provide free uniforms, and a large number of people in Barbados in 1980 and 1981 – 1981, I believe – and thereafter believed that free uniforms formed part of the policy of the Barbados Labour Party. The truth is, Sir, that after the first year there has been a diminution of the incidence of receipt of free uniforms by anybody in Barbados, including the sum of $100 which was substituted for the free uniforms. The sum of $100 was substituted for the so-called free uniforms which had been promised, and I can say, without fear of contradiction, that the $100 has not been given to every person who has applied for it and many persons have not in fact been able to get it on some basis that "the time has passed." If you do not apply for the $100 within a certain time limit, Mr. Chairman, you are told by the Ministry of Education – at least they used to be told by the Ministry of Education – that the time limit has passed. I say that without any fear of contradiction, Sir, because I was told that.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Well, I am saying that you do not get it at all now. I am saying that there are large numbers of people who do not get it on one pretence or the other. I am saying that in my day – you will get a chance, dear.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Two minutes more.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: In my day I did not get it, Sir. I did not fight for it, because, Sir, as you will understand, it would not look right for me to be up at the Ministry, even though they said it was my right, quarreling for $100. The first $100 I got I was able to pass it on to someone in the constituency who I perceived to be needing it more than I did. But I never got anymore, Sir, and the child is now 16 years old, or 17. I went for it, and they told me, 'Too late!' Ant that is the form of trickery which we cannot accept, Sir.

If you look at the amount which is listed next to Subhead 23 and you multiply the school population by 100, you will see that this amount does not fall within the purview of the figures which ought to be envisaged if you are going to be giving out school uniforms. It is a misnomer, Sir. It should be removed from the Estimates. This title "School Uniforms" is a minomer. Perhaps the Ministry responsible for Social Security or the Ministry responsible for Social Services could successfully put in a clause "School Uniforms." because I believe that, in the context of welfare, the odd parent gets a school uniform here and there. But for us to pass this particular Head under the Ministry of Education – School Uniforms – is a misrepresentation of what the realities are. There are no school uniforms given to anybody.

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Johnson is telling somebody how to speak! Wonders never cease!

Mr. Chairman, the school uniform, Sir, is a mere statement, it is not a fact, and I will look forward to hearing the Minister on that.

The Audio Visual Aids Department appears to be doing a good job, Sir.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, he wants to know what Head. I did not hear you, Sir. Sorry, Sir.

I will simply end this section by saying that the Audio Visual Aids Department seems to be doing a good job, and it would be useful if the Minister would pay attention to the needs of that department in the context of developing indigenous resources for use in audio visual presentations.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time now.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I shall develop my position as we go along, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Does any other honourable Member wish to speak under this Head 76?

Hon. B. A. MILLER (City of Bridgetown): Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a great deal that can be said about education. It does not surprise me in the least that the honourable Member for St. Michael West "oohs" and "ahs" his way through 15 minutes. I do not think that he said anything of substance that could not have been said in seven minutes. But that is the problem of the Members on the other side, not the problem over here.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in 1975-1976, in this country we spent $42 million on the education sector. Today, or rather in this financial year in which we are now bringing to a close at the end of this month, it was $126 million, exactly three times as much in this year as you were spending in 1975-1976. That is only one indicator to show us that education continues to enjoy, as it has under successive Governments in this country, top priority in public expenditure. It tells us that in Barbados, under the Barbados Labour Party Government, in these last nine years we have put our money where our mouth is. We like to walk about in Barbados and outside of Barbados and boast about the quality of our education system, and we are entitled to do that. I never apologize for saying, both home and abroad, that we have the best system in the world, and I am willing to argue the point with anyone, anywhere in the world.

There is no country in the world where students can go to school from the age of 4 right through to the age of 21, right through to the university at no cost to themselves. The taxpayers pay that burden. Even in communist countries students have to pay back, if not in cash in time. There is nowhere else in the world where they boast of a literacy rate such as ours. Of course, it does mean that we have reached perfection. It is very difficult, and some would think impossible, for mankind to achieve that, and even though we know that we have the highest rate of literacy in the world, and have had for a number of years, and will continue to do so, there is still dissatisfaction with what we have. And that is how it should be, Mr. Chairman. We are not to lie back on our laurels. We are the ones who are to be most critical of our system because we are the system, and we are the ones who have the authority to be most critical of it, and it is true to say that even though we have this high literacy rate, which is lauded by countries abroad and even sister countries in the Caribbean, today we are dissatisfied with

the the quality of literacy. All I have said in the last two minutes does not speak to functional literacy only. We are dissatisfied, and so we have taken steps for remedial work to be done at the primary, at the secondary and even at the level of university where there is still a class called Use of English.
10.30 a.m.

At a time, Mr. Chairman, when the productive sectors in Barbados are appealing to the Minister of Finance and Planning for greater public investment and for price support, this Government is unrepentant in its commitment to education, and I am speaking now about education in its widest sense. We have seen in the past years that in agriculture, sugar has called for price support. Non-sugar agriculture, which is a greater earner in recent years than sugar agriculture, have come forward and said that they too must have price support. The tourism sector has said that they are the greatest earners and that they, too, must have price support. The Government has had to find money to invest in those productive sectors, because it is the productive sectors which help to fuel the social sectors, and yet still in Barbados today, as you will see in these Estimates of Expenditure, we continue to spend the second largest chunk of our national budget on education, the third largest on health, housing is still greatly subsidised in this country, and we are unrepentant and make no apology for it.

Mr. Chairman, in this region there has been traditionally a great divorcement – to use a biblical word – between education and training. This Government's policy is that that tradition can no longer be perpetuated. That tradition could have been defended when young people used to leave school at the age of 12 and, under the Democratic Labour Party, were shoved out of the schools at the age of 14. Today young people, by law, must stay in school until they are at least 16 years of age. Education is compulsory, universal, in Barbados, but today when young people have to stay in the system until they are 16, and many times those who go on to sixth form education and for secondary and tertiary education have to stay in the system until they are 18, sometimes 19 and 20, we cannot continue in the old tradition that education can be separated from training. And so we begin to see that students themselves, parents, more enlightened teachers in the system, and the demands of our national and our regional marketplace require that training, particularly in the area of science and technology, should begin in the formal school system, and that avenues for furthering such training should be available in secondary education and training institutions. This is what is taking place in Barbados today, Mr. Chairman.

In an integrated and in a collaborative fashion, the senior schools begin to offer secondary vocational options for students who are not academically inclined nor academically disposed, and there is nothing wrong today if a student says that he or she is not academically disposed. These students in the senior schools, who are mostly the students who have not performed well in the Common Entrance Examination and who formerly were lagging along in composite schools, or sent back to the primary schools to lag at the back of the class until they came to age 14 in the days of the Democratic Labour Party and then shoved out on to the street without even the beginning or the smattering of a skill, these students in the senior schools, which are schools now specially established for students between the ages of 11 and 16, together with those who are majoring in technical and vocational subjects in secondary schools, are encouraged, and will be eligible, to enter any one of the skills training programmes, the work experience programmes, the apprenticeship scheme offered by the Ministry of Labour or the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, or the Barbados Community College. At the same time, Mr. Chairman, I think you must remember that the day release and other shared courses between the senior schools and the secondary schools, and the skills training and the polytechnic programmes would already have been a good introduction and preparation for the graduates who would then be moving on to the post secondary and the tertiary institutions. All of these are matters, and several others, which are concerning us in the Ministry of Education.

The honourable Member for St. Michael West (Mr. B. M. Taitt) asked questions about the second World Bank project. He first of all wanted to know what the position was with outstanding works at the Lodge School. The fact is that the Lodge School has one more building which is currently out to tender, and that would constitute, when it is constructed, the completion of the first World Bank project. So just that one building is still outstanding at the Lodge School in respect of the first World Bank project.

In respect of the second World Bank project, honourable Members are clearly interested in discovering which are the schools planned to be affected by this second project. It is proposed, Mr. Chairman, that the St. Mary's Infants and the St. Mary's Primary Schools in the City of Bridgetown should be amalgamated to form a new St. Mary's Primary School with a capacity for 420 students, located at the site of the present Junior School at Mason Hall Street. The Infants School, which was the beginning of education for so many of us, some of us in this Honourable Chamber today, has long ceased to be suitable as a place for education. There is no playground at all, the school's front door virtually opens on to the road where heavy, busy traffic passes on a daily basis.

The St. Augustine Boys' and the St. Augustine Girls' are proposed, too, to be amalgamated at the site of the St. Augustine Girls', with a capacity for 390. The St. Stephen's Junior and the St. Stephen's Infants

will be amalgamated at a site we have found at Free Hill for 750. The present St. Stephen's is perhaps one of the most ill-located and ill-served schools in the whole of the primary school system today. The St. Matthias' Boys' and the St. Matthias' Girls' are also to be amalgamated to form one St. Matthias' Primary School with a capacity for 390. Speightstown Boys' and St. Peter's Girls' at long last are to be moved out of the centre of Speightstown where there is no recreational or any other type of facility possible; a new primary school for 240 is going to be located off the new by-pass road, well off it so that the children do not have to walk on the new by-pass road at all. Also, we are hoping to amalgamate Mount Tabor and Cherry Grove in the parish of St. John, with a capacity for 390 at an independent site both of Mount Tabor and of Cherry Grove, neither of which is today suitable for locating a modern primary school. In the second World Bank Project also we are going to amalgamate in the parish of St. Philip, Bayleys School and St. Catherine at lands at Bayleys, and here we hope to provide a new primary school with a capacity for 420. In the parish of St. Peter, St. Boniface and Black Bess are going to be amalgamated to form one school, with a capacity for 300 on lands of Bakers Plantation. There is Selah and St. Swithens, in the parish of St. Lucy, with a capacity of 360, and Hillaby and Turners Hall, at a site near Palmers, with a capacity for 360.

Mr. Chairman, it is expected that these amalgamations will achieve certain economies. We have to bear in mind that in many of the districts to which I have just referred, populations have been falling and school rolls have been decreasing. Population shifts have required that schools be placed closer to where residential gatherings are more easily accessible to schools and other social facilities and amenities. All of these considerations have informed our judgement in deciding which schools should be accommodated in this second World Bank Project.
10.40 a.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Two minutes more.

Hon. B. A. MILLER: Much has been said about the Textbook Loan Scheme, I feel almost deliberately to mislead honourable Members. The Textbook Loan Scheme we came and found in 1976. We doubled what was provided in the Estimates of Expenditure for the Textbook Loan Scheme in this financial year, $1.4 million. It is true that bibles and dictionaries are not provided on loan in the Textbook Loan Scheme, but that was true from the beginning under the Democratic Labour Party, and I do not understand how, suddenly today, the rationale behind that has changed. We felt then, on both sides of the House, and I venture to say that we believe today on both sides of the House, that every child in Barbados should own his own bible, and the same goes for a dictionary, and I think that it is just because it is an election year that, all of a sudden, something that was put in place by the Democratic Labour Party is found to be unsuited.

A lot was said too about fees. If we look .....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time. Come back again.

Hon. B. A. MILLER: I will come back again, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I first wish to say that I think the Minister, or the Ministry, or the Government, should publish information on these so-called population shifts. I think the community has every right to expect information which would inform the community as to the basis on which the Government is making policy.

You will recall that there has been a substantial call for a secondary school in the St. Thomas area. It has been rejected, and whereas while it was rejected on the political platform, one could understand the heat and the vituperation with which it was rejected, I believe that when it comes to hard core policy, some rationale should be advanced by the Ministry responsible for this particular portfolio indicating why a decision has been made not to place a secondary school in the catchment area for St. Thomas. Even if it is not placed in the parish of St. Thomas, there is no doubt in my mind that there is need for a secondary school in that general area to capture the Bridgefield people, the whole of St. Thomas and some of the St. Michael people, and I think that if she is going to discuss population shifts, I think that we should publish information indicating the extent to which there has been population shifts in Barbados.

Secondly, I want to join issue with the Minister and the Government on this very pontifical statement which she made about a divorcement of education and training. There is nothing more antidiluvian and stupid than any concept that training and education must be merged. Mr. Chairman, you can train a dog. You can train a chimpanzee. That is training. You can train anybody to do anything. The whole idea of education is to allow the thinking man – man has said that he is the only animal who thinks, and I believe, Sir, that it is a very short-sighted policy which suggests that the divorcement between education and training must disappear.

Mr. Chairman, there is nothing more dangerous than for a community like Barbados to allow itself to be informed by what I choose to call "imperialist thinking", in which is promulgated the concepts of these islands being satellites capable of providing the kind of vocations that will be ancillary to those classic countries that form the metropolis. That kind of thinking is what is being permeated throughout the Caribbean. When you hear the United States talking about 1 500 scholarships for the West Indies, they are saying, in essence, that we do not need

any universities down here. What we need, and it has been accepted by some of the Governments in this region, is to have centres where we can train our people to carry out certain kinds of work, but when it comes to the thinking, development, planning and the research, that is not a matter that should be open to us as a people. There is nothing more dangerous, and I wish to say I take strong objection, which I cannot accept, any concept that there must be a marriage between education and training to the exclusion of the one or the other.

Mr. Chairman, I am going to make this newspaper, the *Nation*, of March 18, a document of the House, because I wish to quote a Barbados Labour Party follower, with whom I agree this morning, as he discusses precisely the problem which is being created in Barbados, a man called Melvin Atwell, who has been a teacher, who has been a writer, and whose views are not always steep in the kind of partisan requirements of the yardfowlism. Now, here is what he said in the opening paragraphs.

Asides

Mr. B. M. TAITT: That is why you chased him away?

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I know you have to follow the Labour Party all the time).

Mr. B. M. TAITT: That is why you moved him? You moved his column from Sunday and brought in one E. O. Smith, who cannot even write the column himself, getting all and sundry to write it, and then he puts his initials on it so that he can put the Barbados Labour Party propaganda out as a column. Moved Melvin Atwell who, at least, provoked thought from time to time! A bunch of yardfowls who are now walking about saying they are columnists!

Do not interfere with me when I am discussing these matters.

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: You and I know who is E. O. Smith, so do not get into this.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, he says – I do not want to read the whole thing, I am just quoting from column 2:–

> "The school-going population is a society in itself. That society cannot read. Our young people are illiterate for the most part. For another part they are functionally literate. That part can read enough to survive. The other part cannot read at all. And that part is living relatively comfortable within the educational system because the system accommodates illiterates.
>
> How can it be that someone can write an 11-Plus Examination and get into a secondary school when he or she is illiterate? How indeed can that someone go to school from 11-plus to 17 years old and leave school illiterate? And is what I am writing true? Yes, it is painfully true."

10.50 a.m.

Now, Sir, one may or may not agree in detail with what the gentleman is saying, but one cannot disagree with the principle, one cannot disagree with the sentiments which he is advancing by way of a warning to the society. He is saying what a number of us have been saying, that the policy of education cannot be measured by the amount of money that is spent, and when the Minister gets up and says that they have tripled the amount of money which has been spent in education since 1975, when the Minister says she has tripled the amount of quality that has been produced since 1975, let us discuss these matters seriously. There is no Labour Party educated person and Democratic Labour Party educated Person. We are looking at what is going to happen to Barbados two, three, four, nine generations from now, and so we cannot discuss education in terms of the Dems and the Bees. It has never been thus. Why should we start now?

The fact is, Mr. Chairman, that we are entitled to raise questions about educational policy if for no other reason than to stop the professionals who advise the Government, or to stop the Government themselves, from putting us into a vortex from which we cannot emerge. Mr. Chairman, when you hear any society starting to talk about ending the divorce between education and training, you are beginning to get into the arena of neo-colonialism invasion of ideas not at the level of the people, but invasion of ideas at the level of the decision-makers. Mr. Chairman, it would only be a matter of time before that kind of thinking leads one to see the University of the West Indies becoming nothing more than a glorified high school. It would only be a matter of time before the University of the West Indies becomes a glorified school in which, through envy or spite or general attitudes which are generated in the community, the whole reason for the university disappears and the thinking which one expects those who have the capacity and the ability to benefit from a university education to contribute towards continuation and propagation of the society will begin to shrivel up, and we will start looking at producing artisans only, or makers only, or vocational people only. That would come as a policy and we would be talking about training versus education.

Mr. Chairman, that is a debate that has been going on from time immemorial and I do not believe it is going to end today, and I do not believe it is going to be settled either on the basis of anything I say or anything the Minister or anybody else says, but I think we need to be informed; we need to inform each other and to inform ourselves lest we should make errors that are irreversible.

Mr. Chairman, in Barbados today I heard the Prime Minister talking about shifting persons who have been saved under the amalgamation scheme into counselling. Mr. Chairman, counselling is a specialised field.

Hon. B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, the honourable Member is misleading this Honourable House. The Honourable Prime Minister never said anything about shifting funds.

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

Hon. B. A. MILLER: He never said it. It is a wrong impression that is going out now.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: You have not been appointed Deputy yet; why you don't wait? You are jumping up to defend the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister is sitting down there; he can defend himself.

(Aside: Hon. B. A. MILLER: Your problem is that you will never be appointed Deputy.)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Don't mind, but I know when to keep quiet.

As I was saying, Mr. Chairman, the area of counselling, as you very well know, having been in an area of the world where education has been developed to a very high level, the area of counselling, the area of vocational guidance, is a specialised field that is only in the embryo stage in Barbados. The appointment of an individual on to the staff of a secondary school and calling that individual a counsellor does not by itself provide guidance counselling. There has been a move in the right direction to provide guidance counselling, and I do not wish to criticise the attempt, but it should also be recognised that proper guidance counselling, will require proper training in the field. That is only one example, Sir, to demonstrate the next point I want to make.

We are talking about training, we are talking about guidance, we are talking about vocational training. We have created a Polytechnic, we have created one community college, and then it seems as if we have concluded that that is the beginning and the end of the development of Barbados educational system in that sphere. The truth is, Sir, that our Polytechnic, even though it is well housed, is badly served, because what is provided up there is constantly falling short of what is required. Our Community College....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Two minutes more.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Our Community College has demonstrated that it is capable of assisting in the development of the country, but I make bold to say that we need at least two more. We need at least two more, so we must agree with the headmasters who call for additional six form places.

My position on that is that if I had to choose between giving the additional sixth form places and creating two additional community colleges, I would create the two community colleges, because the community colleges, in terms of resources – I speak only in terms of resources – will have a more pervasive influence in the community as a whole. If one is in the north and one is in the south, then the three together might serve Barbados for a long time together. This kind of creative development, the thinking that leads to this, is very necessary at this point as we go towards the 21st Century.

Mr. Chairman, my time is up, but I give warning that I have a lot more to say and I will wish to continue.

Hon. L. R. TULL (St. George South): Mr. Chairman, I want to make reference in this first intervention of mine to answer some of the points raised by the honourable Member for St. Michael West (Mr. B. M. Taitt), and also, if time permits, to make some observations of my own.

There has long been a debate in educational circles in this region and beyond as to what is the true role and purpose of education. The honourable Member for St. Michael West, waxing warm on his thesis between the divorcing of education and training or the linking, to put it another way, would put to this Honourable Chamber just one of the traditional roles of education. Two are usually defined, Sir. One, which, as he said, is not a privilege, is a right of every citizen in the community to be given the widest possible exposure to the development of his potential, his intellect and his personality so that he may be a useful social citizen. That is one of the roles of education, and that is the traditional role of education. But there is another side to it, and this one has been given greater currency since the war, and more particularly in the 1960s and 1970s, particularly in emerging industrial communities, and that is, that the role of education must be to prepare the citizens of a community to take part in a productive way in the labour market. Therefore, there are a number of proposals and systems designed to develop the economics of such sub-systems as an integral part of the overall economic system. What we are trying to do in Barbados, Sir, is to merge the two.

This country, traditionally, has had a British-based education system that was pointed more and focussed on the old traditional grammar school education and the classical kind of education that sought to develop the first part, the talents and the ability to think and reason, and to develop one's personality and prove a useful citizen in a community. But as I said, Sir, in Barbados, in recent times some emphasis has also had to be given to the second side of it, and that is, to educate or train young people in this community so that they will be able to play an important part in the economic structure of this country, that is, via the labour market. In other words, they must be trained so that they can usefully move from the period of training into the world of work. And the two must bear a direct relation. Indeed, as I have had to say from time to time, Sir, there is a dialectial link between education and work.

It is very easy for the honourable Member for St. Michael West, in a speech that does not harmonize with the educational philosophy espoused by his side, either in recent times or in the old days, to pour scorn on the link between education and training. I am glad to see that the honourable Member for St. Michael West is asking of his colleague for St. Michael South (Mr. L. E. Sandiford), who knows a lot more about these things, if that is true or not. I hope that the honourable Member for St. Michael South would get up and straighten out some of the misconceptions of the honourable Member for St. Michael West. The honourable Member for St. Michael South, as the Education Minister of the Democratic Labour Party some 10 or more years ago, Sir, was the one who conceded the need for the same Community College of which the honourable Member speaks, and the development of a polytechnic that would cater to the needs of the emerging industrial society.

Aside.

Hon. L. R. TULL: The honourable Member for St. Michael West said that the Polytechnic was falling short of what is required. He did not say what is required, or where the Polytechnic is going. That is one of those statements that mean nothing. You throw it in the way. He said it is falling short of what is required, and that is meant to be a profound statement.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: If the honourable Member would give way, Sir: He seems to have been misunderstanding my speech in two particulars. In the first place, my statement was a response to what the Minister of Education said, that the divorcement between education and training, which was the policy and the Democratic Labour Party, is no more.

(Aside: Hon. B. A. MILLER: I did not say that.)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: The question of what is being provided at the Polytechnic has to do with resources which the Government is providing for the Polytechnic. It has nothing to do with the philosophy. The resources. If you wish, when I speak again, I will give you the details.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to the honourable Member for clearing that up for me, because I thought that what he said – and if I am wrong, he can get up and correct me again – was that he was critical of the Polytechnic in saying that it was not delivering, it was falling short of what was required. Now he says, Sir, he means in terms of what resources are applied to the Polytechnic.

I want to move along in the direction in which I was travelling. It is vitally important in this community, at this stage of its development, that there be a real linkage between education and training and between education, training and work. The realities of the situation in Barbados today, Sir, is that now that education is available to everybody right through from primary school all through to the post secondary institutions, we are showing up a large number of high school graduates, and, indeed, university graduates, who are finding difficulty in meeting the needs of the labour market. It would only be a foolish and blind Government that did not seek to tailor its policies in these areas to make sure that this phenomenon that has been happening in recent years is put right.

We find, for instance, Mr. Chairman, that with a number of jobs that become available in Barbados, we have no qualified Barbadians to do them; not a lot, but some. We have a lot of well educated young people and older people who are looking for work, but yet, from time to time there are certain categories of jobs available in Barbados and we have no Barbadians who are suited to do the jobs. That represents, in my view, a gap in the planning of education and training over the years, one which the Government is firmly committed to stopping. It is for this reason, Mr. Chairman, that we have got to rationalize all post-secondary education in this country, whether it is the teachers' college or the Community College or the Polytechnic or the university. We have sought to integrate all post-secondary education and training. We use other institutions not traditionally related to education. The Ministry of Labour, the Skills Training Programme, the Industrial Development Corporation, all of these are working together to ensure that there is delivery of the kind of post-secondary training that will adequately provide for the young people as they move into the world of work. That is at the heart of the policy.

The honourable Member talks about money. The spending of money is not, in itself, clear indication of the worth of the system. I totally agree with that. Who can quarrel with that? But the streamlining of the school system, both at the primary and the secondary level, integration of schools with facilities, joint use of scarce and

expensive equipment, all these constitute an effort on the part of the Government to get the maximum benefit from our scarce resources.

The honourable Member also, Sir, makes the point, in relation to the whole question of fee paying and whatever aids may have been given to people with schools, that this Government seemed to be "drawing back" – I think those are the words he used, Sir.....

(Aside: Mr. B. M. TAITT: Drawing back.)

Hon. L. R. TULL:..... "drawing back" from the position of the Democratic Labour Party. Now that is a bad wicket on which the Democratic Labour Party should be batting. A very bad wicket! I will say why, Mr. Chairman, Sir. We inherited a system – and I am only mentioning it some 10 years later to put the debate in perspective, because this is ancient history now, Sir – that allowed the same kind of elitist education at the secondary level of which the honourable Member spoke. And we inherited a system that gave education at the secondary level for a large number of kids only up to the age of 13 or 14, and there was no provision for continuing education for those children, even in a non-formal sense, because we have to draw the distinction between formal and non-formal education, Sir.

There was also a system where – one that we inherited, Sir, – there was selective prejudicing against certain people in the educational system. One is the lawyers, although I have no particular brief for them. At the University of the West Indies, the Democratic Labour Party refused to pay the economic cost for people to study law. So that law students were disadvantaged in relation to all other students by the Democratic Labour Party. And no one was surprised about that! I remember very, very vividly the words of the Right Honourable Member for St. John, the Leader of the Opposition, when he was Prime Minister, the words he said during the 1974 Constitutional Debate when he poured scorn on the lawyers in Barbados, among others, and said that he would like to put thorns on their heads and usher them out of the state like they used to do in the old days.
11.10 a.m.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of elucidation: It is impossible for the honourable Member to rise to his feet and, in his confusion, which he likes to describe as debate, not only misquote me, but deliberately mislead the House. If he knew anything about the Classics – the honourable Member – if he did know, he obviously has forgotten. The quotation is, "not to crown them with thorns". The only mention of crowning with thorns occurs in the Bible. Socrates said he would like to crown the poets with laurels and usher them out of the state, and that is what I said about my profession, that we should crown them with laurels and usher them out of the state. To him a laurel and a thorn is the same thing. But I would like to remind the honourable Member.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Has the honourable Member finished his speech?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Not quite, Sir, just a question of intelligence and information now. The laurel is glorified in Barbados by the description of a bayleaf tree, and that is what the Romans used to wear. I know you are versed in new intelligence.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order at all.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: It is a point of order, Sir.

Hon. L. R. TULL: I am glad for the honourable Member got up and fortified me in the position that I am still in, as is usual with him. I may say that he cannot teach me anything about the Classics. What I have forgotten about the Classics he has not yet learned. He cannot protect me from himself, Sir.

Aside.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: The honourable Member, if he knows so much about the Classics.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please, on what does the honourable Member rise?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I just want to ask the honourable Member to translate something for me, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member will have a chance to speak. The honourable Member has.....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: He has given way to translate a short passage from Sopholes.

Hon. L. R. TULL: The honourable Member is making sport, because if he is interested in throwing either Latin or Greek quotations and asking for translation, I will keep him here for the rest of the day. I have no time for that, Sir.

The honourable Member abused lawyers on the floor of this House in the Constitutional Debate and said that he wanted them chased out of the country, and he translated that point of view into educational policy, because he decided that people who were studying Law at the University of the West Indies would not have their economic costs paid, although

other students had them paid. I do not know what he is getting up wasting my time for.

Asides.

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

Asides.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Now I hear from the other side that when you become Prime Minister, you always curse the lawyers. I do not mind if the honourable Member abuse the lawyers. What I am concerned about is the policy of the Democratic Labour Party of discriminating against law students, as he wasted my time by having me spend much too long on that particular point than I wanted to. But I am going to speak again, Sir.

There is a question also, Sir, of the sixth form places, raised again by the honourable Member who spoke before me. I am of the view, and I want it to be recorded very carefully, that there are enough sixth form places in Barbados.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Two minutes more.

Hon. L. R. TULL: There are enough sixth form places in Barbados. What we should be doing, and I invite the honourable Member to do this, is to advise a number of students who are not going on to the university to go into other technical areas and train where they can go into the work force and get well-paying and productive jobs. We have a number of students who do "A" level subjects in the sixth forms who do not do so well, and they do not do well because it is not their particular bent. But we are still at the tail-end of a tradition, that somehow getting 'A' level certificates is reaching the peak, the monolithos. We have to move our young people away from that because they are going to find themselves with their one or two "O" levels with their grades C and their D and E so on still having to go and train in other areas so that they can get a job in the prevailing and existing job market. And they fill up all the schools with sixth form places being asked for by one or two people in the education system. I see one headteacher or two making that request, and that, to my mind, is an example of the inherent resistence by people in the education system to change. They all live back in the days they were going to school; they cannot see what is happening in the community and make adjustment.

That brings me to the guidance counsellors, Sir. The honourable Member is *ad idem* with this side when he talks about the training of guidance counsellors.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Already, Sir? Can you not add the time for the interruptions, Sir? All right Sir, I will come back later in the day and pick up from the guidance counsellors.

Thank you very much.

Hon. B. A. MILLER: Yes, Sir, Mr. Chairman, if I may continue on the same point, because the honourable Member for St. George South.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member for the City has caught my eye.

Hon. B. A. MILLER: The honourable Member for George South is right on. That is how it works on this front bench. I can pick up where he has left off and go on.

Every year, Mr. Chairman, we should look carefully at the examination results of the Caribbean Examinations Council and the other examining bodies for whom examinations are written. We look at the scholarships and exhibitions that Harrison College carries away, that Queen's College may carry away, Lodge, Combermere and so on. But we do not look behind the scholarships and exhibitions to see how disgracefully poor the "A" level results are. This year – I am talking now about this financial year – when I looked at the examination results that came back in September 1985, I was horrified. I have never seen so many "U" grades. You get A, B, C, and D and E, Mr. Chairman, and you get something called "F", too, for failure. But there is another grade called "U" and "U" stands for ungraded. It means that the examination paper is so poor and incomprehensible that the examiner cannot even begin to grade it, and I have never seen so many "U's" at the advance level, which tells us that a lot of young people are being pushed into the sixth form to do advance level by their parents, by their teachers, and some by their own wish, when, in truth and in fact, they are not advance level material. It is a fact of life.

Aside.

Hon. B. A. MILLER: The Sixth Form Committee which comprises.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Hon. B. A. MILLER: .... the heads of the four sixth form schools and the principals of the Community College, the Polytechnic and Erdiston Training College have as part of their functions to advise on the very point that the honourable Member for St. George South was making, that a lot of these young people ought to be directed into technical and vocational avenues, because that is where the demand is in the market place. And that

is why a lot of the people are standing up at the side of the road in this country today, and in other countries, too, claiming that they have six and eight "O" levels but they cannot find a job. They have six and eight subjects, a combination of subjects, which prepares them for nothing which the workplace and the marketplace is demanding.

It is not only true of Barbados, Mr. Chairman, it is universal. It is like the illiteracy that the honourable Member for St. Michael West talked about. We deplore the illiteracy that is found not only among students but among teachers today. Only last week we saw in the State of Texas in the United States of America the Governor of the State demanding that every school teacher should sit an examination to decide whether the teacher was literate enough to teach or not. Those who fail will lose jobs, and they estimated that about 10 000 teachers in the State of Texas will fail, and Texas was the third State in North America which was moving in that direction. It is universal! You hear the complaint everywhere in Europe, you hear the complaint everywhere in North America, and you hear it in developing countries as well. It is not anything peculiar to Barbados. Education is not static.
11.20 p.m.

These are the considerations that entertained us in the Ministry of Education when we looked at this whole business of sixth form education, and we are pushing, encouraging, looking for incentives. Look at the Student Revolving Loan Fund. Nowadays students of the Community College, students of the Polytechnic, of Erdiston and most post-secondary and tertiary institutions in this country can be eligible to borrow from the Student Revolving Loan Fund in a way that in the past they could not have done, because the Government is putting this among many other incentives in the way of young people to encourage them to go the way of the demands of the marketplace.

Mr. Chairman, the whole question of guidance counsellors flows naturally from this business of sixth form places and of equality of training. I hear the honourable Member for St. Michael West when he talks about inadequacies at the Polytechnic and other institutions. We are fully aware of it, but it is not going to be something which you can cure overnight. New technology is moving so rapidly that as soon as you buy one piece of equipment, by the time it gets to Barbados it is obsolete and there is a new model on the market. It is not for sport that this Government only a few months ago took half million dollars from the Training Levy Fund and put it into the Polytechnic. It is not for sport that, as a separate component within the second World Bank project, hundreds of thousands of dollars will go toward buying even more equipment for the Polytechnic.

Another component, the training component, within the second World Bank project is going to be the construction of three modern well-equipped skills training centres; one in the north, one in the central area and one in the south. We are going to start with the one at Sayes Court, and there is going to be one to service the metropolitan or central St. Michael area as well. These are demands. People are calling up the institutions from the private sector, they phone the secondary schools and want to know what they are doing in the fifth and the sixth forms. They are phoning up the Community College and the Polytechnic demanding skills. There are business people in Barbados today who are saying you do not have this skill, we are prepared to go into a joint or collaborative venture with you and help to train people for our particular work place. That is the way of the future, that is the way of the 21st century.

At the same time, it is true to say that many of the old traditional offerings are still in demand. There are a few parents of students today who quarrel because, let us say, for instance, a subject like Latin is not taught at a sufficient number of secondary schools in Barbados, and this is where my dilemma lies in the Ministry of Education, that parents and students and the marketplace are demanding many new options, and parents and students and teachers are at the same time saying that they want many of the old options to remain in place. I cannot deliver all of these options within the old structure which was the same in 1886 as it is today in 1986. I cannot do it. Again, this is not anything peculiar to Barbados, this is universal.

There must be some connection between the fact that Japanese students spend most weeks of the year at school and the results that they are getting – productive and positive results that they are getting – out of their educational system, the return that they are getting on their investment in education, if you want to put it that way, and ourselves. Something has got to be wrong, and the demands are there. Students are saying we want more and more subjects on the agenda!

I have just come back from London where, together with the Secretary of State for Education and Science the Right Honourable Sir Keith Joseph, I opened a conference on "Science and Technology: New Directions". I had a long session with him where we discussed mutual problems and mutual concerns.

Aside.

Hon. B. A. MILLER: No, I refused going to Manila, Mr. Prime Minister, because I had a long-standing arrangement to speak to Canadian parliamentarians in Ottawa. Yes, and when the people telephoned me from Washington and asked me, I said I had this commitment. The lady

said to me on the telephone. "But this is really a tragedy. We wanted a woman from Barbados.".....

Aside.

Hon. B. A. MILLER: He was not second choice, he was the third choice. They asked me if I thought that Dame Nita Barrrow would agree to go and I said, 'You know she is a very busy woman and she is very concerned in the South African Committee now and so on, but you might ask her.' I do not know what happened. I do not believe they would mistake her for him. I do not know what happened, but I know that, at the last minute, two days before he travelled, the Right Honourable Leader of the Opposition was invited to go to Manila. I had more important and other matters more intimately concerning me.

(Aside: Hon. L. S. CRAIG: It is the biggest mistake you ever made, not to go to Manila.)

Hon. B. A. MILLER: True, true, true. We are paying a heavy price for it now. We are paying a heavy price for that now.

If I may move on, Mr. Chairman, part of the rationale behind this whole business of the introduction of trained guidance and vocational counsellors into the secondary school system in this country is not something that was arrived at on any willy-nilly basis. The students demand it, their parents demand it – again this is a Ministry of Education that is giving an ear and listening closely to demands of students, listening closely to what the Parent-Teacher Associations have to tell us, listening closely to what the various professional organisations affiliated to matters educational have to tell us – and we recognise that the demand is there.

There is no likelihood that any teacher, or any and every teacher, will be picked up and simply designated as a guidance and vocational counsellor. We know what we are doing. There are many out there in the pipeline, abroad, being trained now, because that kind of training is not easily available in the Caribbean region. There are many who have already equipped themselves for that specialist training, and I have no doubt at all in my mind, Mr. Chairman, that when the Boards of Management of the various secondary schools advertise – because the terms and conditions and the job description itself, are very clearly set out – the people who have the best training and the correct disposition and inclination for these posts will be appointed.

It is imperative, Mr. Chairman, because headteachers alone, teachers alone, parents alone, cannot on their own do this important job of persuasion. All of us have a responsibility, including honourable Members on that side and on this side, the man in the street, everyone in this country, in this matter of guiding the young in what is clearly the direction of the 21st century for a country such as ours.

I know there has been a call in some quarters, people feel that the Ministry of Education, or perhaps myself in particular, appear to push science and the new technology at the expense of the Humanities. I do not think it is a fair criticism. Anyone who looks at the curricula, anyone who even looks at the Senior Education Officer structure in the Ministry of Education, and anyone who will examine closely the directions which we have been indicating – and I often use Speech Day opportunities to give pointers on the policy directions, on the new departures where they exist, on the new initiatives which we absolutely must take – anyone who has been listening carefully and observing will recognise that there is a constant effort not to move to science and technology at the expense of the Humanities.

11.30 a.m.

But, again, I cannot ignore the demands of the students. Look and see where the Barbados Scholarship and exhibition winners go – almost exclusively in the direction of science and technology. They are not fools – they watch the CNN News, they read the newspapers – they know where the new jobs are. They know where the real opportunities are for the future, and our young people are bright. We criticize them. Of course, we are entitled to criticize them. We must keep them on their tippy toes. We must encourage them to reach up for excellence and stop grabbing across at mediocrity all the time. They are enthusiastic and they want to go in these new directions, and it is our obligation, apart from everything else, to help and encourage them to go in the right path. There are many stumbling blocks in the way, Mr. Chairman, and, again, it is our duty to try to guide them away from these stumbling blocks. I will come back to that in a later contribution.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, there is constantly utterances in the House and elsewhere which demonstrate a fundamental problem in education. Now, you heard the Minister herself saying, as she ended, that our young people are bright and that they will reach for the stars. But, as she began, she also made a most alarming statement. She suggested that there are too many people, as she was discussing the "U" grades, a large number of people in our sixth forms that are "not sixth form material." That is utter nonsense! That is part of the philosophy which has condemned too large a sector of our community to the waste land.

Mr. Chairman, you, yourself saw it. All of us here see it – a number of Barbadians who leave Barbados, having been told by teachers, by officials, by the system, that they are rejected, that they are not

worthwhile, that they have no ability, who go to North America, they go to Europe, they go to England, they go all parts of the world, and suddenly we hear about them – they are brilliant scientists, they become doctors, they become lawyers, they become important in the communities where they have gone! The reason is very simple, they have received some kind of motivation in the new environment in which they go.

Any boy or girl who receives 5 "O" level certificates is good enough to get an "A" level certificate in Barbados, if he or she is taught properly. It is absolutely unacceptable to talk about persons not being sixth form material. What is sixth form material? If you can get 5 "O" levels, you may not get your sixth form result at an "A", but you cannot tell me that somebody who qualifies to go into an examination and who gets a "U" grade, has got a "U" grade just because he or she was not sixth form material. That is a condemnation and a rejection of our own material in this country, and that is what is wrong.

We have too many people prepared at an early stage to write off others. They provide them with no motivation, no training, no assistance, and so they languish for two years in the so-called sixth forms; and then when they get the "U" grades, the methodology is not condemned – the product is condemned. I maintain, Sir, that we need to examine the methodology that we use. We need to examine the systems that we use. As a matter of fact, as I alluded earlier, we do the same thing at an earlier stage with our 11-plus, but, theoretically, we capture them at 14 by allowing them to go into the other schools, and, theoretically, they are brought back. But this small society has discarded a substantial amount of its human resources because of very unthought out, not so very careful policy decisions that have been perpetrated in the society over the last 20 years.

I am disappointed to hear the Minister talking about the reason why we have "U" grades is that we have too many people in the sixth forms that are not sixth form material. The reason has to do with the methodology. It has to do with the method of thinking, the method of teaching. It has to do with not having provided any research. We have not ourselves been doing any research to find out why our students learn, or why they do not learn, in certain circumstances. We do not give ourselves the credit or the ability to examine our four walls and to find solutions to the problems. We are constantly looking overseas, or we are constantly looking to one or two individuals, no matter who they are or where they come from, to give us answers. We then pick up whatever they trot out and we keep perpetrating it by repeating it, and we make the same fundamental errors.

You are closing down the same educational institution that is supposed to assist the teachers to become better trained. You are closing it down by your policies, but you would never agree to that. You would say that your policy is an enlightened policy because the Government, and perhaps I should not even say the Government, the society, is not prepared to examine its basic premises in certain areas.

Yesterday, I mentioned Erdiston College. In these same Estimates you are making provision for Erdiston College under one of these subheads. But what is going on at Erdiston College? "Improvement to the institution, the purchase of plant, furniture and equipment and also for professional services!" When last anybody saw a study that was carried out at Erdiston College that was published in the wider society that told us why we are getting "U" grades in the secondary schools? Why do you not commission a study among the teachers to find out if the teachers themselves are motivated. But you see, Mr. Chairman, you cannot take the teachers to court on Wednesdays and expect them to produce for you on Thursdays. You have removed the motivation from the teachers in the society. You do not respect them anymore, but you expect the teachers to produce for you. The teachers themselves have been suffering at the hands of the Government, and that is the problem. You cannot motivate the teachers, and you expect the teachers to motivate the students? They have no respect in this society from the Government!

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: You are perfectly right. You believe that once you give them a few more dollars, you can treat them anyhow – You do not have to respect them anymore! And whereas the headmasters that taught all of you sitting on the front bench are headmasters and headmistresses who, today, are still revered and respected, you believe that if you put someone to be a headteacher somewhere, you can take that someone and throw him about like flotsam and jetsam, as you wish. You do not believe anymore that headmasters have the same rights to be afforded the kind of privileges which politicians have. You do not believe that.

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

Mr. B. M. TAITT: It is not foolishness, St. John, you know that. I beg your pardon, Sir. I apologise, Sir. You know it is not foolishness.

The point is that we need in the society, if we are going to examine what is the quality in the schools, to examine the entire spectrum of our educational plant. We should require ourselves to examine it from the top to

the bottom. We need more and more to remove the distinguishing marks, not by any stilted policies, but by our genuine concern, between one school and another. We have some people at secondary schools in Barbados who are already rejected by the society from the time they go into those secondary schools.
11.40 a.m.

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: There you have a perfect example. The honourable Member who is sitting over there says that this honourable Member on my right used to give him nought, had written him off, rejected him, and look where he is today, the Prime Minister of the country. Mr. Chairman, my case is made. I rest my case on the example provided by these two honourable gentlemen. One rejected the other and the other has gone on to demonstrate that one rejection here and there does not ..... Sir, we have gone far enough. I have made my point on that.

I want, Sir, while I am on my feet, so that I would not misuse my time.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You have five minutes.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Yes, Sir. In that five minutes I want to shift to Culture. You will notice under Subheads 32, 33 and 34 we are looking at Culture. I want to say something relating to what I was just saying about rejects. I think that in our society the time has come when at the policy-making level, we have to stop these decisions which are unworthy of us as a society.

Mr. Chairman, I heard that, as a matter of policy, the Director of Culture has been banned from a radio station. I do not know what the circumstances were, even though instinctively my attitude was that banning by itself, banning *per se* is dangerous. I then read the speech which the Director of Culture in Barbados is supposed to have made. I am being told it was an edited version, but, be that as it may, I am saying that it is contradictory to have a Director of Culture on the one hand, and, on the other hand, say to him that he cannot use, either in his official or unofficial capacity, the facilities of the broadcasting system that is provided by the taxpayers of a country.

I believe that banning in any form of expression is wrong, and I believe that, in fact, the Director of Culture's fundamental rights, his rights to free expression, have been interfered with. But I do not wish to discuss this matter in the context of that particular decision. I am saying that that decision is wrong, *per se*. I am saying, Sir, that if he has done something, or if he does something when the facilities are made available to him, he should suffer the consequences of his act, but the consequence of his act cannot be a wholesale banning for all time, or for any time, of his appearance on television or radio.

What is in proper taste has to be determined by the proprietors of any public or private broadcasting system. That is part of the responsibility they have under their licence, and therefore, to the extent that they provide some form of censorship the society agrees and accepts that censorship is part and parcel of its responsibility, that is all right. But no Minister had any right directing any corporation to ban anybody from appearing on any radio or television station in Barbados, and no corporation that has any guts has any right accepting any directive from any Minister, any Minister on any side of any House, banning anybody from appearing on any television. And I want to say this, whether it be the Democratic Labour Party, the Barbados Labour Party, the PPM, whoever, that is my position on banning of peopel off television and radio in Barbados, because it is against the fundamental rights provision of the Constitution of Barbados to prevent anybody from expressing themselves. If I express myself wrongly, lock me up if the law says that. If I say something about someone that I should not say, let me pay the price, or reach a compromise with that person. But, Sir, no public authority has any right banning any person. That is my fundamental position, which is irreversible, unshakable and cannot be touched. I think that the Director ought to put the Corporation in court. I will say more on it, Sir.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN (Christ Church East Central): When the honourable Member fully appreciates jurisprudence, he will learn that there is a distinction between the word "right", in the sense of a privilege in which there is no correlative duty, and the word "right" in the sense of correlative duty. I do not think the honourable Member is the correct person, or anyone from that side, to deal with the question of banning. The Opposition on this side was banned, when the Democratic Labour Party was in power, by Peter Morgan. We did not have access to a lot of areas.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: If the honourable Member would give way for a minute: Is the honourable Member saying that if the Opposition did something that was wrong that that makes it right?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member has not given way.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: We have not banned anybody from the Opposition.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I have not given way.

A full investigation took place into all of the circumstances surrounding the issue of the Director of Culture and CBC. The Government regards that purely as a matter for two corporations to deal with, the relationship as a relationship between their staff and the management of the corporations. Nobody has tied the hands of any corporation, nor will anybody tie the hands of any corporation. But what we do know is that this

Government is going to maintain law and order and decency in conduct between two corporations in Barbados. I am saying nothing more.

Now, Sir, education is obliged to provoke a long debate, not only in Barbados but worldwide. All over the world, whether you are in the east, the west, in developing countries or in developed countries, the phenomenon, with a few exceptions, is so great that the connection between education and training has come into the fore. I really believe the Government of Barbados, particularly in the last 10 years, can be proud of the fact that we are aware of the need to radically change the structure of our educational system to ensure that for the vast majority of people who go through it, when they come out they will be able to adapt themselves easily in the workplace, which was the fundamental purpose of them going into the educational system.
11.50 a.m.

There are a few people whc will become professors, who will become academics, who will be talkers and not doers.....

(Aside: True.)

(Aside: Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Like you.)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN:.....who will be receivers and not producers. There will be a few of them. Whatever system is devised, those people, blessed as they are with additional capacity, will be able to come out, whether in Barbados or elsewhere, on top, even if it is on top in being able to absorb alcohol, or drugs, or as misfits. The point is that some people will misuse their talents the Lord has given to them and things of that kind.

We also have to understand that nowhere is resistance to change more exemplified in all societies than in the reform of education. It is not whether you are a DLP or a BLP, a communist or a socialist, the point is that with Governments which attempt to move the educational system, the experience has always been that you are going to meet with resistance. Either you are a Government that understands that and is determined, as we are, to move the system forward in spite of the resistance, or nothing will happen, nor unless you adopt that attitude. Now that explains a few things, that explains the distinction between that side and this side.

The honourable Members on that side had full opportunity, for 15 years, to introduce the reforms required by the Education Act, which was in draft for a large period of time. They did not have the courage nor the will to carry it into effect. We carried it into effect. There have been a few casualties. There is only one outstanding casualty I know.

Aside.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: And I am glad to see that, despite all of the prevarication and legal chicanery, the whole system cannot be frustrated because of the aberrations of one man. That is something you are going to have to worry about, that the aberrations of one man were being used to hold up the reform of a system which would have affected such a large proportion of children and teachers. The point of the matter is, nobody can deny the fact that the new Education Act is in existence and that there are teachers working in the system who are teaching children and that there is only one aberration left out there. You ponder on that!

If we were cowards, or if we had accepted the position of the Opposition in an effort to pander to the aberrations of one person, we would have held up a whole system. We are past that now. In good Barbadian style and with the abundance of tolerance, we allow and we give full scope, full rope, to acceptrics to operate within the confines of the tolerance of this society. But they cannot hold up the freedom and the privileges which one person has, cannot, as has been repeatedly pointed out, interfere with the freedom and privileges of other people to disagree with that.

Now, Sir what has the Government done in addition to that? Because that is a major change, a major change has occurred. We have now to attack the question of the type of education that we want to deliver in Barbados. I am going to deal with a few points that the honourable Member, the Shadow Minister, has dealt with. There is no doubt about it, that the inherited examination system that we have, based as it is on a grammar school tradition in the United Kingdom, is totally useless in the context of 80% of the students who go into secondary schools in Barbados. That is a fact. It has been proven to be useless in Barbados. It has been proven in the very United Kingdom to be useless to them too. In the very United Kingdom for which it was designed, it is now accepted, even by the friend of political empathisers of the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central (Dr. R. C. Haynes), Mrs. Thatcher and her gang, even by them, that this is a useless system.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir: The honourable Member is on record in this House as saying that they were not following Mrs. Thatcher; that Mrs. Thatcher was following them because they were in power first. Are those true words?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

(*Aside:* True.)

(Aside: Hon. L. S. CRAIG: That is the drink he just had outside.)

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

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Sir, the system has proven to be a failure in that country itself, hence the great debate that the Honourable Minister of Education was invited to participate in recently. Now we are even worse than that. It is a fact, because the little subject offerings that we have at sixth form level and at other levels do not even contain the vocational element in arts and crafts, design, technology and of fitting people for business that they have in the United Kingdom.

The truth of the matter is this: the world method of earning a living has undergone tremendous change because of the technological developments – in the information system, in bio-technology and in things of that kind. The service industry is an important area which will generate jobs in the future. Tell me how the 'A' levels that are done in the United Kingdom, or in our system, fits people for work in that area? We have to recognize that in the country in the world in which more jobs have been created since 1982, the United States of America, their experience has been that 3 to 1 have been created in the service sector as opposed to manufacturing. People should look at Barbados, look at our entrepreneurs, and any educational system that we have ought to be designed from an early stage to emphasize the importance of being an entrepreneur in Barbados. I do not mean a retailer, I mean a real entrepreneur; no buyer and seller, a producer. Tell me what kind of subjects are prerequisites to that type of person, and tell me where, in any any of the secondary schools in Barbados, you get them. Look at your indigenous manufacturing class in Barbados and see that they are graduates of the Polytechnic, not of the Community College, not of Cave Hill. There may be a few in marketing and in financial advice that have gone through that area, but at the floor level, at the production level, they have not come through anything.

One of the greatest scandals in Barbados was that when we started the Community College we did not emphasize it was the equivalent of the sixth form to the Polytechnic, rather than having it as the sixth form to the grammar schools. That is the great tragedy. The engineering and the other sections in the Community College should have been built up. That is what we have to do now, and that is what we have been doing. I think now, Sir, that, in retrospect, the honourable Member for St. Michael South would agree with us. This is not a party matter. One hundred and fifty million being spent cannot be any partisan matter. This is a matter in which we have to hammer out a policy that is suitable to us.

The second great tragedy in the Caribbean, in my opinion, has been the failure of the Caribbean examinations system to devise curricula in that area, where there is a great need, rather than try rigidly at competing in the subject area for which they had subjects that were easily available.

The third great failure is our failure to deal with the University of the West Indies and to let them understand that the only rationale for their existence, to a large extent, is the fact that they should be able to provide leadership in the area of the integration of the educational system, particularly for these people who amount to so large a population, so large a percentage of our school children, and who have no hope of passing through their walls. The standards that they have established, particularly in the technical areas, are such that they tell you that they are interested in training researchers, not in training doers. That is a fact. I mean, you only have to go through the Engineering Faculty in St. Augustine or the Agricultural Faculty and see. A fiasco! It is a positive fact. A highly academic group of people who perpetuate the system by having programmes which are highly academic! And when you ask them about it – I used to be on the Grants Committee – they say that they cannot be expected to provide a programme which is suitable for people who should be going to a polytechnic in the United Kingdom or a community college in Canada. But they want more money than everybody else.

We have to grapple with these things, because there is one thing I agree with the honourable Member for St. Michael West on, the United Kingdom Examining Bodies are not going to do the exams for us. They are not going to do the exams that our young people should be doing, if they are to go into banking, insurance, if they are going to go into the area of the computer. They are not going to be doing it. We have to sit down and work out for ourselves what we want, at the age of 16, to train our young people to do, and that can only be to try and fit them into the kind of work that is going to be available in Barbados and in the areas to which we can get access to emigration. That is all.

That has been the whole history of Barbados. You train for yourself and you train for export. As long as there is a Barbados, because of its smallness, there is going to be that. So we have to be able to be nimble like kimble. We have to be able to have two types of training here. That is why the Government is insisting that, from the university right down, more emphasis has to be placed now on training for the type of job that is likely to come into existence in the future. That is why we are actually doing it now, putting the emphasis on management, finance, marketing, important areas.

I am now going to deal with the question, Sir, of Erdiston Teachers College. Now everybody knows that you have to train teachers. You have to train teachers in the craft of teaching and you have to train them in the associated disciplines which are necessary, and equip them for dealing with the question of teaching. They also have to

have a subject area which they, in fact, will teach. You have to train them in certain things dealing with the pupil. You have to train them also in areas dealing with what they have to teach the pupil. Now there has got to be some relationship, when once you have reached the stage where you have trained every teacher who is likely to be teaching in the primary school in the fundamentals of the teaching craft, between that institution, in a small country like Barbados, and an institution at the university level, tertiary level also, and in which you have training also in some of the same things.

I can stand up any time. The Government has, as a matter of policy, said that study leave and training grants will be allowed, encouraged, for people who want to be teachers, but who wish to expose themselves not to the discipline of going up to Cave Hill and doing a degree in subjects for which there is an excess already but in the subject areas where we need them, and we have asked the Ministry of Education to set out the areas. Nobody in here can prove that we refused to give study leave or training grants for any of the scholarships that we have, or refused to allow people to go on scholarship in any of the areas like Mathematics, Science, Design, Technology, Engineering, any of those things, even Music, a lot of other areas. I have refused many, and I will continue to refuse many when you are teacher, well-established, and you want to go up there and get a B.A. degree in English and History, for which there is an excess.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Two minutes more.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I am going to come back, Sir, because I am only now starting. I have some very radical views on this. I have a great experience. I was written off many times, Sir, but I keep bouncing back. If you want an example, I can show you one.
12.00 noon.

So, Mr. Chairman, this is an important area, and I do not think that the debate should be allowed to conclude without the Government side, and I have not yet started, showing how we are trying to bring this together as a whole, the way how we are going to rationalize it, and the important way that the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, the Ministry of Labour, and the Ministry of Education have to come together and provide informed judgments as to the types of opportunities they expect to arise in Barbados in the next 20 years so that we can start to adapt our system to that.

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

Mr. W. O. FRANKLIN: Thank you, Sir.

Mr. Chairman, if there is one thing that is agreed in this debate so far, it is, from the contributions from both sides, that there is a general discontent with the delivery of the educational system in Barbados and the end result. The Honourable Prime Minister, who just sat down, listed a few of the failures, and to start he said that there is a failure in the educational system to equip people for adaptation in the workplace. He said that they now acknowledge that there is a failure in the grammer school type of education, which has been proven to be inadequate for about 80% of the population in most places, including England as well, that there is a shortage of the vocational guidance courses, like design, business, commerce, that we are not equipping people for the service sector, which is generating most of the jobs – 3 to 1 in comparison with the manufacturing – and that we have to train both for our local consumption and for export. Prior to that we have heard of the shortcomings of the Polytechnic. We have heard of the shortcomings of the Community College, and all of this gels into one simple question – which I would be very obliged if the Minister responsible for this portfolio, in her next input, could let us know – what is going on inside the Ministry of Education?

I will tell you something that has been bothering me for a little while, and I think that I noted the start of the movement about some eight years ago. One always accept as a policy that in an area as crucial and critical as education, you should have your best brains available to the Minister for advice, direction and research. Within recent times I am not so sure that this is the case, and I will say why I am concerned about this. Prior to about eight years ago, either by way of the structure of the salary scales, or by way of incentives, or by way of prestige, it was usual for those who, by way of training and dedication and a proven track record, would have established themselves as the leaders in any particular section of education to move into the Ministry of Education and become one of the advisors to the Minister in relation to policy. Within recent times I have noticed that the reverse is true, that you have a lot of movement now out from the Ministry of Education into the schools at Deputy Head level, Head level, even at the levels of project teachers, I will invite the Minister to examine this. In my humble opinion, a person who has acquired and exhibits some expertise should be available to the entire system at the ministerial level more so than to a particular school or schools at that level.
12.10 p.m.

I will go on to point out exactly what I mean, because it is very obvious that all of us are not satisfied with the results of the tremendous amount of money we have been spending on the education system. Take a quick look through the structure of the Ministries we are going to examine today. You will find in the Ministry of Finance an officer called a Development Planner, whose job I believe is to sit down and examine the direction of Barbados, the sources of its income and to develop as a

long term plan the strategy for the financial development of Barbados. If you go to the Ministry of Housing, you will find that within recent times the Ministry of Housing, having realised the tremendous interest and the tremendous improvement in the housing sector, has introduced a Planning Section. Within the last couple of years you have had long term planning projects detailing the development strategies for housing over the next five to ten years, doing research in the requirements that we need, where we are at the moment, what we need to do today and tomorrow to meet our terms 10, 15 years ago. If you go to the Ministry of Health, you will notice that the Ministry of Health has seen fit to appoint a Health Planner for the particular purpose of allowing a person to sit down outside of the day-to-day hustle and bustle of the Ministry and do some long term planning for health in Barbados into the 21st century; to have a look at what we need, where we are, what type of requirement we need to go down and produce the health systems that we need in Barbados in the 21st century.

I would wish to say that every one of those Ministries and the Ministers in charge of those Ministries have benefited tremendously from the resources of those persons sitting down in a sober, quiet way examining all the research that has gone on, examining the local conditions, examining the local personnel available, examining the educational system and planning in a comprehensive way for the future of these particular sectors. Where is the educational planner? We are all agreed that the whole situation in Barbados hangs around the production and the training of our people, our manpower. There is a planner, I understand, but I would like to find out from the Minister certain areas that have been looked into by this particular section of our Ministry. What work has been done so far in methods of training our people from the nursery level to the educational through the elementary schools? What research has been done in areas of improvement in reading, in reading skills, research in reading, research in arithmetic, research in new technology putting together in the using of hands, for obviously we need in the new area of technology? If we move on from the elementary schools, what progress has been made in the selection of people from the elementary level into the grammer schools? There has been a lot of talk about the short-comings of the 11-plus. What ministerial plans do we have to correct this? What is the thinking of the Planning Section?

We come to the 'O' Levels, and the Minister has made a statement which is very alarming to me, that lots of people are moving from the 'O' Level to sixth form education who have no right operating at that level. I want to ask a very simple question. How is it that a boy or a girl can reach 'O' level, get seven 'O' levels, including three at A or 1, two at B or 2 and one at 3, and go on to the sixth form and perform miserably? What is the problem with the teaching at the sixth form level in Barbados? It is very obvious to me that if you have children who could reach 'O' level and perform outstandingly at 'O' level and then fail miserably in the sixth form, something is happening in the sixth form teaching. Are facilities available for research? Are the teachers able to bridge the gap between 'O' level teaching and 'A' level teaching? Are the students exposed enough to all the areas that they should for the 'A' level education? What is happening? Why is it that there are certain subject areas at certain schools that would get excellent results and in other subject areas you get total failure? Something must be wrong somewhere that you can get excellent results in a subject area, say Mathematics, at Harrison College, and you go to the Lodge School and you get miserable results with students who are showing the same type of attainment up to the 'O' level standard. Something is basically wrong with the teaching methods at sixth form level in this country. I am saying that the gap between 'O' level and 'A' level is proving too difficult for students who, in my opinion, should be able to make that gap.

There is another question I would like to raise with the Developmental Section of the Ministry. What are the plans between 'O' level and further education for the areas of technology that we are so badly lacking in? – air conditioning technicians, certain sections of computer, designs, tool manufacturing, robotry. What is the plan down the road to channel some of our 'O' level students into these areas outside of Maths, Physics, Chemistry, at about the level of 'A' Level or the Ordinary National Certificates in the technical areas? In my opinion either the Samuel Jackman Polytechnic or the Community College is failing in that area. I am not certain where it is, but I am saying that when that boy or girl reaches 'O' Level there is not enough guidance, if there is guidance, openings and training facilities available for them to opt for a technical education for the next two years outside of the straight gammar school subjects, and I want to know what is the thinking of the educational planners in that area.

12.20 p.m.

This brings me to another area. There has been a lot of talk about the development of the Community College, but nothing has been done over the last 8, 9 years in the Technology Division of the Community College. What new courses have been added to the Technology Division? I am asking you. I know there is now Surveying. There is Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Construction Technology – all of these are courses that are now gearing.....

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: If the honourable Member will give way: From January there is a specific course dealing with electronics as a separate thing from mechanical and electrical. In the Ministry of Industry, we advo-

cated it for two years, and we could not get the teachers, but I believe it started last January.

Mr. W. O. FRANKLIN: Thank you, Mr. Prime Minister. I still want to know what are the other areas. I am looking at the educational planning section. I am not thinking of the immediate implications. I was asking the Minister to tell us here what are the plans in the Ministry for 1991, 1996 and 2001? We want to know. What are the plans to fill the areas in which the Manpower Survey has shown that we are short? These are the areas I want to find out from the Minister when she gets up to speak again.

I am saying, Mr. Chairman, that it is time that you move the Community College Technology Section one step further. We have been training at the technician level, more the hands-on person in the Ordinary National Certificate. There is a move afoot, and I am certain that it would be worth your while to take one section and try to move one step further on to the HNC, the Higher National Certificate, particularly in an area like electronics. Why cannot we use the Community College to develop that type of training that Intel promises. They could move straight in conjunction with a four year course in connection with Intel to develop that type of person. Why cannot we develop our civil engineering technologists and technicians at the Community College? Why must the Ministry of Transport go for a long time with people functioning at senior levels without the appropriate training in these areas? I want to find out what are the plans down the road.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: One minute more.

Mr. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Chairman, I also want to know what type of co-operation we are going to have in the future between the Samuel Jackman Polytechnic, the Community College and the University of the West Indies. We want to find out these things.

Mr. Chairman, if there is one thing that most of us on this side of the fence are agreed on it is that we are not satisfied with what we are getting with our money, and when we get the answers to those, I will be satisfied in my mind that some longterm planning is going on that will enable a boy or a girl reaching sixth form at school, or fourth form or fifth form, to know, with some degree of certainty, that there is a place in the sun in Barbados for that boy or that girl.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Sir, I am very glad that the honourable Member who has just spoken has continued along the theme that I was speaking on. We are obviously agreed in this area.

The first thing, in my opinion, is that to say that there is a Samuel Jackman Polytechnic in Barbados, a polytechnic in its traditional sense, is nonsensical. That name wants removing completely. It is not a polytechnic in the traditional sense. If you tell anyone what you are doing up in Wildey in the polytechnic level education, they would look at you and smile. It is a trade school type City and Guild examination polytechnic. The Community College is above that. The Community College is a hybrid between the American Associate Degree and the British OND, HNC or whatever it is. There ought to be some logic brought to this.

We have tried to bring the University of the West Indies into the mainstream of this activity, but with a failure. The University of the West Indies refuses to accept the OTB from the Community College, whereas the University in Pennsylvania accepts it as the equivalent of an Associate Degree. You can move from two years in the Community College into a university in America and get your Bachelors. But our universities that cost us all of the money refuse to bend their minds to it, and the administrators allow them to do it. That is the tragedy of it, because you ought to be able to go to the Community College, save some money, and if you feel after you have gone through there that you are improving as a late developer, you ought to be able to go to the university and take your degree and get some credit.

Now, in the tourism section in Education, that is another area that we had this battle, too, a big battle as to what we would do with the certificates the Hotel School granted. We have made a little progress there. That integration that the honourable member talked about is vital.

Secondly, I think we underestimate the failure of our administrators to give a wider scope and choice of sixth form level to students. There are some students who have to sit 6 or 7 "O" levels, but who really do not wish to continue academically in particular subjects, some of which they got at "O" level, to any depth that the "A" level examination requires. Some of them want to go on and do other subjects. They say, 'I am tired doing this kind of thing, let me get into an area that will mean something to me when I go to work.' So that the whole of your financial services, I do not classify as failure so easily. The whole of your financial services, the whole of that kind of training, that used to be done in apprenticeship, as in the solicitors offices, as in the banking offices, and as in other areas. Luckily, in our society, many of those people go on and they work, and they pass the insurance examinations, they pass the accounting examinations and things of that kind.

My understanding is that the whole of the Community College is trying to deal with that, but the point is you run into problems in the Caribbean of an examining body, and some of the examining bodies from the United Kingdom, no longer regard their examinations as

being suitable for export. They are not interested in that but we, again, must bring the Caribbean Examinations Council and the University into play there. We must do that. The thing is that we must tell them what we want them to do. They must not tell us what they are going to do, and that is the point that I have always, when I was on the Grants Committee, argued about. I always used to argue about it.

Now, there are two ways of dealing with it, and a certain Prime Minister reminded me that there are two ways, the Forbes Burnham way and his way. The Forbes Burnham way is that you could leave it altogether, or leave them to themselves. His way is that you pay them so little that they leave you. Those are the two ways. At this stage I still believe in persuasion. Maybe, sometimes you have to be a little blunt in your persuasion, but the point is, until we can combine – that is our institution in the Caribbean – to take the lead in all of these areas, and until we can solve that problem, get them to understand that they have to help with the evaluation together with the Caribbean Examining Body, in all of these new subject areas, and you have to relate the subject areas back to the world of work, we have to re-orient and keep agitating. That is what we have been trying to do here in Barbados, using funds from the National Training Board Levy to help to supplement the funds that we vote under Education, going back to them like the Swiss and the Germans, and recognizing that there is a large percentage of your people who have to be trained still by the apprenticeship system. There is no disgrace in being trained as a master baker, or a master chef, if you go through the apprenticeship system. They made more money than a lot of clerks, and nowadays they are making a lot more money than doctors, and certainly more than the 72 or 80 lawyers out there in Bridgetown, certainly, more than them. I know that. There is nothing wrong with that.

What you have to do is to have the vocational guidance. That is why we are putting in the 36, or how many they are. You see, sometimes when I listen to over there, I do not believe the honourable Members over there live in Barbados, because they do not know what is going along. Your position is that because you failed to get it done, you do not believe anybody else can get it done, and we are going to get it done. We are going to have to get over the resistance of the teachers, the resistance of the university, the resistance of parents, of all that kind of resistance. As I started off, it is an area in which when you start to change, you are going to have a combination against you, a combination of all of this coalition. It is very difficult to do it, but we wish to do it.

12.30 p.m.

The final point is that the Government, as a matter of policy, in the Works Ministries have paid special recognition to the qualifications of the Community College in technical education, the OTD. As a matter of fact, from the time the now Speaker was Minister of Communications and Works then, we had revised the salary scales to ensure that people coming with the OTD would start in a supervisory position and that recognition would be given to them, because we envisage that that ought to be the minimum qualification for certain jobs in supervision in Barbados. That is what we envisaged. So all of these things have been happening, but not at as fast a pace, and we are not getting the integration, we are not getting the so-called grammar schools and the good schools. I still call them grammar schools, never mind they are all secondary schools, because their minds think so, and you only have to talk to them. They do not regard their schools are the same schools as the others. They still have their minds operating on that basis, and the parents, too.

The point is, Sir, that unless we can get a middle way, a choice for some of these children, we are going to regard them in the future as failures, when, in truth and in fact, at age 25 they are going to go down there and sell insurance, they will go into banking, they will go into other occupations. Some of them are going to go into manufacturing. The only thing about them is that when they get into manufacturing they are going to feel that they can have two and three women and they are going to be able to support two and three households instead of re-investing their profits. That is the only problem that you are going to have, so that is what we have to deal with. You have to teach them, in addition to their technical skill, something about economics and accounting, about re-investment of profits. That is the problem that you have to face. Now, Sir, that is the area that we are groping towards, and we are well on the way towards it.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW and Hon L. S. CRAIG rose.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, will you give me five minutes? I was on my feet.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that you do now report progress to His Honour, the Speaker, and ask for leave to sit again.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the sitting be suspended until 1.30 p.m. today.

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

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

ON RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed.

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

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

Hon. L. S. CRAIG and Dr. R. C. HAYNES rose.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I have a few comments to make ....

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: So have I.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, Sir, ...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member for St. James North has caught my eye.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, I rise to make a few comments at this point in time, but probably I would reserve my comments for later in the debate, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, Sir, ...

(Aside: Mr. B. M. TAITT: No man!)

Hon. B. A. MILLER: ... I ...

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, ...

Hon. B. A. MILLER: ... wish please ....

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: .... I ....

Hon. B. A. MILLER: .... to continue ....

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: ... am standing my gound on this occasion.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, order, order, order, order! I recognize the Minister of Education, who I am sure wants to reply to some of the comments.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I do not care who you recognize. I am not going to .....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order.

(Aside: Hon. B. A. MILLER: No, no, no, no!)

(Aside: Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Haynes, you want choking!)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. Please!

(Aside: Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Haynes, you do not recognize him?)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: You are going to have to decide ....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

Order, order!

I call on the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central to withdraw those remarks. I shall have to refer ...

Order, please, on both sides of the House ....

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I will withdraw the remarks, but I insist on my right to speak in this House.

(Aside: Hon. L. S. CRAIG: And apologize.)

Aside.

(*Aside:* Hon. L. S. CRAIG: You are a majorette.)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I do not accept that. There can be no condition. Please be seated.

Aside.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. The honourable Member for.....

Order, please. I must have order.

There can be no condition. You must withdraw absolutely. I now call on the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central to withdraw those remarks.

(Aside: Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I withdraw them.)

(Aside: Hon. L. R. TULL: On your feet.)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I have already withdrawn the remarks unconditionally, but I said that I

insist on my right to speak in this House. That is not a condition. That is not a condition. That is not a condition!

(Aside: Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Look withdraw, Richie.)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member must withdraw, full stop. I am not fooling around with this, please. Let me have the Rule Book, please.

Hon. B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No, no. No debate until this matter is straightened out. I am not having that in this Chamber. Not at all. Please bring me a Rule Book.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I withdraw the remarks in the interest of allowing the House to continue.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I withdraw the remarks.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You may now take your seat.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I said I withdraw the remarks.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

Asides.

(Aside: Hon. L. R. TULL: Do you think you run in here?)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Education.

Hon. B. A. MILLER: Yes, Sir. I am much obliged to the Chair.

Sir, early this morning some very loose remarks were passed, among other remarks, about fees. Accusations were thrown out that fees which were entitled to be refunded were not so refunded. I absolutely refute them. The honourable Member who made the statement knows full well that he has no evidence in this respect.
1.40 p.m.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: An honourable Member.....

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I am saying.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Just a minute. An honourable Member is on a point of order. Please make your point of order.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I am stating categorically that as a parent I personally applied to the Ministry of Education for the refund and did not get it. I say that for the record.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please – interruptions.

Hon. B. A. MILLER: You are talking about a refund of fees or uniform grant? You are so sick and confused that you do not know what you mean.

In respect of the uniform grant, Mr. Chairman, Sir, nobody is denied the grant. In cases where parents do not observe the deadline or closing date, the closing date is only really set up so that the fees can be collected at the Ministry and to encourage people to come and get the fees. In cases where parents do not come, they are not refused payment. If a parent comes and the closing date has passed and a case is made, the money is paid. In some cases, I am advised that the children may have gone overseas after they have written their exams and parents have had the honesty to return the cheques. In one or two instances children, unfortunately, have died after the writing of exams, and those are really the only cases where the uniform grant has not been paid. The honourable Member for St. Michael West stated in here that he went for the uniform grant long after the closing date.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I never indicated what type of fee.

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

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member does not give way. Please take your seat. Please take your seat!

Hon. B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, Sir, on the matter of refund of examination fees, the honourable Member for St. Michael West – again another large, unfounded statement – said that fees were not refunded.

In this year for which we are not estimating expenditure, I can give you a breakdown of the sum that you see before you. We have to pay for supervisors and invigilators. We have to pay for teachers who take the oral examination. We have to pay for teachers who supervise the practical examinations. We have to pay for Customs clearance and transportation, and examinations, scripts, and so on. That cost that we are estimating for this year is just over $300 000. In respect of local examinations, Sir, for the Barbados Secondary Schools, $29 000, and for refund of examination fees we are estimating this year some $16 000.

It really does not do for honourable Members, because they see a full gallery or because they see a particular person in the gallery or certain people in the Press box, who are only here at sufference, Mr. Chairman, Sir, to get up and make these large, unfounded statements. If you are going to say lots of people, give me at least numbers if not names. It will not do, absolutely will not do! In all the rubbish you say, you cannot give me one single name of a person!

Aside.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order please, order.

Hon. B. A. MILLER: Do not tell me to sit down. You do not have that power in here. We are hearing all of this because this is an election year. Everybody in here wants to carry on a debate at a high level.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, order. I cannot have honourable Members shouting across the House. Will the honourable Member for St. Michael West refrain from shouting. I will not have it.

Aside.

Hon. B. A. MILLER: Send him out. He did not learn anything at school at all.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, order please.

Aside.

Hon. B. A. MILLER: It just will not do, Mr. Chairman. We are in here – some of us on that side and all of us on this side – trying to raise this debate to a certain level, and we are going to have people jumping up from that side making a lot of empty, unfounded statements about who did not get fees, and he went to collect this and he went to collect that, and making it out as though it is a matter of policy! It is deliberately misleading to say that if you look at the amount allocated for a uniform grant, you could see that many people do not get the grant because when you divide it among all the children in the secondary schools you can see how few people got, when the honourable Member for St. Michael West knows – and if he does not know, he is deemed to know – that the uniform grant is given only to those children who are entering the secondary school for the first time, having just passed the Common Entrance Examination. But he is going to give the impression that the multiplier that you would use, or the dividing factor you would use, would be the entire population of the secondary school system in this country. All of that cheap, snide politics will not help. People are not blind, and they can see what the Government has done in the education sector.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please, I would like to interrupt. Just give me one minute please.

I would like to call the attention of honourable Members to Standing Order No. 33, which says:

> "A Member whilst present in the House during a debate must at all times conduct himself with dignity and decorum." Please continue.

Hon. B. A. MILLER: Sir, I would like to say some words about Erdiston. I think we know by now, Sir, that Erdiston Teacher Training College started out in this country as a regional Caribbean Training College for primary school teachers. Over the years, other countries in the Caribbean have established their own primary school teacher training institutions. So that, for sometime now, Erdiston has ceased to be a regional institution in that old sense. I am not saying that there are not one or two territories in the Caribbean which would still seek to send some of their teachers here for primary school training, but for the most part that is not so, and it is very much the exception.

After we have trained this present batch of primary school teachers, we would have arrived almost 100% at a status in this country where the primary school teachers will all have been Erdiston-trained. In other words, Mr. Chairman, the old function of Erdiston has been overtaken because we have progressed. Erdiston must now widen its horizons and cease to be a teacher training college exclusively for primary school teachers. Erdiston must become the national teacher training college. Erdiston must begin to look at the areas of retraining and retooling which are needed not only at the primary but also at the secondary level in this country. Erdiston must begin to address these with greater earnest. It is true that they are already involved in these matters, but they must begin to address these with greater urgency the areas of specialist need. We have already established at Erdiston specialist classes in remedial mathematics, remedial language arts, and industrial arts. Particularly, I went to see what was being instructed there in the area of the Industrial Arts, Music, Physical Education, computers. That is another area that Erdiston must turn its head to and not look back fondly too much at what its former function was. Erdiston has a very important role as we go into the 21st century, and it is very wrong and very misguided for the Member for St. Michael West to mislead this country into believing that Erdiston is close to closure. Erdiston is about to open up itself to new vistas never envisioned by the Democratic Labour Party Administration.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was pleased to hear from the honourable Member for St. Philip North (Mr. W. O. Franklin) questions about what was the function of the Planning Division of the Ministry of Education. He wanted to know what surveys and studies had been carried out in what areas. He wanted to know what was afoot in respect of collaborative effort between various institutions such as the university, the Community College, and Polytechnic, which I agree with the Prime Minister is, properly speaking, in the accepted sense not a polytechnic. It is very embarrassing for us when people come from abroad expecting to find a polytechnic here and find that, in fact, it is not a polytechnic. My information is that it was a deliberate misnomer; that at the time when it was named "the Polytechnic," the whole thinking was that it would promote high visibility for the institution which was going to be planted in the swamp next to the Constitutional River, if the honourable Members would dare to recall; that the word "polytechnic" would sound good. Erdiston is probably a technical institute, or a very high grade trade school and the decision has been taken that the Samuel Jackman Prescod name would be retained but that the word "polytechnic" really must be changed for a more accurate description of the institution.

But in respect of that institution and Erdiston College, the honourable Member for St. Philip North wanted to know what collaborative efforts were going on. Only a few weeks ago – in fact, less than a few I appointed a small committee to review what has been happening over the past several years at the University of the West Indies, and to look forward to the 21st century to advise us. The university campus at Cave Hill has done its own in-house review, and when I inaugurated that committee I was careful to point out to them the important need for a greater collaborative effort between the university and Erdiston, notwithstanding the existence of the School of Education there and the Community College, and the polytechnic, and the secondary school system as well. That was one among many of the items that I discussed at length and I hope that this review committee would consider in great depth.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: One minute.

Hon. B. A. MILLER: It is a very high level committee headed by Sir Roy Marshall, a Barbadian who has had connections with the University of the West Indies, and who, very recently, retired as Head of the Law Faculty at Howard. Also on that committee is Dr. Charles Bourne, another Barbadian who I hope, with his years of experience in North America, will bring a North American perspective to this review committee. Also on this committee is Dr. Dennis Irving, who would represent, I hope, Science and Technology, and Mr. Stanley Chapman, who would bring the perspective of the private sector. The man who, happily, has agreed to be the secretary of this committee is Mr. Freddie Forde, recently back from a long stint in continental Europe, and I hope that he, together with Sir Roy Marshall, would bring not only the British-European perspective, but the continental European perspective to this whole question of university education, the integration of the university, and all of the whole secondary and tertiary institutions into modern day 21st century streamline thinking.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Hon. B. A. MILLER: I will speak again, Mr. Chairman.

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

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, we on this side have struggled hard for many years to bring some element of decency and balance to bear on the management of the affairs of this country at all levels, not successfully I regret to say. However, Sir, as I speak under this Capital Head under the Ministry of Education, I believe it would be remiss if I did not observe that the honourable Member for the City (Hon. B. A. Miller), wherever she has been assigned in Government, has brought nothing but chaos. There can be no doubt that, as in the case of the Health Ministry, in Education we have seen nothing but chaos and a very low level of morale among those charged with the responsibility of delivering educational services to this community at all levels, whether it be at the level of the university, the level of secondary schools, the primary schools or the polytechnic. And it stems from the lack of clarity of diction and the disassociation between conceptualization and articulation of any particular point that she is making in this House; from that you will see the difficulty she will have in relating to people either intellectually or emotionally. As it now stands, Sir, she is hated by all elements involved in the educational services, by those in her Ministry, by those in the schools and by the children throughout the country. She has brought nothing but anxiety and discomfort to the parents of the children in this country, and at the same time there has been a progressive decline in the quality of education offered to the children of this country.

If you just look at the primary schools, you would see the shocking state in which many of the young children in Barbados have to go to school – broken benches, dirty classrooms, often no facilities around the place, school teachers having to take to school soap and toilet paper in order that there could be reasonable hygienic conditions in the schools in which our young children have to go for their education. That is a daily occurrence in Barbados. A Government that is spending over $700 million and cannot look after the very young

and tender offspring of this country, and then you come inside here with all kinds of high flown language! We have seen this kind of performance in the Ministry of Health ending up in chaos. We have seen the kind of linguistic nonsense that you hear on the floor of this House from the honourable Member, and when it comes to actual performance you see nothing but a rundown of each service to which she has been assigned.
1.50 p.m.

Now, Sir, I want to deal with one or two remarks made by the Prime Minister of this country. When he talks about integration and seeing the university more in line with Government's plans to meet the demands of the unemployed, he is talking about running down the University of the West Indies. That is what he was talking about, because I believe that there is a place in the Caribbean society for an institution of intellectual excellence which is committed primarily to research as a major tool in the further development of that intellectual process, and I believe that the university should be retained as a university. Olf-fashioned though the concept may be, it should be retained as a university whilst at the same time it should be able to offer proper inputs into other areas. Let us have our university education, let us not dilute it. Let us not simply make it a glorified high school. Let us not lower the entrance requirements to the university. If you say only 10, 15 or 20 percent of the population can benefit from it, then it is for those who can benefit from it, and for those who cannot benefit from it let us create appropriate instruments and appropriate institutions in Barbados and throughout the Caribbean so that the talents of those people can be developed to the full for the benefit of the community as a whole.

I am the first person, Sir, to concede, and I regret that the Minister is totally schizoid in her assessment of the changing role of education in the development of the society, that it is a fact, Sir, that there was a time when the fact that you had a grammar school education, because of the nature of the society in which you lived at that time, let us say 30 or 40 years ago, or even 20 years ago, could guarantee you a job, and very often you got training on the job. The world has changed. The world has changed in the sense that you have now to look towards more functional aspects of education, and I believe it is time that someone has the courage, and I have that courage, to signal to the people of Barbados that the whole idea of a grammar school education being a passport to a job no longer exists in Barbados or anywhere else in the world.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I can say that, I am not afraid to say that. I am quite clear in my own mind about that. Let it be clearly understood, that is not what the honourable Member would say. That is not correct.

(Aside: Hon. B. A. MILLER: Tell Taitt that.)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: What he is saying is that you have not created the instruments in Barbados where people can elect either to have a grammar school education or at the same time recognise that as a basic thing.

Education in itself and for itself is a worthwhile objective. Education in itself and for itself. There is nothing wrong with a student aspiring to get three 'A' levels in the Humanities or three 'A' levels in the Sciences and then elect to go on to do something else. As a matter of fact, if you look at the institutions which many school leavers are choosing now in Barbados to go to, and if you look at what they are choosing to do after what they have done at school, you will see that children are already responding to the changing world. Many persons who normally would have gone down the line of Hamanities, probably to be trained in law or medicine or something like that, they are all leaving now, they are going off to business schools, they are going on to computers, they get into business management. People are beginning to equip themselves in these areas because they recognise that opportunities are dwindling in the traditional areas of employment which would normally be there for merely academic achievers, and they are looking towards the acquisition of additional skills. Therefore, Sir, it behoves us to maintain our institutions of intellectual excellence whilst at the same time creating institutions in Barbados which would provide opportunities for people to be trained in order that they may find employment within the context of the kind of economy that we have here in Barbados.

I have no difficulty, Sir, with the concept of training to meet the needs of an expanding services economy, a commitment which the Democratic Labour Party has always made ever since it expanded the tourist sector in Barbados, ever since it set up the first International Business Companies Act in this country. We want to see people being more highly trained at all levels in the hotel industry. We want to see people being more highly trained in banking. We want to see people being more highly trained in the para-professional areas, for example, in medicine, dentistry, law and things like that. There is going to be a tremendous need for corporate secretaries in Barbados at various levels under a Democratic Labour Party, which will resuscitate and bring back to life all the companies which have been buried by the Barbados Labour Party Administration. There is going to be a lot of work for people who have that basic education and have those additional skills in this country, with an expanding economy under the Democratic Labour Party.

So let us be clear in our minds that it is not good enough to have been talking that you are doing this and that, when every single school teacher in Barbados would tell you that there are problems at all levels. I will tell you, Sir, that it was the interference by the Minister and the Ministry in the management of the schools at certain levels which has resulted in a breakdown in discipline in the schools. They will tell you, Sir, that it was the fact that this Government and this Minister sought to defy the constitutional provisions of Barbados and had to be stopped in their tracks by the courts of Barbados, that that Act itself resulted in a considerable undermining of the morale of teachers in Barbados. They will tell you, Sir, at the Lodge School, that it is because of the victimisation, the wickedness, the stubbornness of the Barbados Labour Party, and in particular the Prime Minister and the Minister of Education, in failing to resolve ....

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: On a point of order, Sir. The honourable Member would know that that matter is *sub judice.* Do not bring me in, because I was never involved in it. If I was involved in it, he would be out of the house ever since.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Well, I do not understand. The Prime Minister has conceded that he was not involved in it, so you cannot accuse him of being wicked, of wickedness or victimisation, but what I am saying is that the law courts of Barbados have spoken loudly and clearly on the matter, and it is incumbent on you to seek an early settlement of the matter. You cannot defy the law, and I am calling for an early settlement of this matter.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: On a point of order, Sir. The honourable Member knows that he cannot comment on that in Parliament. It is definitely contrary to the Rules. It is contrary to the Rules to comment on a matter which is *sub judice.* There is a case called Smith v. the Attorney General of Barbados in which Smith is the plaintiff and Smith has the carriage of the suit, and if he will not bring on the case for hearing, it is his business. The effect of that is to stifle the honourable Member's comment. You cannot anticipate the judge's decision.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your point of order is taken.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: He is not entitled to say that.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to make a point before you rule, Sir. The rule says that you cannot comment "in a manner prejudicial to." There is an important word inside there.
2.00 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is a matter that is presently before the law court. It is *sub judice.* That is the correct expression. I cannot entertain comment on that.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I am not commenting on it. It is he that is commenting on it, not me. I am moving far from that. I am going on to call for a new primary school in Carrington Village. I think the people of Carrington Village have suffered long. I think that it is important to recognize that there are large numbers of children inside there with no facilities to play, having to scramble around the place in a run-down building, and that there is need for a new primary school for the children of Carrington Village.

Mr. Chairman, to move on, I would hope that apart from Carrington Village, a substantial part of this.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Two minutes more.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I will make a plea for the very young children at primary level in Barbados. I hope that some money will be spent, under Subhead 1, which speaks to the question of furniture and equipment for primary schools, and that an end be put to the situation where our children have to sit and study in the acute discomfort occasioned by inadequate furniture and inadequate facilities. It is a simple thing, Sir. After years of independence, our children should not be sitting on benches in schools that are worse than when we were under the Conservatives in this country.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, there are one or two points I would want to speak on and elaborate on during the course of this 15 minutes, a very short period because of the number of things I have to say today.

I want, first of all, to deal with the whole question of primary education in Barbados and what has happened to it in recent years. There is no doubt at all that primary education in Barbados was allowed to deteriorate very rapidly during the period of the Democratic Labour Party's control of Government. The people in education say so. That is not my statement, that is what the people in education say, and what the Government did was to negotiate with the World Bank in 1977 to get a fairly significant loan, most of which was to be spent on the refurbishing of primary schools, and, indeed, to construct a number of primary schools in this island.

We have a long period of universal primary education in Barbados. It is over 100 years that it has been so, although there were times when one used to have to pay fees to go to primary schools in Barbados. But that period is past, and there has been a long period of universal primary education. Education in Barbados had a lot of its support in the early days from the churches – the Anglican Church, the Methodist Church, the Moravian Church – and the church house was, more often than not, used as the place for primary, or, as it was called,

elementary education in those days. With the development of Barbados and the progress that we have experienced, particularly in the post-war period, we found the old school houses that were used in the first part of the century, the open school houses, unsuitable for education in this modern age.

We have done a number of things to improve primary education in this country. We have condemned a number of the old school buildings, and we have built a number of new primary schools, with all the modern aids for learning and lay-out in conformity with the rigid standards required by the World Bank in primary education facilities. We have also spent a lot of money in putting new equipment and new tools into the primary schools in Barbados. With that there can be no argument, not even by members of the Opposition. The feckless and irresponsible comments from the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central about the conditions obtaining in the schools are not at all accepted by people who have been watching what has been happening with the reconstruction and refurbishing of primary schools in this country.

I want to deal, secondly, with this whole question of teachers and teacher morale. I heard three honourable Members on that side speak on it. I remember that back in 1969, the Democratic Labour Party Government started a guerilla warfare against the teachers in Barbados. I remember when Parliament met here and there were pretty nearly 200 teachers down in the yard barking at the members of the Government as they came up. That is something unprecedented in the history of Barbados. It never happened before and it has never happened since – teachers can put down the chalk, leave the classrooms and come to Parliament Building to express their displeasure with the way Government was treating them. Morale was never so low!

I have in my possession, not here, a number of reports that were done at that time, including the UNESCO report, with which the honourable Member for St. Michael South would be well conversant, in which it spelt out, in detail, a number of factors that were causing a deterioration in the delivery of education in the schools, and there were a number of statistics that bore out the situation prevailing at the time. The best one of these that I could perhaps mention was the results on the Common Entrance Examination and the large number of children who were receiving marks of 0 and just beyond it. But there were also other criteria – the whole question of pupil/teacher ratio that existed at the time, overcrowding of primary schools, and so on. These were questions that were not properly grappled with by the Democratic Labour Party, and this has changed to a very large extent.

It is a little supine to get up and make this constant argument about morale in schools. What happened in those days was that children were not reaching scholarship levels in the schools. They were not less bright then than they are now. Barbadian children did not go through a decline in intellect or IQ or whatever it is, but there was a period, perhaps, in the last five years of Democratic Labour Party Government, when children were struggling to get a Barbados Scholarship. There was a year when there was only one. There was a year when they were two. I think there were two years when there was only one. The children could not reach that level. There has been a substantial change in the attitude in the classroom since those days, and even though the requirements for a Barbadian Scholarship have been made more difficult – I believe in those days all you needed was one A and two Bs, and a Pass in the General Paper to get it; you could get a scholarship with an A, a B and a C – in these days you have to get two As and a B minimum to get scholarships – yet we are getting 10 and 11 scholars reaching Barbados Scholarship level. It is difficult to get into a definition of what causes these changes, but certainly any objective analysis must point out that it had a lot to do with the morale of the teachers and how it affected the children whom they were teaching in those days.

2.10 p.m.

I want, Mr. Chairman, also to mention the whole question of the role of a university in the community. The argument used by the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central represents the kind of conservatism that characterises a lot of what we hear from Members on the other side. The same arguments were used, for instance, in the United Kingdom when the red brick universities were first constructed. You had the Oxbridge group of university that included not only the University of Oxford and Cambridge, but universities like Durham and those old universities that were 500 and 600 years old and had evolved a system of classical, university education that was geared entirely to scholarship. Now the post-war period in the United Kingdom started the construction of a number of so-called red brick universities, and a number of polytechnics in many parts of the United Kingdom – all through the north of England, through the Midlands, and down in the south – have in recent years been converted into universities, and that goes to the heart of this traditional argument of what is the role of a university.

The conservatives, such as the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, believe that the university is an ivory tower where you can go with a lot of musty tones, sit down and learn a lot of esoteric things that refine the mind of the individual who is doing them, and they have a lot of learned treaties and texts and they put them in the library and nobody reads them, and you

say we have a great university. But they are those like myself who have got a different view of the role of a university, particularly in a developing country. I see the role of a university as entirely different, and there is no point arguing from one extreme to the other, that you have to have a 15th century or 16th century Oxford or Cambridge situation in a university, or the University of Heidelberg or the great universities of Europe as one side, and on the other side the kind of polytechnics, the kind of institutions that they talk about. I do not think that is what the Government is arguing. The Government is arguing that the University of the West Indies must see its role in this community as one that is complementary to the overall national and regional aspirations of the Governments and their peoples.

(Aside: Mr. B. M. TAITT: Neither one of them said that.)

Hon. L. R. TULL: You don't mind what he or she said. You sit down and listen, because you talked so much foolishness, it is about time that somebody put you right. Nobody is talking about constructing a Polytechnic for a University, but the university must so programme itself as the interlock and complement the national and regional aspirations of Governments and peoples of this region.

Let me just tell you something of what we are talking about. We are not saying to teach motor mechanics at Cave Hill. That is not what we are talking about. We know, for instance, that there was a serious gap with training people in management and accountancy in Barbados, and we told the university that that was their role – you have to offer a degree course in accounts and management because we are moving into a phase of our development where this is critical to our development – and we met the same kind of resistance we are hearing about. I was told by a professor in a university sitting at a council meeting in Mona a few years ago the same kind of nonsense I am hearing; that the moment you say that a university is not a place only for pure scholarship or pure research, but that it must be pragmatic in its programmes to meet the indigenous needs and that there must be a movement away from pure research into applied research, you are talking about polytechnics. We do not see it that way.

The university's role transcends the kind of petty statements being made by the university. When the university was restructured, I think this is now about three years, we in Barbados assumed the responsibility for the day-to-day – well, not the day-to-day, the general management of the Cave Hill Campus.

(Aside: Mr. B. M. TAITT: That is the problem. You interfere with the day-to-day running of the University.)

Hon. L. R. TULL: I do not go in for this nonsense about interference. If people elect me, and I get a Ministry, the people tell me to run that Ministry, and I never heard any of you tell me yet that I am interfering in my Ministry. Any department under my portfolio, I will have a hand in running it. I do not go in for this nonsense about political interference in these things. You all were geniuses at it anyway. But I will not be sidetracked by that.

Since the University has been restructured, we have responsibility for the financing and management of the Cave Hill campus, and we have an excellent opportunity with this restructured University to bring to bear on the people who run the Cave Hill Campus the kind of programmes that we would want them to have gel, mesh, with the programmes that we have for the development of the country generally, and we will continue to take that stand. All those who argue that the classical role of a University is the role that must be passed on to the University of the West Indies are people who are living in cloisters; they are people who are not living in the real world and do not understand what is required in the development of strategies for countries such as ours.

I have heard a lot of arguments, Sir, that education is good in itself and for itself, a lot of old time, worn-out, dog-eared philosophical concepts about education that make modern people ashamed. That is what we are hearing from the Democratic Labour Party. Is that all you have to offer the people in 1986?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Two minutes more.

Hon. L. R. TULL: I want very quickly – I will speak again because I have a lot more things to say – to deal with the question of interference in the secondary schools. The Education Act was passed in Parliament in 1981. I was the Minister of Education at the time and I piloted that Bill through Parliament, and I can say with absolute assurance that there was not a single teacher sitting in the Public Gallery when it was passed, and do you know why there was not a single teacher in the Gallery? It was because the teachers were happy with the results of the Bill that was being put before Parliament. I said at the time, and I can repeat it, that I held at least 15 meetings with all the people involved in the education industry, the BUT, the BSTU, the Association of Headteachers, the National Parent Teachers' Association, the Association of Private Heads, everybody, and all of them agreed with every comma, every colon, every semi-colon and every period in the Education Bill that came before Parliament. I said it then and I repeat it, never mind all these arguments and confusion recently that this body is complaining about what is in the Act, every single one of the teachers' unions, official and unofficial associations agreed with every single thing that came before Parlia-

ment in the Education Bill of 1981. Therefore, Sir, and I am closing now, I do not understand those kind of self-serving statements made by the uninitiated.

They talk about having power in secondary schools. The Minister has had power in the primary schools from primaeval times, and we on this side see primary schools as the basis, the rock, the foundation of education in this country. The Ministry of Education has had direct control from time immemorial, and nobody has ever complained about it. But, somehow or other, in the secondary schools there are a lot of sacred cows, put in positions that they should never be put in by the Democratic Labour Party, trying to disturb the tenor of educational planning and administration in this country. As long as we are the Government, it shall not obtain.

Thank you.

2.20 p.m.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW (St. John): Mr. Chairman,.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Right Honourable Member for St. John.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Learned and gallant Member for St. John, Sir.

Mr. Chairman, an attack has been indirectly delivered on the judiciary of this island in my presence. As a member of the legal profession, I wish to distance and disassociate myself from any debate which reflects on a decision of the law courts of this island, whoever they may be delivered by, whether the Prime Minister himself – and he was not Prime Minister at the time – when he made an unkind reference to the Chief Justice of this island. I will not rub it in, but I certainly.....

(*Aside*: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Look at that one.)

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: What is it you called him?

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, order.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I see the honourable Member for Christ Church East Central (Hon. H. B. St. John) revelling in the fact that he attacked the head of the judiciary.

(*Aside*: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN. Like you did.)

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I have never attacked the.....All of my attacks on judicial officers were made in court, to their faces, and not in Parliament behind their backs.

(*Aside:* You cursed the court in here.)

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: No less a person than His Lordship, Mr. Justice Taylor, wrote me a letter, which I will produce. He started the letter by saying

"Dear Mr. Barrow,

> One thing I would say about you, if you had to tell me anything, you told me to my face and not like the other politicians attacked me behind my back."

And then he congratulated me on a certain event.

I do not think it is becoming for a former Attorney-General of this island, because a decision did not coincide with his concept of what he or the Ministry of Education was trying to do to the educational system in this island, to get in here and impeach decisions which were made in the law courts of this island. And no matter how much frivolity they may attach to this pronouncement of mine, I want it on the record that I do not agree with him.

I wish to say that when the first Education Act was introduced, I went further than any Member of this House, either on the Government benches or on the Opposition side – the Government benches being our side of the House.

Hon. L. R. TULL: rose.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: What is your problem now?

Hon. L. R. TULL: I do not have to speak to you, man. I do not want to hear you. Mr. Chairman, Sir,....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: He is addressing you when he says he should not have to speak to you.

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

Hon. L. R. TULL: I do not want to hear anything from you, man.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Tell him he always has to address the Chair, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order.

Hon. L. R. TULL: On a point of order, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Point of order. An honourable Member has risen on a point of order.

Aside.

Hon. L. R. TULL: The Right Honourable Member said that the former Attorney-General abused a judge or something to that effect, Sir, because he did not.....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I never used the expression, "abused" at all. That is your expression, part of your vocabulary, not part of mine.

Hon. L. R. TULL: We use a bigger vocabulary than yours. It is bigger, it is wider and it is more sophisticated and refined than yours, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let us hear your point of order.

Hon. L. R. TULL: The Right Honourable Member said that the former Attorney-General attacked the judges because they did not give a decision in his favour, or something to that effect, Sir. He cannot say that, Sir. Not even he can say that, Sir.

(Aside: Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I never said that.)

Hon. L. R. TULL: I am objecting to it. Sir.

Asides.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I am going on to say this, Sir. I will pay as much attention to him as you think he deserves, but no more.

Laughter.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: And that is not much.

Laughter.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Head 76. Please continue.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Thank you, Sir.

(Aside: Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sandiford, man I am going to put you on the bus. Vic Johnson gave me a pass for you.)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I should like to continue, Sir. I am the only Member of this House who took exception – I would not like to say violent exception, but I let my exception be known – because it was my view that if we were introducing an Education Act, we should have put all the schools in this island under an educational services commission. So that if, for any reason, there was a vacancy in a primary school or a secondary school because of the illness of a teacher, you could move somebody from Harrison College, Queen's College, Lodge School or wheresoever and send that person to act, having a common educational system. You would not have had all of this confusion about who was in charge of the school and who is not in charge of the school, if we had the educational services commission having full control.

Now here it is that we have in this island a Public Service Commission, and if an engineer is absent from his work in the Ministry of Communications and Works, another engineer can be transferred from another department I do not want to say the Waterworks, because I am not quite sure what status the Waterworks has – or from a special project, or from the airport, and sent to act in that post. The promotional ladder under a common commission would be much easier if we had a teaching service commission not only in word but in deed, and would have full control over the recruitment, promotion and other disciplinary functions over the whole of the teaching service in this island, for the simple reason that if a person is qualified, whether by degree training or otherwise, it does not matter which particular department that person may be teaching in, maybe in a primary school in Welchtown in St. John, we would get the same salary as somebody teaching at Lodge School up the hill. Therefore, since they are drawing the same salary, they should be subject to transfer under one common authority. I do not have to elaborate on that because, I do not care how many *Official Gazettes* you look up, that has always been my view, and you will find no contrary statement by me in any report of this House. I challenge you to find it. That is an argument which I had with my colleagues, an argument I have had with the Government. When I say argument, I stated my views. That is the end of that matter, as far as I am concerned.

Now when we come to this question of democratization of education, the Government is speaking with about three or four different voices. There you have the Minister, who says that she believes in elitism, and here you have the Minister of Trade who believes in democratization.

Hon. B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, Sir.....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: You are on record as having said you are an elitist.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member stands on a point.....

Hon. B. A. MILLER: No, no, no! I have to correct this.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On what? A point of order?

Hon. B. A. MILLER: A point of order.

I have never used the word, "elitism". I do not believe in it. He is speaking with a forked tongue from that side of the House.

(*Aside*: You said so.)

Hon. B. A. MILLER: Not me! You show me where I said so in here. That is all you all get up and do, say you say so and so, and you cannot show me. Show me! Not me! You all accused me!

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please continue.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: One would have to show the honourable Member a lot of things before she becomes a full Minister.

Aside.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: A full honourable Minister.

(*Aside:* Hon. B. A. MILLER: You go along. You are the big joke in here now.)

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I will write you a letter and refer to the particular paragraph. The Member said she was an elitist when it comes to educational matters. We do not believe in this kind of foolishness.
2.30 p.m.

The Prime Minister himself said that he has difficulty in making the university sort of comply with their requirements. I do not believe that you should interfere with the recruitment of staff at the university. I do not believe that they should deny work permits. But I believe that since we are paying for what would now appear to be the full cost of the training of Barbadians in the Cave Hill Campus at the university, we should have a say in any of the courses that they pursue at that campus.

During our time.....

Asides.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I do not have to tell them. They did not know who persuaded me because I was adopting a stand off. Let me explain something. I, for 11 years, was Chairman of the University Grants Committee, so I could not appear, in my capacity as Chairman of the Grants Committee, to be siding unnecessarily with the Barbados Government. But they were pressing me all the time, and as a result we introduced Biology when they did not want to do Biology, and we told them that we will pay for it.

Asides.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: But the point is that they pay for it now. We are paying for the full cost of the training of the people at Cave Hill and, therefore, we should tell them.

Let me give you this background. A lot of people feel that university education is something esoteric. University education is there to provide for the needs of the country. I had a problem in Jamaica everytime I went up there to preside over the UGC because they did not want to introduce Tourism into the curriculum of the university. I told them that tourism was the largest contributor to the gross domestic product of Barbados and it is ridiculous that we are giving the key courses in a lot of non-essential things — even in agriculture, which is not non-essential, but at a very expensive campus in Trinidad — things for which we did not have vacancies and we were treating tourism as if it was something disreputable. As a result of the attitude of the University Council, Mr. Pindling virtually refused to join the University of the West Indies unless we established a course in tourism, and he got so exasperated that he established his own college in the Bahamas. He then informed the university that he would join — on the consideration that we could send our students up there to the Bahamas — on a restricted basis on the other activities of the university.

Now there is a school of thought, particularly promulgated by people who went to the older universities in the United Kingdom, that you should not have a BA Icecream, and you would know the person who promulgated that theory. Dr. Eric Williams said that if you introduced all of these courses, the next thing you will want the university to do is to give a BA Icecream.

Aside.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Well, I would know, because I went to school with Dr. Williams. I disagreed with Dr. Williams. If you want a BA Snowcones, I feel you should be able to go to the university — and then some of our Ministers will be better qualified.

Laughter.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: If that is the way in which.....(*laughs*) I have a BA Icecream and BA Snowcones. The same society — Dr. Williams, had taught at an American university — that had run it down is the same country that put people on the moon. We have not even got a Barbadian space programme yet and we are

running down BA Icecream. What is wrong with BA Icecream? I think one Member on the opposite side said this morning, if that is what people want to learn and become proficient in, we will get better icecream, and it could mean improvement in the technology of food production.

What I am saying is not prevailing with the gentleman on the other side. I am saying that we should look at the requirements of the society in which we live and we should try to co-ordinate the whole process of our educational system so that people graduate; not necessarily in restricting the way of graduating but move smoothly from one level of education to the other level of education, and whatever vocation or profession or occupation they choose to follow, they should be able to become highly proficient in that particular department.

Without being pejorative, when we tried to establish the Community College, we met with so much resistance.

Asides.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: You took part in it. You should remember.

Asides.

Laughter.

(*Aside:* Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I rememberthat.)

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: You have got to remember. After that first the headmasters did not want to lose their cricketers and so on who had gotten to a certain level of attainment. They were more concerned that the American colleges would recognize the athletic performances of their senior pupils than the examination results. So we got a bit of opposition from the headmasters and headmistresses because they looked on the Community College as the eventual elimination of their sixth forms. As a matter of fact, Mr. Chairman, I am satisfied that they have justification for feeling that way, because I said so. I said so from away back. I think the expression I used was a quotation from Descartes whom I do not often quote because I am not a believer of the philosophies or the economics of Descartes. I said that it would be a withering away of the state, because when the Community College became more efficient in taking older students not only from those secondary schools that did not have sixth forms but by the quality of the staff and the teaching that they will be able to give, people who reached the sixth form level at the older schools would prefer to go to the Community College. I do not know to what extent my prediction has come true.

I am hearing a lot of talk of introducing sixth form to all students and that is a waste of taxpayers' money.

Asides.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I do not have to apologize for what I say. I am too old to apologize for what I say at this stage. After 35 years in here, I have a license to say what I feel, and there is nobody that you can bring in St. John that can quote me.

Asides.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: He was merely trying to defend you, Mr. Minister. He said that you had a BA Icecream as well. He was merely defending you. He is not? A PhD.? There is nothing wrong with a PhD. Icecream. No, I am very, very serious. I do not understand what the argument is about.

It is time that we decide what are the goals in the society. I am a product of the antiquated system, a product of the elementary and secondary school system here, and from an English university, Sir. I am a product of it. I do not think I am particularly proud that I am a product of it, but that is what existed when I came into the mill. But I am saying that we should be a little more forward looking now and try to establish the kind of interchange and systems whereby our people, no matter what their level of academic attainment, are able to fulfill their capabilities in what they aspire to, and we have got to go through the education system. We cannot have an education system which makes flesh of one and powder of another. We cannot have an educational system which looks on people who do classics or who do medicine as different from people who want to do joinery and manufacture snowcones. That is the way I feel about it. But there is nobody on this side manufacturing snowcones. You know how liberal I am in my point of view. You do not have to preach to me.

So I am saying that you better look at the establishment and the implementation of the Teaching Service Commission, Secondary School Teachers Association, and American School Teachers Association and that kind of thing. All of that should go on, and when the Government is dealing with teachers, they should not deal with where they come from but what qualifications they have, right across the board. That is my view.

2.40 p.m.

I would just like to disabuse the mind of the honourable Member for St. George South about one thing. In the same way that we ask ourselves what the goals in the society are, we have to ask ourselves what the priorities of the society happen to be from time to time. If there is one person responsible for the policy of at first not extending free university education to people who wanted to do law, it did not mean that if you wanted to do law you could not do law; all it meant was that they had to pay for it. And it was not a question of discrimination, because if

they wanted to do Sociology or Mathematics or Biology they could get it free, but in trying to put the emphasis on where the emphasis should be, we carried out a manpower survey and we decided what the priorities in the society were, and we were satisfied from our discussions with judicial people — let me put it that way — including lawyers, that there was a sufficient supply of legally trained persons in Barbados at that time, and since the economic problem is the problem of the allocation of scarce means to a lot of conflicting demands, we put the training of law as very low on the scale. It did not mean that when the requirement arose that we would not extend those facilities to lawyers. And we have extended it now, with the disastrous results which we are now witnessing, which I do not want to be invidious to examine.

(*Aside:* Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I hear they have 72 out there licking down one another).

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Seventy two licking down one another; that is true. They have them two a penny now, and some of them willing to sell ice cream. But there is nothing wrong with having highly qualified ice cream vendors too, I heard the Minister of Transport say that there is nothing wrong with driving a bus with five 'O' levels. There is nothing wrong with a lawyer selling ice cream, providing he does not get struck off.

The point is, should a Government, should the taxpayers pay somebody to study law to sell snowcones or ice cream? That is the simple problem we were faced with. We were satisfied that there was an adequate supply of lawyers, so do not say that we did not want lawyers. We did! I was a lawyer, and when I said that we should crown them with laurels and usher them out of the State, I would have been glad to have been ushered out of the State, not out of my seat in St. John, but metaphorically ushered as a lawyer out of the State, provided that I could keep my seat in St. John. I do not know how I would have accomplished that, but I think that all lawyers sometimes are just a bunch of nuisances. We are a bunch of nuisances. We do a lot of talking and every little action. We are not like engineers and producers in the society. You ask the honourable Member for St. Andrew (Hon. L. B. Brathwaite) whether he agrees with me or not.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, as you know, Sir, this is a very long Head and there is a whole number of things to be done.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I am not getting involved with the lawyers, man. When it suits you all, you tell me I am only a half of a lawyer, so do not put me in it. When it suits you, you will be telling me I am only half of a lawyer. Do not draw me in it. If the lawyers quarrel with one another, let them quarrel in peace.

Mr. Chairman, I just want, before moving on to the next point, to point out to this House that the Minister persists in giving information that is not true. The Minister got up in here and said that when this batch of people at Erdiston is trained, all the teachers will be trained. That is not true. I do not understand why the Government feels that they must come here and bring bogus information.

The truth is Sir, if you examine it, if you ask her to take these same Estimates and look at the posts of trained teachers and the posts of untrained teachers, we have a need in this country for trained teachers continuously. Furthermore, Sir, you will recall that it was only the other day the same lady said that they had enough trained nurses, and we cut off the training of nurses and then we ran into the same kind of stop-start, stop-start problem. It shows a lack of co-ordination and a lack of proper planning.

Erdiston Teachers College should not be involved in the horizons which she has demonstrated that they have found.....

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: That language will not make any difference. The Erdiston Teachers College and the changing of the Polytechnic's name is evidence of the utter confusion in the Ministry of Education. In any case, let them have the next two months, or whenever it is. They will soon have a properly co-ordinated education policy in there anyhow, so I do not see any point in continuing down the road.

Again, Sir, just to make the point, she talked about the amount of money which she spent. In truth, Sir, in 1975 — I took the trouble to examine the figures — we were spending 21% of the total Estimates, the total expenditure, on Education. In spite of the fact that they are now spending three times as much money, their level of expenditure is so high that it is only 18% of the total. Again it just demonstrates the point we made yesterday; that when you start talking in terms of percentages, it does not advance the issue.

But let me show you, Sir, how there is confusion. If you look at Subhead 1 you will see, "Improvements to primary and special schools." I am going to presume that it is under that Head, because I cannot seem to find it in the Capital Head, where they plan to assist the school that is about to be created as a result of the contributions of all levels of Barbadians. I am going to assume that that would be a special school, the Children's Development Centre. Would you believe, Sir, that in spite of every other class of person in Barbados raising a certain sum of money to bring the Children's Development Centre to the level it

has reached, the Government has been hard-nosed in the amount which they are going to make available to the Children's Development Centre? The Prime Minister is saying it is not true. I have perused these Estimates and I see no evidence that the amount which.....

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: It is not here. The Children's Development Centre has been told by the Government, as far as I know, that they are going to get $250 000 and not one cent more. It seems to me, as I understand what the Children's Development Centre will be doing, that this initiative taken by the citizens of the community ought to be gratefully acknowledged by the Government, and the Government must recognise that, if they do not become involved, only a few people will benefit as a result of the same thing they are saying that they do not want to get involved in. Only a few people will benefit with the Children's Development Centre unless the Government gets involved on the ground floor. That is the point we are talking about, Sir.

Mr. Chairman, there are three areas of special schooling in Barbados which comes under the aegis of the handicapped or similar type children. There has been a lot of progress made, but we really ought not to be treating this whole area as an embryonic area. We should by now have a clearly defined policy so that any, and I repeat, any and every child that is handicapped in any way in Barbados should be assured of a guaranteed education to the best of its ability. We ought to be dealing with the so-called handicapped children in this community as if they were citizens of this community who are going to benefit from the community, and our whole thinking should be geared toward allowing those children who are going to grow into adults, who are handicapped, or who are disadvantaged in any way, to feel that they are a part of the community.
2.50 p.m.

Now, somebody is going to get up and tell me about the Special Olympics, or about some other similar activity, but that is not what I am talking about. I am saying that there are children in the communities who come from the lower socio-economic classes who cannot get a place at Erdiston Special School, or who cannot get a place at Challenor, or who cannot get a place at one of the other institutions. And I am saying that this is an area in which the Ministry of Education, together with the Ministry of Health or Community Development, should be pioneering and demonstrating that we are ready to go into the 21st Century in our approach to this area of development. What we have instead is the same approach that was instant 20 years ago, or 25 years ago, in terms of the numbers, and in terms of the size.

There has been progress. There has been progress in that people are prepared to let other people know that their child is with some handicap. There is progress in that we now recognize them and they will show pictures of them. But, Sir, do you know we still have in Barbados places where people have in rural areas handicapped children that are tied indoors?

(*Aside:* Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Very few.)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Very few, but if we have one? Yes, of course, they are very few, but what I am saying is, I am using that to make the point that the policy in regard to these special schools needs a new emphasis. Every day you read in the newspapers that Challenor or somebody is about to close down because they cannot get funds. I think that the Government has a duty to those children that is equal to the duty of all other children. I do not think that we should be concentrating on any one stratum in this society. We should be able to improve the entire community in these Estimates. There should be, in these Estimates, a clearly defined amount that is going to guarantee, in the context of the philosophical position that I put earlier this morning, a place for those children that are not the same as what has been described as normal children. No doubt somebody is going to get up and tell me that under the Democratic Labour Party they were spending X, and under the Barbados Labour Party they are spending X plus 10. That is the way they approach it. I am saying that by now there should be a clearly defined plan so that if your child is born in Barbados with some kind of so-called deformity, you would not have to be anxious as to what kind of school your child is going to get to.

Mr. Chairman, let me go on to say this. We have Erdiston Special School, a very good school for these children who have different types of handicaps. But, for the girl children, what is going to happen to them after they get past 11? What happens when they get past 14? Their mothers are in terror, because with many of the children who have disabilities, some of their disabilities are not so serious that they are immediately apparent, and there are some young women in this community — 11, 12, 13, 15 years old — who have disabilities, and it is frightening, because there is nowhere to send them if they cannot get into 1, or 2, or 3 of the institutions. I am saying that we should not be in that stage now. In 1986, we should have an overall plan coming from the Ministry of Education, or at least spearheaded by the Ministry of Education, that would tell us where we are going with that.

Mr. Chairman, the concept of the broad educational system in the university has been aired sufficiently, but I just want to say to the honourable Member for St. George South, since he seemed to have misunderstood the point that I made earlier, that I am probably the only person in here, with the possible exception of himself — and he went to a classical school even in Canada — who has been to a

large institution where there is evidence in both the classical approach to education and the modern so-called approach to education within the same university. We are not discussing the one.....

(*Aside:* Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: Where is that?)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: The University of the City of New York. It embraces the college and another 14 colleges, plus another 27 sub-colleges. It is the biggest university in the world, but I have heard persons in Barbados decrying that university.

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Thank you. The Prime Minister understands these things. He once told the people on a political platform that he went to New York University, and I said I went to New York University and he could not tell which one it was.

Anyhow, Sir, the point I am making is that the City University is a good example. City University has within it one of the best engineering colleges in the world. It also has the Baruch School of Business, which, again, is one of the best schools, certainly in North America.

(*Aside:* Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: In the world.)

Mr. B. M. TAITT:.....In the world. The honourable Member says "in the world."

It also has the very best Fine Arts Production Centre of any university anywhere in the world, east or west, at Brooklyn College.

The point I am making is that it does not really serve us very well to be discussing our university system as if we having one or the other. All we are saying is that the university character must not be interfered with. The policy decisions have to be made by the people whose responsibility it is to determine policy. That same university that I am talking about, City University, is funded by public funds and, therefore, the regime in New York determines, to a large extent, what the broad policy would be, but having determined the broad policy, the university is left to carry on its work without let or hindrance, or without having to look over its shoulder.

I should declare an interest, according to the rules, because I am talking about the University of the West Indies, and I think it is well known in this Chamber that I am attached, on a part-time basis, to that institution, and, therefore, I have to declare an interest. I have also had the benefit of going to that institution, and I can say, without fear or favour, that it boasts among the finest law libraries anywhere in the world, and according to what one sees in terms of results, it is producing a fine quality of law graduates.

I just want to make one last point. The honourable Member for Christ Church West, only a year or two ago, when he was Attorney General, had to draw to the attention of this Chamber that we were in danger of having a shortage of lawyers to work in the Attorney General's Chambers. Now, in 1986, it is the position that they have a surfeit of lawyers available for the Attorney General's Chambers and, therefore, there are some persons who may apply who may not get a place at this time. But that does not mean, Sir, that we are to stop training lawyers, because the Attorney General's Chambers happen to have enough this year, because, Sir, 10 per cent of them will leave next year and go and start to work elsewhere and there will be need for more.
3.00 p.m.

I go further. A Government of Barbados that is going to be efficient ought by now not to be relying on any centralised pool of lawyers in the Attorney General's Chambers, but all of the departments should have their own legal persons to deal with the legal matters in their respective departments, which would guarantee a smoother and more effective carrying on of this. I will continue developing that point when I come back, Sir.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS (St. Thomas): Mr. Chairman, I really had no intention of getting involved with all this talk this week unless I had to. I just want to make two points, Sir. I understood the last speaker to be saying that there is no provision in this year's Estimates for the Children's Development Centre. If that is what I understood him to be saying, he said that Government is going to give $250 000 or some such thing.

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: He did not find it in the Estimates. I just want to draw his attention to page 94. I may have misunderstood you. If I did, I apologise.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: We are talking about Education and Culture embracing pages 77 to 85, so when I say I have not found it in here, that is where I am looking.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, there are just one or two points relating to what the honourable Member and his predecessor said. I want, first of all, to set the record straight on special education. This is a period of time when we cannot allow certain statements to go without challenge, because people will believe things more so now than at other times. The whole question of special education has been given very serious attention by this Government. It is important, first of all, that the honourable Member for St. Michael West does not mix up the Children's Development Centre with a school. It is not

a school; it is an assessment centre, so let us get that absolutely straight. The Government has provided programmes in special education. There is one at Erdiston School. I remember this, because I was the Minister at the time and I can remember these things too good, so you have to be careful what you are saying. There is one at Erdiston and one at the Charles F. Broome Memorial School. But it is not only the question of providing education for retarded children or children with special problems; the honourable Member is quite right when he says it is time for a humane society to bring children with deformities out of the closets and bring them out in public and deal with them, because they are human beings like the rest of us, and that is what informs our policy.

These special schools for children with mental or physical defects are anathema to the philosophy of this Government, and that is why we attached these wings to existing primary schools, so that children who are suffering from these disabilities will not be cast off like leopards in the Lazaretto, but will be in a school environment with normal children. We took the decision — this Government, not the Democratic Labour Party — to put these children in normal environments at the Charles F. Broome Memorial School, at the Erdiston Primary School, and I understand in more recent times there is a pre-vocational centre, a school situation for children who have these particular disabilities. So we cannot be preached to by the Opposition on these matters. We are not even recent converts. We are the ones who did the proselytising in Barbados, and I am glad to hear that the honourable Members on that side have been won over. We feel as powerful a commitment to these unfortunate children as anybody else you can find.

Let me just say a word about the Children's Development Centre. I am expressing my own personal view; it can be published as mine or as the Government's, I do not really care. It is all very well when a certain type of people get around Barbados and put out the begging bowl and make an appeal and collect money for these things. Right up in St. George you have the Thelma Vaughan Memorial School where children of the utmost deformity are living and being trained in conditions that I consider far unacceptable to a society as civilised as this, and — all this money you are raising, $1 million or whatever for a Children's Development Centre — none of those people would do a covenant for a few hundred dollars a year to look after these unfortunate children up in St. George. If the Government is going to spend $250 000 or whatever figure they are going to spend on the Children's Development Centre, I am demanding, as a representative of the constituency of St. George, that the Government put some money in the Thelma Vaughan Memorial Home, because those children out there need it as much as anybody else.

Do not tell me that that is the concern of the Democratic Labour Party. The Democratic Labour Party did nothing about these things. They dropped a subvention of $10 000 a year in the Challenor School and they said that is the end of their responsibility, but we do not operate like that. It is important that we get on record that this Government is committed, and remains committed, to developing these children with their handicaps like normal children, and the honourable Member does not know what he is talking about when he says that at a certain age they do not know where to turn, especially the girls. This Government has made provision through a number of agencies, the Industrial Development Corporation, for instance, to look in the industrial sector for the kinds of jobs that these people can do, and all across the industrial estates in Barbados there are children with handicaps who are able to find a niche somewhere in the industrial sector.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: If the honourable Member would give way, he is obviously misunderstanding the point that I made. I was specific. I called the age group, and I said 10, 11, 13 and 15. The IDC or no other agency can find jobs for them. The problem, if he examines it, at the Charles F. Broome School and at Erdiston is that when the children reach a certain level, there are only two classrooms at Erdiston and there is only one at Charles F. Broome and they can only take a limited number of persons who are deemed to have deficiencies, and I made the point that the mothers were not concerned about the children who are 17-plus who can in fact fend for themselves, but those children who grow up and look like grown-ups at age 12 and 13 and who would be easy prey for vandals out there. That is the point I was making.

Hon. L. R. TULL: I do not know if the honourable Member has any idea of the number of children who fall into that category. To say that there are only two classrooms at Erdiston and one at Charles F. Broome School up in Government Hill and now whatever amount of classrooms there are in the pre-vocational centres, to talk of them in terms of classrooms, is to misunderstand the numbers involved. Barbados has basically the vast majority of its children who are normal, so when you talk about a few classrooms, these basically are meeting the needs. So do not put it in terms of numbers.

I go further. In addition to that, Mr. Chairman, there are children with these kinds of deficiencies, if they are not exaggerated, that are in the regular primary school system, and there are a number of them who are in the regular secondary school system. So when you are adding up the figures, add everything.

I want, Mr. Chairman, quickly to move off the whole question of special education. The honourable Member said that we were going to get up and talk about the Special Olympics. We do not go in for gimmicks when it

comes to children. When it comes to children and their development, their education, training and upbringing, we do not get into gimmicks.

When I last spoke, I wanted to move on to the question of guidance counsellors and so on. We have just approved 25 posts of counsellors in the secondary school system in Barbados, and it is not as the honourable Member suggests, it is not a question of picking up untrained people who are looking for a job and putting them to do a special job. We have a number of trained guidance teachers already, the others are undergoing training, and all the people who we use as guidance counsellors in the schools will be specially trained for that work. I want to slip in here the fact that I am firmly of the view that every single teacher must be a counsellor, trained or not trained. Every teacher must be a counsellor, and it is my hope, Mr. Chairman, that when these counsellors are put throughout the school system, teachers would not move away from the traditional role of counsellor and adviser to children in the school system.
3.10 p.m.

I want to move on. I am going to go back for a brief moment to the university, Sir. I really would like to say that the contribution by the Right Honourable Member for St. John on university education and the role of education accords in very large measure with mine, and I am prepared to adopt 90% of what he said as my own, just as he has adopted 90% of what I said as his own. I am glad at the way he kicked off and showed up the unschooled — I mean unschooled in this area, Sir, I do not mean that they did not go to school — Members of the benches over there who talked so much sustained foolishness earlier in the day.

There is one other thing I want to mention in respect of what he said, Sir. The Right Honourable Member called for a teaching service commission which, as he said, would enable the Government to move teachers from one school to another as the need arises. All I can say, Mr. Chairman, is that the Right Honourable Member for St. John is welcome to the club because that is exactly the position of the Government, and that is enshrined in the Education Act. It is not the teaching service commission. What is in a name? The Public Service Commission carries out that exact function. I want to read part of what was said at that time — these are the Debates for the period of 1981, the middle of 1981, Sir, and I am reading from page 5445 of the Hansard:

> "The Ministry of Education under its ridiculous, outdated, archaic legislation has no power to transfer one of those specialist maths teachers from School A to School B, and quite often you cannot count on the Governors or Head Teacher of a particular school to co-operate with the Ministry of Education in meeting any definite need."

And it goes on, Sir:

> "We want a unified teaching service with all the teachers in the secondary schools employed by the Ministry of Education,.....with the power that the Minister of Education will be able to move, transfer — not wantonly and recklessly, or spitefully, Sir — to move them around to satisfy the clear and definite needs in the system. I believe that this creation of a unified teaching service will go the whole way towards meeting that particular need."

That is what I said in 1981 when I introduced the Education Bill in this Parliament. That is what is captured in that particular piece of legislation. So when the Right Honourable Member says today that his view accords with this, I can only say, Sir, welcome to the club.

I want to make one final point before I give way on this particular matter, and it relates to the question of teacher training. Teacher training is vital for the system to hold its own. The honourable Member for St. Michael West made a few comments, some of them well-directed, some others not well directed, in respect of teacher training when he made comments about Erdiston Teachers Training College. It is our view on this side, Sir, that every single teacher in the school system in Barbados must be properly trained. You do not put somebody to do surgery in Barbados or practise medicine, or law, or engineering, or what have you, without training them to operate in that particular profession. Teaching is a profession that has more importance than any of them, and it is important that every single person who stands up in a class room in this country to teach our children should be trained. It is for this reason, Sir, that I have always contended that a person who does not understand his role cannot succeed, and that had been happening in education for a long time when we had people with a few 'O' levels, without the slightest understanding about what teaching entails, standing before the classes in this country.

We have kept up training, contrary to what the honourable Member said. We have worked out, with the University of the West Indies — and this is one of the areas where you are talking about inteference — it is our university and we will tell them what our needs are — we started a course, this Government, Sir, for managers in the schools — head teachers, senior teachers, heads of departments — in educational management and administration. You cannot have a school of 1 300 and 1 400 children, 75 teachers and 15 to 20 ancillary staff — groundsmen, maids, School Meals workers, whatever —

and expect an old time professional teacher to be able to manage that size of plant and staff without proper training, and we started training in educational management administration at Cave Hill and paid for it entirely out of the Treasury of Barbados. In other words, this is not a contribution made by other members of the University, because we saw that as a priority. We have continued in that vein by sitting down with the university, the Barbados Community College and the Teachers Training College and worked out collaborative training programmes for teachers in the untraditional areas, like in Industrial Arts, Home Economics, Art and these areas where teachers never used to be trained before. We worked out a collaborative effort between three institutions where the University of the West Indies would do the certification so that even in these areas, we would also be able to put people who are equipped to teach.

I do not understand, Mr. Chairman, how the Opposition can get up and make the kind of criticism that they are making about education in this country when so much has happened in so short a period of time.

Mr. Chairman, I want really to move on some other areas because I want to talk about university education; not its role any more, but other aspects of what is happening, and I hope the debate would be prolonged until time call this evening.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, with reference to the comments made by the honourable Member for St. Michael West in respect of the use of lawyers in the Public Service, about three months ago I announced that Government had decided that in future we would provide avenues of employment for lawyers, particularly those trained at Cave Hill, in Government departments, and I identified a number of such departments; for example, Income Tax, Customs, the Police, in the sense of prosecutors to relieve Police Sergeants from having to prosecute and therefore bring trained and skilled legal minds to the function of prosecuting. There will be other areas. We are looking at how, perhaps – and Members on that side who were in the Cabinet in their time would know that you get a number of claims through MTW for negligence actions – we can have a corps of lawyers, or one or two at least, attached to MTW. 3.20 p.m.

We have to work out the ramifications of that and we also have to see how that might impinge on the true role and function of the Ministry of the Attorney General, which will still have a role of an advisory nature. But in pursuance of that thinking, Members will have noticed some weeks ago an advertisement for Treasury Counsel – I think two – lawyers who will be attached to the Ministry of Finance particularly responsible for income tax work. So that we are starting that process of injection of legal personnel into the system apart from the Attorney General's Chambers. I am farming them out into crucial Government departments where that particular legal expertise is wanted. I just wanted to put that in the record.

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

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I really did not intend to speak on this particular matter. But quite a number of issues have been raised and I would, therefore, like to make a few observations on the subject that is before this Committee. We must in this Committee consider the policy relating to the subject that we are dealing with, that is Education, and it is also a requirement that we look at that policy in relation to certain specifics to see whether the policy is achieving its objective, if it is falling short, why it is falling short, and such related matters.

There is no doubt at all that when we talk about the field of education, as when we are talking about the field of health or welfare, we are talking about an area which demands the use of resources which are generally generated from elsewhere in the economy. And a country, depending on the ideology or philosophy of those responsible for the administration of the country at any particular time, gets the kind of educational or social sector administration in accordance with the resources put in, and in accordance with the ideological bent required.

In Barbados over the years, successive Governments have contributed a substantial part of their resources to the social sector, including education, and over the years also there has been a change in the outlook and the aims related to education. There is no doubt that at one time the main thrust of education was elitist. There was a broad primary school base, a narrow secondary base and an even narrower peak when it came to university education. Now that whole approach has changed and our system has responded to the democratising forces, and we now believe that each person in the society is entitled to the kind of education which the talents, abilities and aspirations of the student and the parent deserve. And so it is the responsibility of those who are in charge of the educational system to try to provide the kind of facilities, the kinds of programmes, which the economy of the country can provide. It is against that background that we have to view what is happening in education and what has been happening in education.

We are not going to get a better educational system out of merely shouting and trying to score cheap political points. We have to get down and look at the issues and look at the policies in relation to what we are trying to do, and sometimes to ask ourselves, fundamentally – are we really doing the right thing? Or, even if our aims and objectives are correct, are the courses and policies which we are adopting the best for attaining those objectives? But we have a tendency in this country to use some slogans and hope that those slogans will solve a problem,

or that when we use a slogan, that that has explained a particular problem and solved it. Let us look at the slogan about sending the 14 year-olds back to school. Nothing was more indicative of a complete misunderstanding of what was happening in education than this slogan about sending the 14 year-olds back to school as though it was a deliberate policy of any Government in this country within the last 20 years to send 14 year-olds out of school.

Let us look at what has happened. In the post-war period, this country inherited an educational system colonialist in character and elitist in practice. And, let us say, when the Member for Christ Church East Central (Hon. H. B. St. John) was at school, when the Member for St. George South Hon. L. R. Tull) was at school we were colleagues together at school – the system was distinctly elitist and a substantially large number of students, if you want to use the phrase then, the 14 year-olds, were sent home in very large numbers. In the 1940s and 1950s they were sent home. The 14 year-olds were sent home because there was only a limited number of secondary school places available in the country at the time. You had the ten so-called grammar schools in the 1940s, and you had a sprinkling of private secondary schools. In the 1950s, following the pattern in Britain, a couple of secondary modern schools were introduced, so-called secondary modern schools. And with the opening of those secondary modern schools – St. Leonards Boys and Girls and Princess Margaret and, let me say, West St. Joseph – Princess Margaret was the first and West St. Joseph – some of the 14 year-olds were kept on in school. But by 1961 there was still a small number of persons benefitting from secondary education or being in school beyond 14 years of age. So if we are serious in this country and talking about education, it is pointless using phrases like the Government, meaning the Democratic Labour Party Government at the time, was deliberately sending 14 year-olds home out of school. Because if you make that statement, you also have to make it about the preceding Barbados Labour Party Government, which took over power in this country, let me say, from 1948. They were also sending the 14 year-olds home.

3.30 p.m.

The point I am making is that with each additional secondary school constructed in this country, and with each extension to a secondary school, more and more of the 14 year-olds were retained in the school system. And so when we look at the school building programme, the great school building programme that was initiated in this country between the years 1961-62 and 1976, we will see that more and more of the 14 year-olds were retained in school. Let me name them: Ellerslie Secondary School, Springer Memorial Secondary School, the St. George Secondary School, the Garrison Secondary School, the St. Lucy Secondary School. In each one of those schools as they were opened, more and more of the 14 year-olds were retained in school, so that it was a problem that was being dealt with over a period of time. In addition to that, with the extensions to the existing secondary schools, additional places were provided at each of the existing secondary schools. Almost all of them had extensions and their rolls increased, and with that process more and more of the 14 year-olds were retained in school.

Let me make the point also that these schools were constructed not out of any borrowed money, they were done out of the resources of Barbados. We did not go to the Inter-American Development Bank, or to the World Bank, or to any other international lending agency in order to provide those schools. They were done within the resources of the country as those resources became available. That is what we call managing your economy in accordance with your resources. That was the approach. So that when the Barbados Labour Party came into power in 1976, the problem was substantially solved, and with the additional secondary schools and extensions which were to be provided, including a secondary school for St. Thomas and including extensions to the other secondary schools – we had projected that we needed another five secondary schools. There was a quarrel with one of the international agencies about the exact requirements, but that is what we were saying – the problem was substantially licked by that time. So that by 1976, I would say that almost 80% of the children of that school age were actually in school. There was a problem to be solved, but it was a minor problem compared with the other problems.

Now, having dealt with that particular slogan about sending the 14 year-olds back to school, as though it was a deliberate, callous policy on the part of the previous Government in relation to education at that particular level, let me move on to another one. There is some particular feeling abroad again that the Democratic Labour Party Government ignored the primary level of education. I believe it was the Member for St. George South who indicated that there was a feeling – he said people somewhere, I do not remember where he said – were saying that we paid no attention to the primary school area. I take it that that kind of comment is reserved for the political platform.

(Aside: Hon. L. R. TULL: Well documented, man.)

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Well, I want to document something here now, too, because when we look at the development at the primary level and we saw the construction of the Good Shepherd Primary School, we saw the construction of the St. Margaret's School, St. John, then we talk about the Grazettes Primary School, we talk about the Stow Primary School, we talk about the new Pine Primary School, we talk about the St. Bartholomew's Primary School, we talk about the St. Christopher's Primary School, the Primary School at Lammings.....

(Aside: Dr. the Hon. R. L. CHELTENHAM: St. Christopher's falling down.)

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: If the primary school at St. Christopher is falling down, that is a question of neglect over the past ten years. Ten years now you have been in Government and you are telling me that the school is falling down? It means that in ten years you have not been paying any attention to it.

Then you have Grazettes Primary School. All of these are new primary schools or major extensions provided again substantially out of the resources of the people of Barbados.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Two minutes more.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: That is the position, and it was not only in the provision of additional school places, because I would like to direct the attention of this Committee to the attitude of the then Opposition to the policy of the Government of the day, and it was that we were building too many schools. That is the argument that the Barbados Labour Party Opposition offered at that time, that the Democratic Labour Party was building too many schools. And then when they got into power, what did they do? They streaked off to the international agencies and then made what is called now a U turn, a complete U turn. They streaked off to the international institutions and borrowed money and then said that they were going to build more schools in five years than the Democratic Labour Party built in 15. A complete U turn of policy, because they realised that one of the requirements for the fashioning of a sound educational policy is the provision of adequate school places, and why we had to get a balanced programme taking into account, the requirements at primary level and secondary level, was the fact that there were enough places, more or less adequate, at the primary level for 100% of the school population, but then you had a narrowing, a constriction, at the secondary level.

Mr. Chairman, that is Part One of my presentation.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, I listened to the honourable Member for St. Michael South. The honourable Member for St. Michael South, when he was Minister of Education, found himself on many occasions at variance with his colleagues in the Cabinet with regard to educational policy. There is no doubt about that, Sir. The Minister had his views on a number of things, including the rehabilitation of primary education, the establishment of a Community College, the setting up of a polytechnic and several other areas where there was fundamental disagreement between him and the other members of the Cabinet. He is free to get up and refute that if he wants to. He does not need to make the kind of plaintive statement that he is making today in respect of his record.

It is a fact, and I am challenging the honourable Members on the other side to deny it, that the Democratic Labour Party Government before the 1976 period approached the World Bank for money for an educational programme project and was turned down. The World Bank told them that they were not providing any loan funds for secondary education in Barbados. It followed shortly on the heels of the Right Honourable Member for St. John, who was Prime Minister at the time, going up to Washington and wrongly abusing the World Bank and its Chairman, Robert McNamara, who before that was Secretary of Defence in John Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson's Cabinet. So the Right Honourable Member for St. John sacrificed the opportunities for all Barbadians by his gross misconduct at the World Bank Meeting in Washington. The Bank told him "No, we are not lending you any money."
3.40 p.m.

I am not saying it on a political platform when you cannot answer me. He can answer me right now, and I am willing to sit down if what I am saying is not true.

Asides

Hon. L. R. TULL: I am not like the rest of you. I do not have to attack the honourable Member for St. John behind his back, like all of you do. I will do it in front of his face, not behind his back, anywhere.

Asides

Hon. L. R. TULL: He is wrong. The honourable Member denies that the state of the primary education had reached such a position in the mid-1970s that both local and international educators were moved to comment on the deteriorating standards in primary schools in Barbados. I am not only talking about the educators outside the Government Service. The very advisors in the Ministry of Education were expressing serious concern during the incumbency of the honourable Member for St. Michael South and his successor, the then honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, on the deteriorating standards in primary education in Barbados. Do not challenge us in these things. In the Shorey Report that was commissioned by them – it was one of their documents – they said so. But, right in the Ministry, the educational advisors to the Minister at that time were expressing concern about the deteriorating standards in primary education. It does not come from me. I am only quoting what I read and what I heard.

I want to mention this business also about these 14 year-olds going back to school. The honourable Member is quite correct when he says that you are moving from a colonial situation and a postwar situation where only 19% of the children of secondary school age were at secondary schools. He is perfectly right when he says, if he did say

it, that the Barbados Labour Party came along and sought to correct that situation by building schools at West St. Joseph, St. Leondard's Boys, St. Leonard's Girls and so on to change that situation. If he did not give credit there, Sir, I think it was a serious dereliction of duty.

The honourable Member is perfectly correct in saying that it takes time to build schools at the secondary level to provide places for all the children at that age. What he does not say, however, is that within two weeks of change of Government in 1976, without an additional classroom being built in Barbados, 1 100 children who were put out of school in July of 1976 were returned to the classroom. I remember; I went down to Ellerslie School in Black Rock. I was at a Speech Day at Ellerslie School in Black Rock two weeks after I went into the Ministry of Education, and I made the announcement that, as of the following week, all children who were turned out of school by the Democratic Labour Party at the age of 14 in July 1976 shall return to school.

It was not easy. I met resistance in the Ministry of Education. I said earlier that there is an inherent resistance to change by educators, and I met resistance from the people in the Ministry of Education who were advising me. I told them I was not the slightest bit concerned about their point of view, but I wanted an inventory of all available Government buildings that were vacant.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: On a point of elucidation.

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

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: I said on a point of elucidation, and the honourable Member has given way.

We did speak on the question of the 14 year-olds going out of school, but the honourable Member is now saying that three weeks after he became Minister of Education, he gave an order and the 14 year-olds went back to school. True? I want to get you correct.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is the honourable Member elucidating his speech or the honourable Member's speech?

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: I have to elucidate what I said by reference to what he is saying now. I have specifically asked a Parliamentary Question, No. 13 in 1978, about the 14 year-olds leaving school, and during the school year, 1977– 1978, the Barbados Labour Party Government was still sending home 1 063 14 year-olds who left the school in that particular year, and now the Member is saying that in three weeks' time he solved the problem. What I am saying is that this is a problem that had to take time to solve over a period of time, but do not mislead the House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please. You cannot make another speech.

Hon. L. R. TULL: I gave the honourable Member his day in studs. We have not heard him for a long time.

I want the honourable Member to understand this. Children who left school in 1977 left school of their own volition after the age of 14. Those who left in 1977 – 1978, the period he was talking about, left school of their own volition.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, if the honourable Member will give way.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order. I cannot have this.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: That is not true.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please. The honourable Member for St. Michael South, you have a lot of time, you can come back again.

Hon. L. R. TULL: I do not want that, Sir. The honourable Member can get up; I will give way to him as soon as I have the point and he can say whatever he has to say.

What happened in 1976 was that children who wanted .to go to school, and went to the schools and begged the headteachers to admit them back to school, could not go back because the Democratic Labour Party said they were not to go back. That was the position in 1976. In 1976 and through 1977, we set up a number of training areas around Barbados and expanded the numbers that were being admitted to the traditional schools. For instance, Sir, children who were put out of school in 1976 during the regime of the Democratic Labour Party were put back into St. Michael's Girls School, some who had never been to a grammar school in their lives, some went to Alexandra School, some went into Foundation School.
3.50 p.m.

(Aside Mr. B. M. TAITT: Two.)

Hon. L. R. TULL: There was a whole form admitted, according to my recollection, at the Alexandra School, but – the answer is very simple, and I am giving it to you, but you are getting misled by your neighbour – the law in 1976, 1977 and 1978 did not require children to be at school after the age of 14. This is a point that you have to understand before you make that intervention. We changed the law subsequently, making education compulsory to the age of 16, so that children could not leave at 14 even if they wanted to. But up to the time about which the honourable Member asked a Parliamentary Question, any child at 14 years who did

not want to go back to school was free not to go back to school because the law did not require him to be in school. So when you asked your question and you got an answer, it was in the context that at that time you could not coerce a child to stay in school after the age of 14. On the contrary, Sir, children were begging the Democratic Labour Party, 'Please, let me stay in school a little longer,' and they were turned out of school unceremoniously.

Now you notice, Mr. Chairman, that in this whole day's debate I have talked and I have said nothing about these 14 year-old children going back to school. Not a word did I say about it for the whole day, and the honourable Member for St. Michael South would have done well to let sleeping dogs lie, because I had no intention of talking about it. That is now history, but if he chooses to bring it into debate and bring it up in these twisted terms, I have to respond to set the record straight, and I am saying that within two to three weeks – I cannot remember the exact time but it cannot be more than three weeks after I went into the Ministry of Education – I directed that those children be returned to school, those who wanted to, because the law could not compel them after 14. Seven hundred or 800 of them returned to school.

I remember the honourable Member for St. James South (Mr. N. K. Simmons). He went to the Hindsbury Parent-Teachers Association meeting before Easter of 1977 – I have a long memory – and told the Parent-Teachers at Hindsbury School that it was wrong to return the children to school like that. It is on record. You are on record. You said they should not have been put back in school.

(Aside: Mr. N. K. SIMMONS: I still feel it was wrong.)

Hon. L. R. TULL: The honourable Member still feels it was wrong. The Shadow Minister of Education for four years in the Democratic Labour Party, between 1981 and 1984, the honourable Member for St. James South, says today that he still feels it was wrong to put those children back in school. That needs to go in the record, because you will hear a lot more about it later on.

Now, Mr. Chairman, in the last few minutes before the end of this fifteen minutes period, I want to deal with another point raised by my friend, the honourable Member for St. Michael South, because you will hear a lot more from me on this. I heard today from Members on the other side that the bare spending of money is not delivering a proper educational system. Agreed. The honourable Member for St. Michael South must understand that the bare construction of buildings is not the delivery of proper education or education at all. You have to combine the construction of the buildings with what you do in them.

I really think that the honourable Member for St. Michael South has got some nerve to get up in here and talk about building a school at St. Margarets. They built a school at St. Margarets and I went and saw the school. I could drive an army tank through the school without the children in the school even feeling the air when it passed by, and it was all meant to satisfy the personal interest of the Right Honourable Member for St. John. At that time there was a school at Welch Village in St. John a few hundred yards away that had 27 people in it; a head-teacher, a senior teacher, another teacher, two School Meals' workers, two janitors and 17 children. A school in Barbados, at Welch Village, St. John, and you can check it out, with 17 children only, with three teachers. If I remember they probably had a watchman too, a head-teacher, a senior teacher, a third teacher, two School Meals' workers, a janitor and possibly a watchman with 17 children, and the honourable Member went a few hundred yards away and built a new school, and you could have played a cricket match, a test match, inside that school without any of the children being threatened by the ball. You have the nerve to come in here! Now the very school has fallen down.

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: A firm called Layne Construction built it.)

Hon. L. R. TULL: But do you know what appeared on the file? That the school at Welch Village was to remain open for electoral purposes. That appeared on a Government file. Don't shut down this school with 17 children and seven workers....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Hon. L. R. TULL: I will come back, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I do not really think that there is anything to rebut in what the honourable Member for St. George has said. As far as some statement appearing on file about a school being provided for electoral purposes, that must have appeared.....Well, I do not like to speak about anything that I do not know of, but I am certainly not aware of any such minute, and I am certain I did not write that particular minute. I do not know what time it was added, so unless and until the honourable Member can provide further and better particulars, I do not think that this Committee can take cognisance of that particular statement.

I want to talk about a slightly different subject. Mr. Chairman, before I get into the question of the diversification in the field of education, I just want to set the record straight as far as the numbers leaving school in the school year 1977 – 1978 is concerned, because the Minister of Trade, Industry and Commerce, or Commerce and Consumer Affairs, has indicated that

in three weeks – his latest position is three weeks – he solved that problem with the 14 year-olds. But yet, on a question asked on 7th November 1978, in response the reply was given that 168 students 14 years of age left school voluntarily; that 540 14 year-old pupils were required to leave the secondary schools, that 145 14 year-old pupils left the composite schools voluntarily and 250 14 year-old pupils were required to leave the composite schools.

Hon. L. R. TULL: The honourable Member is willing to give way. That is why you have to be careful. That is why when you take an oath in court you have to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. If you are just telling the truth and leaving out some, you get the wrong picture. The children who were required to leave the secondary schools were put into centres like at Hindsbury, the Garrison and St Giles – the vocational centres – so these children were not left out of the education system. When you say they were left out of the secondary schools, they were put into a number of centres.

4.00 p.m.

I remember one was at Hindsbury, one was at.....

(Aside: Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Parkinson.)

Hon. L. R. TULL: .....Parkinson, one was at St. Giles, one was at the Garrison, one was at Good Shepherd. What the honourable Member states there is the truth, but it does not turn out to be the whole truth.

(Aside: Mr. B. M. TAITT: And nothing but the truth.)

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Yes. And the Member for St. James South supplied the other part of the truth when he spoke to the Hindsbury Parent-Teachers Association that they.....

Aside.

Laughter.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Oh, that is before the question. Anyhow, I think we can pass on from that particular point.

I wish to get on, first of all, to this question of the handicapped. I think this is an important area of education, and it is one that any school system with a conscience has really to pay attention to, the area of education for the handicapped. It is nothing that we should really try to make any kind of political capital out of. It is a provision that should be made, because I genuinely believe that those at the upper end of the educational ladder, that is, those of very superior intelligence, should be provided for specially, and those at the opposite end should also be provided for specially.

I think that successive Governments have tried to make such a provision in accordance with the resources which may be available. There is no point going over the record. The School for the Deaf was provided, and for additional students with particular handicaps of any special nature, attempts were made to accommodate them, as resources would permit. And there was a clear indication from professional officers. The professional thinking was – and, as I understand it, still is – that wherever possible students or pupils with handicaps should be educated in normal schools so long as they can benefit within that particular educational environment. I am trying to refresh my memory. It was not only the question of the School for the Deaf, but I recall that in 1979, and I believe this will come as a shock to the Members over there – I have been asking for the document in here but I cannot find it – I recall very well the political statement of the Democratic Labour Party for the 1971 General Election indicated that a children's development centre would be provided as part of the policy for education in relation to the handicapped. I only mention this not to say that the present Children's Development Centre and those responsible for it should be given whatever credit for developing their ideas and raising the necessary funds, and I believe that the state should make an appropriate contribution towards that kind of education, but I am trying to indicate that these kinds of ideas and proposals have long histories. They just do not start or come into being in full panoply. They have a history, and those indications are there.

I want to get on to this whole question of education and training because I do not think we should be confused over this particular issue. There is an area known as education and there is an area known as training, and the two are not the same thing. Education is different from training, but education and training are also directly related, and there is a point at which they overlap. So, in a sense when you set up the distinctions and differences, you can be right in trying to set up such differences and distinctions, but you can also be wrong. And the fact is that if you look at the development of our administration machinery, I think it would be clear that over the years, the Ministry of Education, not that it wanted to get in specially to the area specifically of training, but when the requirements for training became clear and pressing, it was the Ministry that was best geared and staffed in order to take over the responsibility, until another Ministry might be able to get into that particular area, particularly, let us say, the Ministry of Labour. That Ministry did not have the necessary infrastructure and resources at that time to undertake the promotional work – it was being geared for that – so the Ministry of Education shouldered that particular responsibility. That is why we went into the area such as establishing the Hotel School and of transforming the Technical Institute, which was set up I

believe in 1948 – in the late 1940s, the exact date slips me at the moment – and established the Polytechnic, merging the Technical Institute into that Polytechnic, to provide a variety of skills for the children of this country.

But let us not make any mistake about it. The primary responsibility of the Ministry of Education is to provide a sound education for the children of this country. That is what parents are interested in and it is what they should be interested in, that their children get a good general education from the educational system in this country. That means skills in literacy and numeracy, it means developing skills in the areas of the social studies and the social sciences and in the natural and other sciences as well, and it means developing the power to think, to analyze, so that they can understand and not be easily fooled by those who would try to use any kind of tricks in their approaches.

We can sling around the phrase, "the world of work" because that is also a favourite phrase and slogan that is being used, "the world of work". But when we come to pin this slogan down to exactly what it means in terms of the curriculum and in terms of education, things become a little hazy. Should an educational institution set itself up to train for a specific industry or should it give the student the broad skill, if it is an industrial area or if it is in tourism, and then the particular at the workplace, the person being malleable, having, the necessary approaches to a problem, a knowledge of it – do you like the word malleable? – having that kind of education would be able to absorb the specifics relating to the industry.

4.10 p.m.

Now I would like to say something. From time to time during my tenure as Minister of Education, a number of industrial concerns said they wanted training specifically for their businesses. We were constrained to tell them that we cannot provide that specific training for a specific industry because that is a requirement of the industry or the particular workplace itself – we could provide them with the people who have the necessary skills and they could then benefit from in-service training or a plan training. But when you go into that area of training for a specific industry, you are opening yourself for some serious problems, because they themselves misunderstand their own requirements, or their requirements may be very short term. I remember it happened with the Polytechnic as well. At one stage I was told by my own side.....

Aside.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: .....nobody in here now ..... that we are going to need 1000 carpenters or some such numbers for some big industrial take-off that never materialised, and I admit that. We have to resist the kinds of short term outlook that is not really based on any sound projections or whatever it may be.

So we have to look and be very careful when we are talking about training. The important thing is that our educational system must be so developed, and it must be so diversified, that, whatever the requirements in the country, the system must be able to respond to that. And we must develop the levels of intelligence and the skills, social and intellectual, of our young people so that they can deal with and respond to the many and changing situations with which they will be confronted in life.

Sometimes it is forgotten that the first division that was opened at the new campus at the Barbados Community College was not the Division of Liberal Arts or Science. It was the Division of Technology, geared towards the need of the country for graduates at that level in technological subjects. So it is really not true to say that our system has not been responding. That is the kind of criticism of an educational system when we cannot find the answers to other problems, because I am going to say here and now that we can provide all of the training that we want to provide, that is not going to solve the basic problem in this country, and that is; how are you going to provide jobs for the school leavers when they leave school with whatever skills they have when they leave school? There is going to be a major problem there. Training and education will absorb some of of that, but whenever we are finished, that is a major problem that our system must find an answer to, the question of employment and unemployment in this country. And it is not the educational system that is going to solve this, and it is not a question of anybody pontificating as to what kind of structure you should have and what kind of structure you should not have, because sometimes it is forgotten that education is a co-operative effort. It involves the students, it involves the teachers, it involves the parents and it involves the educational community generally, and you have to try and find some kind of concensus that may be able to bring a solution to the problem.

We have had some problems in our educational system.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Two minutes.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: It might be well and good to say that we should have one Teaching Service Commission in the country that can look after all the educational needs of the country, but at any given juncture you have to try to get the maximum possible co-operation that may be available, and there were massive legal problems involved, there were also some union problems involved, and it just was not possible at that particular time.

Aside.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: What – Teaching Service Commission?

Aside.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: It is the Public Service Commission.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: The Public Service Commission – and you have the problem that has come up as a result of that, because when you felt that we were dragging our feet, or if you want to say that we did not have the courage to do something or another, it was not that. Prudence is not lack of courage. But you went ahead, and the very sections that you changed in the Education Act of 1975 are the areas which landed you into trouble before the courts.

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: What about the part that you changed?)

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: No, no, the part that you changed which landed you into trouble.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I am glad that he started. He ended off on this point because the Honourable Leader of the Opposition spoke and disappeared, Sir. No doubt he has to have his usual after-noon nap.

Now, Sir, ...

(Aside: Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: The honourable Member for Christ Church East Central disappeared. He only just came back in here, too. You went for your 'after what'?)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would not ask you to repeat that.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I was on the precincts of the House and you would know that there are no napping facilities here.

Now, Sir, this is a very interesting point. I was very glad that the Leader of the Opposition made the point, because the more one looks at the history of their attempts to introduce a unified Teaching Service in Barbados, the more one was convinced that, faced with the problems as they saw them, they allowed themselves to be pushed into a position that they would not implement what they believed in and what they knew was for the good of the Teaching Service in Barbados.

There are two points that should be brought out at this stage. I did not raise it, they raised it, and I am going to bring them out. The amendment to the Constitution in 1974 clearly envisaged the creation of a parallel commission for teachers. In short, you were going to have a specialist commission to deal with the unification of the Teaching Service. When you reached the stage that you were going to amend the Constitution to deal with that matter, that displayed a deep commitment to the need and necessity for a unified Teaching Service. You went further – and never forget this – because you also amended the Pensions Act, one of them, to say that if you refused to accept the new terms and conditions and they were comparable to the ones you had before, you could not get your pension. Do not forget that. A final knockout blow that you always had in your hand that you were going to deliver to any people who were obstructionist, or whom you believed to be obstructionist! That is one of the great issues that has been at stake from the beginning. So that when I hear this talk, particularly from the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, with his usual shallow investigation of the history and equally shallow understanding of the facts and the implications of the Act, Sir – I hear him saying all of the time that we acted recklessly and lawlessly – he should look at the steps that were taken by his own party. He should listen to the speeches that have been made by the Leader of the Opposition. All that happened was that the Leader of the Opposition could not get a Cabinet to go along with him to implement what he knew was right. We implemented what we knew was right and, as I repeat, only one person is out there hanging out. So let him hang out. All those who do not want to come in can stay out. That is the rule. No community can be held up for ransom by any individual.

I am very glad the honourable Member has come back; I am going to go over what I said, because I do not want to say anything behind his back. I do not want him to hear anything. I am going to say what he said. I admire him for doing this. I know that he had a deep commitment when he amended the Constitution in 1974 to carry into effect his profound belief in a unified Teaching Service as being the best thing for Barbados. He has repeated that. I agree with you. But what I say is this, that you were unable to carry it into effect because, as soon as the slightest bit of opposition arose, you backed off. Instead of going forward, you drove in the reverse gear, notwithstanding that you went further and just as in Local Government – I remember this good, good, good – you run through the re-organisation of the Local Government Service by deeming all employees of the Councils employees of the Commissioner, Mr. Crichlow Matthews, and saying that if they did not have equal terms and conditions they could get compensation, you passed a parallel law by saying that if you were offered an alternative job under the new terms and conditions and you did not take it, you would be deprived of your pension. That is a parallel amendment to the Pensions Act. It is still a law on the Statute Book. I cannot go into the details of it, because it is going to be an issue which is subject to the arbitrament of Her Majesty's courts and the court system of Barbados right up to the Privy Council, if necessary, but the point is very clear, that you felt that a community could not be held up by a few obstructionists. I agree with you. That has always

been the law, that has always been the function of Government and a democracy. You must do it.
4.20 p.m.

All I say is that I reject the criticisms coming from the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central that we acted in any high-handed manner. We did not.

(Aside: Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Unconstitutionally.)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: You do not even understand the meaning of those words. The fact that one person says it is so does not mean that it is so. But the point is this, the basic position is .....

(Aside: Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Obey the law.)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Yes. You obey the law all the time! You do not obey the law in charging, though!

The basic position is that laws are made to carry out policy, and I object and I strenuously resist the notion that if a Government feels that it is committed to a policy, it is going to allow itself to be obstructed in the execution of a well-conceived policy because there is the slightest resistance. Having heard the honourable Member for John and having heard the honourable Member for St. Michael South, I now understand why they never implemented the Education Act. The honourable Member for St. John was willing to go ahead, he even amended the Pensions Act to provide the final ..... it was not a knock out, it was pushing the people into the consideration of, 'If I do not conform I will lose my pension. There is no choice, the Pensions Act is there.' A challenge, but it did not work, because the honourable Member for St. Michael South would not go forward – he drove in the reverse gear!

Thank you, Sir.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE (Christ Church West): Mr. Chairman, the debate has really ranged wide and far. My intervention is going to be very limited, Sir. There are some people who obviously are anxious about their seats and they are gesticulating every moment. Unfortunately, Sir, my concern is with my constituency, and I am very pleased to see that under the Capital Head is included a provision for the continuation of the World Bank project for the development and amalgamation of primary schools. I am very pleased indeed to see that the Minister has recognised the strong case for the amalgamation of the two St. Matthias' Schools which between them cater to about 390 children. One has to recognise that the school population in Barbados projected into the 21st century is on the decline rather than on the increase, and that, therefore, we have to rationalise our school system, without finding ourselves in the position of having too much school plant, physical plant, and too much substandard plant.

There is a difficulty, however, in this particular area of Christ Church. The major catchment area for the children attending the St. Matthias' Boys and Girls happens to be Dayrells Road, Paddock Road, Deighton Road, Goodings Land, part of Chelsea and part of Bay Land, Rockley, Golf Club, Browne's Gap and that area. It does not extend as far as St. Lawrence. Because the catchment area is so narrow, one has to look to see where one can find available land for the establishment of the St. Matthias' School. There are very few open land areas in this particular part of Barbados, and whatever land areas there were have more or less been developed almost all for housing or for the tourist plant. The only significant available areas are at Pavilion House, the burnt out area, and the second in the area owned by the Government at the Marine House. The Government still has a large portion of unused land at Marine House. I am aware of the fact that consideration has been given by the Ministry and its advisers to do these two principal areas as well as the other areas along Rockley New Road – unfortunately the Rockley New Road area is too far and quite unsatisfactory – as well as an area along the Hastings main road. That too is unsatisfactory for several reasons, and therefore we are thrown back on the area of either the Marine House or the area of the Pavilion House.

I understand, Sir, that the cost of acquisition of Pavilion House would be very substantial, and I am therefore asking that as a matter of priority, and so that the St. Matthias' School would be built as one of the first in the new second tranche of the World Bank scheme, early consideration be given to finalising the exact spot on which the Government intends to construct the school.

I have consulted with most of the people in the area who will be affected by a school being constructed near to them. I consulted with the residents of Pavilion Court only a couple of weeks ago, I met with almost every resident of Pavilion Court, and they have no basic objection to the use of the land at Pavilion House. There have been some reservation by people in the Hood Road area to the school, provided if there is a through traffic from Hood Road and Exeter Road on to the area. But once again, Sir, that particular concern can be answered satisfactorily by the construction of adequate gates and walls and by siting the school so that the main entrance would be looking into Pleasant Hall.

There is one other area which was under consideration – the particular owners of that property expressed some concern – that area is not suitable on several grounds, and one of the main grounds is that the area, although it at present has a semi-industrial use, is too limited. It is under two acres of land and it is not really an area that we can consider, and so it seems to me that the choices available to the Ministry are limited and they should not delay a decision being made on selecting the particular site for the St. Matthias' School.
4.30 p.m.

Sir, I have spoken particularly on this because the conditions of the schools continue to deteriorate, and it deteriorates essentially because the plant has never been satisfactory. They are church schools which were taken over by the Government, which have never been maintained in an adequate situation, and to spend a lot of money to rehabilitate schools which are not satisfactory would be a waste of public funds. Therefore, I believe that Government should, wherever possible, improve conditions by building a new plant here, at St. Matthias, and at the same time, re-organize the teaching service in that particular area.

Sir, I wish to congratulate the Government again on behalf of my constituents for having established the Luther Thorne Memorial School. Although that physically lies in the constituency of the honourable Member for St. Michael South East (Hon. DeL. O. Bradshaw), it caters, by and large, to a large section of the people coming from the Clapham/lower Sargeants Village/Fordes Road/Bonnetts/Flagstaff and Clapham Park area. Indeed, even children from as far afield as Cox Road, St. Davids, have been coming to this school. Already I am told that the roll has been exceeded and that it is one of the first choices for parents. It is, in many respects, a model school, both in design, the classrooms, and in the facilities available, and I hope that the same set of circumstances, if not better, can be reproduced at St. Matthias as well, and I look forward in this financial year to the commencement of the re-organization of the St. Matthias School.

Now, Sir, I want to say a word about special education. Quite a lot of play was made on both sides of the House about who provided what for special education. It is still a fact that private persons are carrying the main cost of the education of special children in our island. In some ways, that does not surprise me, and there are two principal reasons for this.

I always have to remind people that the development of the educational system in our island was largely a private sector effort and that, eventually, Governments over a period of roughly now 140-odd years have built on these foundations. When Harrison College began, it began out of charity. When some of our private schools began, they began out of the charity of churches. Very often we do not give to the churches in this country what is due to them. Although there might have been some bad bad features of the association between the Anglicans and other churches and the slave masters, the fact remains that they were the greatest contributors to developing the education of the masses in this island, and so special education, for that reason, probably, historically, comes mainly from the private sector.

The second reason is that people are late to recognize the potential of special children. Special children were once children who were hidden, who were once considered as the outcasts of the tribes, and they were forgotten. Medical science has now shown what can be done for those children. Also, we have proved that in certain sectors of industry, they are greater performers than those children who have all of their faculties intact and an average IQ, and I believe that, increasingly, Government must recognize that they have a duty to provide more for the care of special children.

Mr. Chairman, it is a fact that the cost of special education for the average child, on an average, is much more than it is for the normal child. That is a fact. But we must not run away, because of the cost, from recognizing that special children, or the handicapped, are persons, too, and that in their short lives, they have a contribution to make. There are so many examples now of these children who have been written off contributing to the development of their country, and what is more, I think in this world where people are usually actuated by spite, malice and vindictiveness, they bring a quality which many of us can learn, and that is the quality of love, which they show in abundance to people who pay them any attention. They never forget those of us who pay special attention to them.

Whilst I recognize within these Estimates that the Government has, this year, provided more money for special education, whether it be under the Ministry of Education – I think there is $30 000 more in the Current Estimates – or whether it be under the Ministry of Health, where there is more money for the Children's Development Centre, I still think we have a long way to go in Barbados in giving to children with special handicaps what is correctly due to them. Mr. Chairman, I want, of course, to declare an interest in this matter. I am the father of one handicapped child and, therefore, I have a personal interest in making a special plea in this case. He is fortunate to attend one of the Government schools, but I am aware that within my own constituency, there are several children with handicaps and who are not so fortunate to have an opportunity for further training.

I want to use this occasion, as well, to appeal to persons in our community, who are persons of worth and substance, to remember in their wills to provide for these special children and their special education, to give by way of covenants, and to appeal to people generally to support the education of the handicapped. I believe that a country, in the last resort, will be tested not only by how they treat their normal people who can fight for themselves, but, as well, by how they treat those who were not fortunate at birth to be possessed of all of the faculties of which some of us are possessed. And whilst I commend the Government in recognizing the case for special education, I wish to say that, on both sides of the House, we have to recognize that the state has a long way still to go in giving to these handicapped children.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that you do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

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

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be suspended for 15 minutes until 5 p.m. today.

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

The question that the sitting be suspended for 15 minutes until 5.00 p.m. today was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.
4.40 p.m.

ON RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is now resumed.

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

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee.

The honourable Member for St. Michael South.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I have a few specific questions to ask the Minister, but before I do so, I wish to make just one observation on the question of the provision of tertiary level education at the polytechnic level and at the level of the Barbados Community College. I wish to state that it is the policy of the Democratic Labour Party that we will be establishing, if and when returned to power, an institution, a branch of the Polytechnic, in the north of the island and one in the south of the island to serve the educational and training needs of students, and persons generally, who require training in the areas provided by that institution.

Secondly, in respect of the provision of additional places for sixth forms, I can perhaps understand the call from time to time made by principals and other educators for sixth form places at schools which do not now have them. I think it is a question of pride in a particular educational institution and believing that other educational institutions which do not have them perhaps have some advantage over the fifth form schools, but when we get past the question of pride and commitment of a particular institution and ask ourselves the fundamental question, how best can we provide the additional places which may be required from time to time, whether they should be at fifth form schools or whether they should be provided in specialist institutions, logic leads me to the conclusion that they should be provided in institutions set up specially for such a purpose, where you can make use of all of the economies of scale and other advantages of concentrating studies in one place.

Generally speaking, there is no problem at all, if you want to teach an A level course in History or the Humanities generally, of saying well look we have a teacher or teachers who can teach this subject at this particular school, but these are precisely the areas where there may not be an over-demand for personnel in those particular areas, and it is in the other areas, the professions, the sciences, the technologies, where the demand is greatest and where the costs are also highest, and if we are talking about the world of work, if we are talking about those specialist areas and if we are talking about providing a rounded, sound education at that level, it really, in my view, is not the best solution to think about developing new sixth forms at the fifth form schools. I think we should make use of our existing provisions, and then when those are exhausted, another specialist institution should be established for training at that level, which could be very broad and which can operate as a genuine tertiary level institution offering courses at the initial stages of university level education. We have got to reform that whole area, because we may tend to fall behind development in other countries. I think it is our conservatism that holds us back, because we may not be doing the full service to our students when they are ready to go and study whatever they want to study when we keep in the existing mould.

Change is taking place. Perhaps it is not widely recognised that there are changes proposed in the British model that we follow at the ordinary level. I believe they are planning to provide something called a GSCE or whatever it is called, bring together the old GCE and the newer CSE, and perhaps it is not generally realised also that other changes are taking place, because planning is now going ahead for a new subject, as I understand, called Sport or something like that at advanced level in Britain – that is the thinking as I understand it – which brings in the study of scientific subjects. I do not know if issues like apartheid in sports and those kinds of challenging issues will be part of the syllabus, but that is the kind of thinking that is taking place.

We certainly started discussions for our teacher training institution to develop a programme because we

should be able to provide our sports administrators in Barbados. We should be able with the facilities that we have to provide a proper training course for our sports administrators in Barbados, particularly those in the schools, and we should not have to think every time we want these kinds of personnel for our schools, for our clubs and for our national sports programme, of having to send people abroad every time, or to think that those are the only places where training can be provided. I believe if we are resourceful and if we think the matter through, we can get it done.

I recall once in 1975 paying a visit to the campus of the University of California at Santa Barbara. That is where the East Germans had trained for the Summer Olympics. I believe it must be the 1976 or 1972 Olympics, possibly the 1972 Olympics. They had trained for the summer Olympics at that particular campus and the head of the programme there, who was retired, was willing to come down to Barbados on a trip. He said money was no big thing for him because he would be well provided for by that university, and there was a local institution, a bank, that was willing to put up some funds for that particular project, but we were not able to get it off the ground in the short period of time left in the life of the Democratic Labour Party Administration.

I want to ask the Minister specifically about the teacher training institution, Erdiston, because the public in this country has been led to believe that there are some problems at Erdiston, or there were some problems, about the intake and about the students, not so much the programme, but about their stipends or whatever it is, and I would like the Minister to tell this Committee if there are any problems existing at Erdiston; if she is satisfied with the programme in terms of the facilities, the intake of students and the objectives, and generally to make a statement in relation to that. The public has been led to believe that there have been some problems there, and it would be reassuring to learn from the Minister whether there are in fact problems. Secondly, we would like to ask questions relating to the Lodge School, whether the problems have all been resolved or what specifically are the outstanding problems. I think this Committee deserves to be told that information, Mr. Chairman.

5.10 p.m.

Hon. B. A. MILLER rose.

(Aside: Mr. W. O. FRANKLIN: Are you winding up?)

Hon. B. A. MILLER: Yes.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Does any other honourable Member wish to make a contribution before you wind up?

The honourable Member for St. Philip North.

Mr. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister in her reply could update me on the plans afoot for the following schools in St. Philip, particularly the Beulah and Holy Trinity Schools, if there is to be any amalgamation of those two schools, as well as, St. Catherine's where the road is falling off. What is to be the future of St. Catherine's.

(Aside: Hon. B. A. MILLER: If you were in here at that time you would know. I am not repeating it.)

Mr. W. O. FRANKLIN: And the St. Mark's School. Mr. Chairman, those are the areas I would invite the Minister's reply on.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will now ask the Minister of Education.....

The honourable Member for St. Michael South Central.

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

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I want to know, what is happening in relation to the progress of the work at the Lodge School? It is my understanding that the work was not properly phased, that several buildings have been exposed to the elements quite unnecessarily, that there is a considerable amount of chaos in the building programme at the Lodge School. I cannot be sure whether it is the roofs that have been taken off or the windows and the roofs or what, but it is my understanding that because of the incompetence of the Minister, who intervened and directed the order in which the work should be done, as a consequence of that several buildings are now without adequate protection from the elements in St. John, rain, wind and what you like, quite unnecessarily, and that, ultimately, it would cost the taxpayers a considerable amount of money, either by way of direct expenditure or further borrowings – all a result of the incompetence of the Minister of Education. I want the Minister to answer that.

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

(Aside: Hon. L. R. TULL: Man, give us piece over here.)

(Aside: Mr. B. M. TAITT: She is replying, so let me get in some questions.)

(Aside: Hon. L. R. TULL: No you could still get in.)

(*Aside:* Mr. B. M. TAITT: You do not have any questions. You want to make statements. I have questions.)

(*Aside:* Hon. L. R. TULL: I am going to ask question, Sir.)

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

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

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, now I understand that there has been some witch hunting in that committee of late, Sir. What they must understand is that under our system of Government, and I am moving now from the public officers to the Ministers.....

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Sir, on a point of order, Sir: Did I hear the honourable Member to say that he understands that there has been witch hunting by the Public Accounts Committee? I think the honourable Member has to withdraw that, Sir. Witch hunting?

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I am a member of that committee, Sir, and I think it would be improper for any Member of this Honourable House to accuse the committee of witch hunting. I think that would be improper, Sir. The honourable Member should withdraw that. I am sure he does not mean to say that.

Hon. L. R. TULL: I understand, Mr. Chairman, they were doing a little investigation recently. I think one of the things they were investigating, Sir, was the accounts of CARIFESTA. That is one, Sir. In fact, let me extend this debate into Culture. I will talk three or four times the rest of the evening on Culture. We can talk about this the whole night. We will not let it pass, but we are going to talk some culture, Gabby's kind and my kind, and Elton's kind, and everybody's kind; we are going to talk about it in here. We are going to talk about the kind of Philistines on that side, too.

The point I am making is this, Sir, they have to understand that Ministers do not control public expenditure. That is not putting words in defence. I would like to take them on, Sir, one by one as a group anytime, any place, any forum or any arena. Public Ministers of Government do not control public expenditure. We vote it, but when we vote it, it is left to the Permanent Secretary in each Ministry to be responsible for how it is to be spent. And the Financial Rules allow for deviation from that. If a Minister should be sufficiently foolish and reckless to call on a Permanent Secretary to spend money against the Rules, the Financial Rules say that the Permanent Secretary must bring to the attention of the Minister in writing that that is a violation of the rules, and if the Minister wants to persist, he must put it in writing, as a directive to the Permanent Secretary, and then the Permanent Secretary says, "I now out of that." That is the rule, as far as I remember it. That is the rule; otherwise, the Permanent Secretary has a free hand. I am sure that at anytime the Permanent Secretary gets a directive in writing from the Minister to make some expenditure contrary to the Rules, it will be common knowledge within 24 hours, and it will be published on the walls of the Public Building yard. So it is very important that we understand those two things.

That is all I got up to say, Sir, because I had really finished talking on Education for the rest of the day. But I really feel a bit hurt, that two dedicated and hard working public officers in an extremely complex and difficult Ministry, with 3 000 teachers, 700 and odd School Meals workers, 300 and odd janitors, 58 000 children, a vast Ministry that deals with all kinds of problems on a daily basis, officers who work, to my certain knowledge, beyond the call of duty — late at night, Saturdays, Sundays, Bank Holidays — should have to sit around and hear people like the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central get up and attack them in an irresponsible way.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. On a point of order, Mr. Chairman! On a point of order, Mr. Chairman! The honourable Member has accused me of attacking a public servant. I have asked the question as to what is the state of the accounts in the Ministry of Education and this Committee is entitled to know.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

Hon. L. R. TULL: He can rant and rave, Sir, but I am going to ride him bare back. I am going to ride him bare back — with a very generous whip at that!

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, order.

Hon. L. R. TULL: He has gone beyond the stage now of making wild and scurrilous attacks on politicians and people on this side who know how to deal with him and he is making wild and scurrilous attacks on public officers.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, order. I must have some order.

Hon. L. R. TULL: It is an act of a coward, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, order, order.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please, I cannot have two honourable Members on their feet. Just a moment. Please listen to the Chair.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I am on a point of order, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Chair cannot have honourable Members shouting across at one another. Now your point of order. Order!

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: The honourable Member has accused me of making wild and scurrilous attacks on public officers. I repeat that that is totally untrue and that I simply asked a question as to the state of the accounts in the Ministry of Education, which, to my certain knowledge, has been in a state of chaos for several years, and whether there has been any improvement in the state of those accounts.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please, the honourable Member can have a chance to speak again. Please continue.

Order, order, please!

The honourable Member for St. George South continue.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have been moved to say already of the honourable Member that his distaste for the truth is such that if it was coming at him at a thousand miles an hour, he would still be able to jiff out of the road. He got in here today and attacked the competence of the Senior Accountant in the Ministry of Education. He did not just ask any question. He said that he knew that the officer responsible for the accounts was not capable of doing the job, or incompetent, or something like that. And now says he only asked a question, and saying that is not an attack of a public officer! Something stinks, Sir! Something really stinks!

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, order — please contain yourselves.

Hon. L. R. TULL: It is a tradition in public life in this country, Sir, that....

Asides.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Do not mind them. You can put that in the record, too.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, honourable Members must conduct themselves with dignity, please.

Continue.

Hon. L. R. TULL: The honourable Member must know that I am ready at anytime to stake my public reputation and veracity against his. We can put it to the people of Barbados who is the liar out of me and the honourable Member and see what they come up with.

Asides.

Hon. L. R. TULL: I want him, man. It is a tradition in this country, Sir, that people who are Members of Parliament do not make those kinds of attacks on public officers. That is the tradition in this country, and it is based on a common decency that runs through the society. But some people are outside the veil, beyond redemption. You cannot save people like him. It is an act of a coward to get up and attack people who do not have the right, or the platform, to get up and defend themselves. But the public of Barbados is going to judge you. I had made a plan in my head about certain things I was going to do in this year. I change this today. This Parliament does not deserve the likes of people who would behave in that way. You made your own Members over there ashamed about what you got up and said. I am willing to venture that not one will get up and support you for what you said in here today. As I said, Mr. Chairman, it is beneath contempt!

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman...

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Let me deal with him, man.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will let the honourable Minister speak. My eyes have caught her.

Hon. B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I have listened to this debate all day long. I became satisfied that it had been side-tracked and gone down a cul-de-sac, and I watched it during the course of the afternoon go down, down, down. All of the debate or the sparring that was going on, because it was hardly elevated to a level of debate, was discussing what happened 10 and 12 years ago, one former Minister of Education and another former Minister of Education said what happened then, who signed what, all of this foolishness. And I watched it go down, down now so that it is at the bottom of the barrel, put there by the honourable Member, and that word does not come easily now, the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central.

It is known that the Chief Accounting Officer in any Ministry is not the politician. So he cannot be attacking me. We do not mind him attacking me. That is his function in the Opposition. You would see, Mr. Chairman, that there was no substance coming from the Opposition. This debate had no sting. They have not done their homework. I do not think they had a meeting to decide what they were going to discuss here today. They

have nothing for in here and you have nothing for the platform, and I am waiting for you out there. We are going to nail you on the cross — all three nails! And they have come in here today to attack politicians. You attacked me. He always does that. I am the worst Minister in the world. I am the worst person in the world. I am accustomed to that. That is what politicians have to live with on a daily basis.

Now he knows that the Chief Accounting Officer in any Ministry is the Permanent Secretary, that politicians are kept far away from this business of public finance and public spending. So he knows that those people who know in here would know that he is not attacking me, and yet he wants now to pretend that his statement was not a veiled, and very thinly veiled, attack upon distinguished public servants. I would want to say in here that the woman who is the Chief Finance Officer in the Ministry of Education — and I will call her by name, Mrs. LaTouche — is a woman of the highest integrity. I have been in the Ministry for nearly ten years now and I would defy anybody to question her professional or personal integrity, and I take it as a personal insult that he should get up....
5.30 p.m.

Aside

Hon. B. A. MILLER: No. I am going to defend my officer. I have to defend my officer, because he knows what he is doing. He is trying to give an impression, which is what form style is, the impressionist that you are, that there is something wrong as far as the finances of the Ministry of Education go, and there is absolutely no foundation for it whatsoever. Not one tiny shred of evidence has he been able to produce.

Now these matters are, properly speaking, matters for the Public Accounts Committee. The Public Accounts Committee Chairman is the Right Honourable Leader of the Opposition, who will not call meetings of the Public Accounts Committee, to the extent that...

Aside.

Hon. B. A. MILLER: Yes. You don't call them, you cannot remember when last it sat.

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

Hon. B. A. MILLER: You will get up and tell me now how regularly you call them.

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

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: The honourable Member has now chosen to attack me and stated that I refused to call a meeting of the Public Accounts Committee. I call meetings of the Public Accounts Committee regularly, about once every two weeks. The fact is that I do not get a quorum, as other members are well aware, but do not tell me I do not call meetings of the Public Accounts Committee. Do not get up in your effusiveness and make statements that you cannot substantiate. If you want to quarrel with him, quarrel with him. It makes you feel good but...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order!

Hon. B. A. MILLER: I am going to quarrel with you, too, because one of the reasons why you cannot get a quorum is that often the Chairman himself does not come.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW rose.

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

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On another point of order: Since the meetings are summoned in my office, you cannot say that I do not come, because I am always there. You can ask the Clerk of the House. He and I are always there.

Hon. B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, there are members of the Public Accounts Committee in here who can speak for themselves.

I wish to pursue this point. It is the worst thing that could be done in a debate like this when we are discussing public expenditure for a Member to get up and try to give an impression to Barbadians that there is something afoul or amiss as far as public finance goes in the Ministry of Education. I have never heard of it, I do not believe it is true, and I believe it is an uninvited gratuitous, vicious attack on the public officers who work in that Ministry.

The only movement that I have known within the Accounts Division of the Ministry of Education is that when posts for Secretary-Treasurer and other such posts were announced and advertised by various Boards of Management in respect of secondary schools, some of the officers in the Accounts Division of the Ministry saw a chance of some upward mobility and they have made application, and even some of them, I cannot even be sure, might have won favour with the interviewing committees and may have gone to jobs otherwise. But to suggest, as has been said in here, that something is wrong with the accounts is really, Mr. Chairman, the worst thing that could happen in a debate like this, and not to substantiate it in any way. We have not heard in what particular, we have not heard under what vote, we have not heard in what year, because as far as I understand it, the Public Accounts Committee has not even reached the year 1976 as far as examination of public accounts goes.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Again I must rise on a point of order: I cannot allow the Minister to get away flinging herself all over the place and talking about we have not reached this. We are now in the year, with some Ministries, 1984. And I would just like to point this out to honourable Members! The Committee of Public Accounts can only go into accounts of the Ministry when they are first submitted to the Accountant General and to the Auditor General. Those Ministries which have not submitted their accounts cannot be scrutinised, and the Auditor General has to lay his report, according to law, here before we go into them.

I am making a recommendation in my report which is in the process of being — well, I cannot say printed, because we have not reached the printers yet — prepared, that the Committee of Public Accounts, without waiting for the Minister to ask them to do so, can call on any department or any Ministry in particular matters after consultation with the Minister. That is all I want to say. We took up from the very beginning of the establishment of the Committee of Public Accounts and we have had to write a report now covering a period of 18 years.

Hon. B. A. MILLER: In all that chit-chat he has not said yet.....

Aside.

Hon. B. A. MILLER: You do not know. He has not been able to say which year you are at with Education. You are not able to say whether Education is one of those which have submitted or not submitted. All of this adds up to the fact....

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

Hon. B. A. MILLER: I am not giving away again, Mr. Chairman!

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Two honourable Members...

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, Sir.

Hon. B. A. MILLER: The Public Accounts Committee does not meet.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I cannot have two Members on their feet. Will both honourable Members take their seats? Please!

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: As far as I know, for the Minister's information, Sir.....

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

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of elucidation of what I said before, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Has the honourable Member given way?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: She has given way already, you cannot ask her twice.

If she wants to know, my recollection is we have done the Ministry of Education up to 1982—83 because that is as far as we have reports for. Whatever we have had reports for, we have done up to that date, and up to the date that I have done, as far as I can remember, the Committee of Public Accounts is satisfied with the accounts of the Ministry of Education. I do not know what happened last week, I do not know what happened in 1985. I can tell you as far as I have examined them, my recollection is 1982—83 the accounts were in order.

Hon. B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, this is the Leader of the Opposition, the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee. There are seven members of the Public Accounts Committee. Three are Government members and four are Opposition members. It is deliberately balanced in that way so that the Opposition always has the telling power in that Committee. What the honourable Member for St. John is saying is that he is so out of control of his own members who can form a quorum. Since the majority membership of that Committee is Opposition membership, if you cannot get three or four of your own members together, that says a very sorry story for you.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I must rise and explain to the honourable Member that I did not say that I cannot get a quorum to do Education. I said that all the reports for Education that have been submitted have been examined. Recently I have had difficulty in getting a quorum, but we have no further reports from the Ministry of Education to cover.

Hon. B. A. MILLER: The next point to make is this, Mr. Chairman. The honourable Member for St. Michael South Central is a member of the Public Accounts Committee. He is saying in here this afternoon that something is afoul and very wrong with the accounts of the Ministry of Education. The Chairman of the Committee has just got up and told this Honourable House that, as far as he is concerned, nothing is wrong with the accounts of the Ministry of Education. So how are we to know where the truth lies? How are we to know in all of this now where the truth lies? They are arguing the case now between themselves, and that is a problem for them. This is the whole sad story after ten years of the Democratic Labour Party. How much harder I can drive it home to say that the Leader of the Opposition is saying one thing and the

honourable Member for St. Michael South Central is saying another? And want to put decent and respectable members of the Civil Service up to ridicule!

Now, Mr. Chairman, there are just two or three points that I need to address before I put my final point. The honourable Member for St. Michael West has made it clear — he would jump up now and deny it, but it is in Hansard — that, in his view, we should discontinue the uniform allowance. He said it. It is in Hansard. I would ask for it to be read back. He said it should be put back in Welfare.

5.40 p.m.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Two honourable Members are on their feet, please.

Hon. B. A. MILLER: Now, Mr. Chairman, all of that he will try to recall. He said it in here this morning, that it should be discontinued and it should be made a matter for Welfare.

Asides

Hon. B. A. MILLER: Welfare? That is how you look at a matter like this? Oh, yes, because everybody is not going to get it as Welfare. Do not argue with me across the floor.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order. I cannot have these interruptions.

Hon. B. A. MILLER: You come in here and say that you are Shadow Minister of Education, you are so much shadow that you cannot even see through it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, order. This is quite different from this morning's session.

Hon. B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, what I have to say about the Lodge School as the one remaining piece of the first World Bank Project I said this morning. It is not my fault if honourable Members would not do their duty and come in here and sit down and participate in the debate. There is one building, of several buildings, outstanding at the Lodge School, which now has to be reconstructed, the building which has to be torn down because of termites and other infestation which now has to be rebuilt, and that is all that is outstanding as far as the first project is concerned at the Lodge School. I have no intention of saying anything further about the Lodge School, because any other matter upon which I might want to comment, as has already been stated in here, is *sub judice.*

In respect of Erdiston, I have said already today what the Government's policy is as far as Erdiston Teacher Training College is concerned. I am not disposed to repeat it again simply because honourable Members will not attend here and do the peoples business.

I had hoped that today we would have had a wide-ranging discussion on high matters of education, because it is recognized, I think, that education is one of those sectors where there is very little room for partisan politics. In my opening remarks this morning I made the point, and I make it again for emphasis, that successive Governments have given the highest priority to this matter of education, and that this Administration is unrepentant and unapologetic for continuing and perpetuating this kind of priority in respect of education. And yet, Mr. Chairman, all that we have been subjected to in here today is who can translate Greek and who cannot, who went to Harrison College and who did not. This is petty. We must be really happy in this country when the matters which can engage us for a whole day in the highest committee in the land, which is this Honourable Parliament, is who can translate Greek and who went to Harrison College and who did not. It is a sad commentary.

There were young people in here this morning from the Community College. There are young people in here again today. There are people who are reading the reports of this debate and would want to hear these broad issues, this rapid change, technology moving at a rate unprecedented in our lifetime. These are the matters that they want to hear us upon in a national debate. But, no! I can only hear who did what, and how many children went back to school, which day they went, what teacher drew you in a corner and said he wanted a little whizzy whizzy secret, all of that foolishness, and the Shadow Minister shadow boxing all over the place. It is the poorest debate of the Estimates that I have participated in in the nine years that I have been in here. The debate just would not get off the ground. We tried and tried on this side, and the Opposition just would not rise to the occasion. Not one major point was put to us. Everything we said was repeated, or garbled, or put back to us in a different fashion.

I stood up in here this morning and said that as part of the second World Bank Project was an important training component, that we were putting six modern, well-equipped skills training centres in three global locations in this country, one in the north, one in the south and one in the central or metropolitan area. And yet I can hear an honourable Member from that side get up and say that when they get back in, they are gong to build two

extensions to the Polytechnic. This is the level at which we have argy-bargy in here all day, Mr. Chairman, and I do not know that I am disposed to prolong this, because I do not believe that there is anything coming out of this debate on Education. As far as the Opposition is concerned, they have added nothing, and I anticipate that when we get to the platform, nothing will still be forthcoming.

I beg to move, Mr. Chairman, that Head 76 stand part.

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

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Head has been put. There is another Head.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Yes, Sir. We have not even touched on School Meals yet, or Culture.

Mr. Chairman, it is remarkable to have heard the former Minister of Education, the now Minister of Trade, as he sat here and started to talk about the relationship between public officers and Ministers in relation to money. When you set up the Duffus Commission, you set it up for public officers? When you come into this House and talk about when you were on the platforms in 1975 and 1976 talking about corruption, you were talking about public officers? You are prepared to get up and say that there was no corruption whatsoever in the accounts for CARIFESTA? Well, I am saying that there is evidence of corruption in the accounts for CARIFESTA, and it will all come out, and we are saying that that evidence of corruption, to the tune of $8 million – I know you will want to jump up now – will be discussed. I agree with the Minister that somebody is going to be nailed to the wall. I do not know who, but when you find, for example, that you get two mail boxes..... Anyhow, Sir.

Asides

Mr. B. M. TAITT: No. It will come out.

Do not let anyone go into any posture of the Opposition attacking public officers. Public officers in this country are not Morons. They know where they stand. They were never abused by the Democratic Labour Party Ministers like they have been abused by the Barbados Labour Party Ministers in and out of season. They are not ill-treated in the performance of their duties on a daily basis. They were not ill-treated as they are by your Ministers. Do not come in here with no holier than thou – excepting you, excepting you – attitude and giving the impression that we are going to run and hide because you call the term "public officers." Your late Prime Minister wrote letters about public officers which we would never have written, and your present Prime Minister has come in here and made statements about public officers. Do not come in here and give anybody the impression that we are afraid of you, to take you on.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order.

5.50 p.m.

"(*Aside.* You sent home Murrell?)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! Let us get back to Education.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Suppose I did. It is in the context of Education that it is not befitting any Minister, and in particular the Minister responsible for Training, to get up in here talking about.....

Hon. L. R. TULL: If the honourable Member would give way: I like the line on which the honourable Member is proceeding. Nobody has ever since I was in Government accused me of doing anything corrupt. I have never heard that. You should not get up and be so pious, because there is a whole big story about cement when you were the man giving licences down at the Ministry of Trade. I have never heard anybody in Barbados in my public service or outside ever say there was ever any corruption attached to me.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Education.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Now you are not going to get me to exchange what they say about you. I am not going to talk about how they say you buy hotels in Barbados. I am not going to talk about that in here. You never heard it, but let me tell you what they say about you. You want to talk about cement? They say that you bought more hotels and have more property than anybody else in Barbados. That is what they say about you. Do not talk to me about cement, my friend. Go outside and talk about the cement.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I do not have any fear for anybody over there. Any time I can take on from him all the way down, one by one or together.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, order!

Mr. B. M. TAITT: You cannot tell me about cement.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that you do now report progress to His Honour the Speaker and ask for leave to sit again.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Do you think that because you say "cement" that I would get worried?

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, I beg to move that you do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be suspended for ten minutes.

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

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

ON RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is now resumed.

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

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee.

The honourable Member for St. Michael West.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I believe I was speaking. I wanted to ask the Minister about Subhead 5, St. Joseph (World Bank Sub-Project). This subhead provides for works connected with the construction of a new primary school and the purchase of new furniture and equipment. There is no indication where the school is going to be located, and I wonder if the Minister would give us an idea, in the context of the questions which we asked this morning, where it is proposed to locate this school.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Under subhead 5 it says St. Joseph (World Bank Sub-Project). There is no indication where the school is going to be located.

Then, Sir, earlier in the day I had asked the Minister whether she could indicate what is the present position with the location of a secondary school in or near St. Thomas to accommodate those persons who have moved in that area in more recent times. There has been a call for the location of a secondary school in St. Thomas and there has not been any definitive statement from the Ministry concerning the reasons why a school cannot or will not be considered for location in St. Thomas.

Finally, Sir, I wish the Minister to indicate, if it is at all possible, what is the level of employment in the School Meals Service at the moment. Could she indicate the numbers that are currently employed in the School Meals Service and could she indicate whether, in fact, those numbers have increased significantly during the last term, or indeed during the last year?

It seems to me that there is a policy relating to School Meals. Some time ago, we were given to understand that the School Meals programme was about to be phased out, so far as the international agencies were concerned, and I would like to know whether in fact the financing for assistance in school meals has been secured, or whether all of the funds indicated here for capital in the School Meals Service will be from local funds. What is the position with the School Meals Service at the moment? Indeed, in relation to the kind of equipment, the purchase of the vehicle and relocation of one centre, we would appreciate the Minister indicating what that relocation will be, which centre is moving from where.

I should also like the Minister to indicate how many schools now benefit, or how many schools now actually have centres, whether the system is still one where the meals are being prepared at a central point in Country Road and redistributed. Indeed, the Minister had told us last year quite categorically that there was a new policy in place, based on a nutritional study, which was going to present the children not with hot meals every day, but with a combination of hot meals some days and some other type of food for the other days.

I think a lot of concern has been expressed by the parents, rightly or wrongly, about the quality of the meals provided under the School Meals programme. I think it would be very helpful to the House and to this Committee if the Minister could spell out what is the current policy, if it has changed from the previous policy, and if, in fact, she is satisfied as of now that the change from the provision of a hot meal each day to the new programme, which she indicated was nutritionally more sound, is satisfactory.

She had also in that context taken certain policy decisions with regard to the location of small business persons on the premises of the schools. She did indicate that a new policy had gone into effect with regard to the location of certain of the small entrepreneurs who, traditionally, had been going to the school grounds to sell confectionaries and other related products. I do now know what is happening in other areas, but I know that

an attempt has been made to regu' e the numbers in the St. Leonard's compound, and in that respect, one of the schools is enclosed and the other is not yet enclosed. I would like to know whether it is going to be a policy, or whether it is a policy of the Ministry, that all grounds of schools will be enclosed, and whether the Minister could indicate what is the status of the various schools with regard to the enclosing of these schools, whether in fact that policy is going to be continued, and if she would indicate where in the capital development projects we might expect to find the money allocated for that purpose.

I see no indication here that there will be a continual provision of hard courts and other similar facilities at all of the secondary schools. I know that in the case of Richmond, that is St. Leonard's Secondary, and in the case of Combermere, the PTA's had been enjoined to assist in providing certain facilities for the pupils of certain schools. But it would seem to me, under the concept of equal treatment for all of the secondary schools, that there would be some indication in the Capital Estimates that there will be provision for hard courts and other similar facilities for the children of the various secondary schools, if not the primary schools. I should like to hear the Minister on the allocations for these particular facilities with special regard to those secondary schools that are outside of the St. Michael area. I should like to hear her policies on this. I see nowhere in the Capital Estimates where it might be successfully be said that provision is being made for such facilities.
6.15 p.m.

I also wish to ask the Minister, in the context of the new development of sport as a factor of the school curriculum, what steps are being taken to introduce aquatic sports in the secondary schools in Barbados, and whether any provisions have been made, any consideration given, to providing Olympic-size facilities at one centre which can be used by those school children who demonstrate a capacity and a facility for aquatic sports. It would seem to me that, to the extent that there was any development at all, such development is not flowing as a natural progression out of the school system. I should like to hear the Minister on that.

I also would like to ask the Minister what steps are being taken to make provision for certain cultural activities in the schools, outside of the traditional cultural activities in the schools. For example, at Combermere School, because of the facility of an auditorium as part of the structure of the school, that school enjoys certain facilities. It is my understanding that since the Cultural Foundation has become a statutory corporation, certain facilities which were part of the equipment in the hall have been removed and, as a result, there is no sound system in the Combermere School Hall, as it relates to Combermere School. Such sound system as there is for various plays and other cultural activities under the aegis of the Cultural Foundation, that equipment is brought in. It would seem to me that the Combermere School is symptomatic of a problem which exists in a number of the secondary schools with regard to the supply of this kind of equipment. I wonder if the Minister is able to comment on the removal of this equipment from Combermere, or at least its removal from the use of the school, thereby rendering a number of the programmes of the school inoperable.

I believe, Mr. Chairman, that I have asked the Minister within this time frame a number of questions which I hope she will find it possible to respond to, after which one would be able to assess whether one wishes to ask any further questions.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, as Shadow Minister of Finance on this side of the House, we are dealing here with a Head which involves the expenditure of a considerable amount of money on education.

Certain remarks made at this stage by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central and the Right Honourable Member for St. John were ordered by Mr. CHAIRMAN to be expunged from the record.
6.25 p.m.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let us carry on. Does any other honourable Member wish to speak on this Head? If not, I will ask the Minister to wind up the debate.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Yes, to continue, Sir, on the question of the Capital Development Programme under Schools, it has been mentioned earlier in this debate, Sir, that there is a need to somehow marry our traditional techniques in education with the economic and social objectives of the developmental process in Barbados. This means, Sir, that one important area in which Barbados has relatively well positioned itself over the years to take full advantage of is in the area of the information industry. There can be no doubt, Sir, with modern telecommunications, with the international infrastructure in place, with the international communication linkages which pass through Barbados and with the potential for the development of a further service type economy in Barbados, that that kind of opportunity will be very much available to the children of the future.
6.35 p.m.

For example, Sir, it is well known that much of the information industry related activities that are centered in

many regions south of Florida, and Barbados is in a powerful position to compete in those areas largely because of the financial and political instability which surrounds that particular area. It is well known that the international banking community, by and large, is looking for a new home, a new residence for that kind of activity. But apart from the physical infrastructure, it is important that you have the human resources available to you to take full advantage of that. This means, Sir, that you must have people being trained, in-depth, in computerisation; and I do not speak of the ability to use a computer, I speak of the wider aspects of computer technology, the scientific aspects of computer technology and its close relations with telecommunications and so on.

The whole question of that kind of training, I see it as being vital to the future of the tourist industry in Barbados, vital to the future of international banking in this country, vital to the future development of a vibrant trade situation in Barbados externally. I therefore believe that if our children are to be prepared, not for the 20th century, because the 20th century in technological revolution is already here upon us, then they must be fully acquainted and fully aware of the inputs that must be made in that kind of technological change. It has to start almost at the primary level, Sir, strange enough. Fortunately, a lot of toys that children handle will familiarise them with the techniques, to some extent, of the new technology. For example, this watch I am wearing. This probably cost about U.S. $20, but there is, in fact, a computer within this watch for $40. It means that when children can use these watches and so on, and have access to this kind of technology, very cheap, they are growing up in an age very different from the age which I or you, Sir, would have been growing up in. But apart from that, those inputs have to start at an early age if our people are going to be able to compete with children growing up in other societies.

The children today, if you look at the computer whizz kids in North America, they become whizz kinds when they are 9, 10, 11 and 12 years old. They are already dabbling into computers, they are already making major contributions in the field of computer development and in the development of the information industry. So that I would like to see that there is a heavy bias in the curriculum in the schools in this country, and that the capital infrastructure be put in place where there can be meaningful teaching of the use of computers.

There is no point putting a computer in a school for children to look at. There is no point putting a computer as an adjunct to schools which provide typing skills and so on. You have to have people trained in computer sciences, you have to have teachers who are trained in computer sciences and relatively expert to teach children the basic arts of programming, the proper use of computers and the way in which computers can be used for the overall enhancement of the development of this society.

I believe it was the Honourable Prime Minister who said earlier that one of the results of our educational process was to educate people for the domestic market, and also because of the limitations of size, our historical experience over the past 45 years or so has been to export a proportion of those persons. But we were able to export them because they were able to compete, given the levels of technology available in those countries in the 1940s, 50s, 60s, and 70s. Unless our children have access to that kind of training which is available to the children in the developed countries, in the new technological development, you will effectively close the doors against the possibility of our people getting jobs abroad and being able to make vertical progress within the social and economic structures of those societies unless they have that basic training.

I go further and say this, Sir, that with the impact of modern technology, our competitive trade position would not be significantly enchanced unless we have the people who are capable of matching the people using that technology overseas, whether it be in tourism, whether it be in banking or any other kind of service area of the economy. Even I would think that in ten years' time children leaving school who are now being absorbed, or who used to be absorbed, in the banking system, who were trained locally – they started off as clerks in the banks and were able to reach managerial status in the banks with the basic education that they acquired here – I am saying that it is very likely, and I understand it is already happening, that a lot of the transfer of information within the banking sector is now taking place by satellite and by computerised processes, so that you will find that even in that area of banking where we have been able to train people to virtually fit a vast majority of the posts in banking locally, to have our bankers all around the Caribbean, from Jamaica right down, the Cayman Islands, the Virgin Islands, Antigua – you name it, you can find Barbadian bankers on rotation within the systems of the commercial banks – you will find that our own people in Barbados will be at a disadvantage unless they have had access to that technology in training, because the banks will not be spending money to train people in that area if they have access to trained people elsewhere. Nor can you even deny them a work permit if they have put in the infrastructure and they have people readily available to do the job. Even that is going to be a difficulty.

So I would like if one thing we can emphasise, I would like to see built into this Capital vote, apart from the building of structures, a general ungrading of the overall facilities of the schools internally, externally, desks, benches and all the traditional bits of furniture and

equipment that you need, so that our school be geared for the technological revolution that took place ten years ago. I heard the Honourable Minister talking about the year 2000, but that revolution took place ten years ago and the seeds of that revolution were sown 20 years ago.

How many people know, Sir, that even in the Customs Departments around the world and the related banking departments that things like Letters of Credit, with which you have been very familiar because of the area of business you were involved in before they removed it all from under you, Sir, – they are wicked, eh? – even in things like Letters of Credit, normal trade transactions and so on, all this business of excessive documentation and all that kind of thing will be a thing of the past. Even to become an efficient Customs Officer in Barbados where you can deal with a signal when something comes in f.o.b. is so and so, that information is being translated by satellite and comes down to the ground and you may have to respond to that, you have to have that basic information, you have to have that basic skill. So if you are talking about the future of Barbados, you must get on with it right now and not do the kind of thing that is being done by the present Government, that is, putting a computer in a school as a toy. You need crash courses for teachers, teachers to be trained in the computer sciences and be in every school.

Do you know something, Sir? The young people are far in advance of us in this regard. If you look at them playing some of these computer games, you cannot compete with them. Their reflexes are sharper and you can see already that this has become a natural to them. I understand, Sir, I may be wrong, that those leaving school who can afford it are now getting into the area of computer science in a big way. Those who cannot afford it are hoping for the day when they can go abroad and get involved in this exercise. Right from the university right down to the schools I would like to see a considerable amount of emphasis being placed on this, not in a token way. It is not a matter of putting a computer in a school and saying that you have computers in the schools.
6.45 p.m.

There are many people with home computers. They just buy them for fashion and put all kinds of information on them to demonstrate to their friends. There are even politicians who have the names of their constituents on computers and they do not even know how to use the information, because they cannot programme anything. They do not know what information they want out before they put it in, so they really cannot have a proper programme written. That is a big disadvantage that they have. That is a fact. But it is in that area that I see the development of Barbados. It is in that area of information. It is in that area of communication. It is in that area of information and services development where there is tremendous potential for this country given the geopolitical situation within the Americas today. There is tremendous opportunity, provided we keep our reputation clean, provided you make sure that this whole .....

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I am not going to get into that, because I would like to see a special vote in the Ministry of Education dealing with the question of the elimination of the use of drugs by school children in this country. I see a special vote for that and special protection offered for the children when they go to school, because these vagabonds who are selling these drugs to the young children in Barbados, they get into all kinds of tricks.

Only recently I heard a most disgusting story where one of the drug pushers, apparently in order to get the school children accustomed to the taste of the drug and the sensation of the drug, actually was putting the drug in duncks that there were selling the children. I heard that. It is a terrible thing. I believe that the time has come when we may need supervision and security around the schools in Barbados. It would be worth it to protect our children from the scourge of drugs, and from those people who are peddling drugs on the streets, because it is the children that they are looking after, and particularly the children of middle class homes, where they feel that eventually there would be a potentially expanded market for them, and I hope that the Minister would address this problem with some seriousness. We have to take every single preventive action, because it is often at that point when the children are away from home and at school, or between school and home, that the drug vendors would seek to get the children involved in drugs.

I saw a report – I do not know how reliable it was – published some time ago that somewhere in the region of about 30% of Barbadian school children – I cannot remember quite the age range at the time – had had some experience of a narcotic drug. I am not saying addicted, but at least experimented with the drug or something like that. This is bad news. It is bad news to Barbados now and bad news to Barbados in the future, and I believe that we should put maximum resources behind the Ministry of Education, behind the Ministry of Legal Affairs, behind the other law enforcement agencies in this country, to offer the fullest protection to our children from the scourge of the use of illicit drugs, or being induced to see those drugs by racketeers for gains.

I do not believe in capital punishment.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Do not let us deal with that now.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I am not going to do that. I am just going to make the point how strongly I feel about it.

I feel that someone who is trying to turn the children of this country into zombies, in his lifetime he is responsible for probably more murders than an individual who loses his temper and kills somebody. That is the ultimate way down the road. We have to look at these things. It is a serious matter. I think it has to be tackled at certain levels, but we are dealing with Education here and money for Education, and I am dealing purely with the question of protection of the children within the school environment, people who hang around the schools and try to sell drugs to children during their lunch hours, when they leave school, and so on.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please, please, we are not.....

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I agree with you – education in the community, education, particularly of the children and severe penalties. I am very serious about this.

I have to make this point, because very often honourable Members who have never seen this would not quite understand. When you see a child that someone has raised and shared that child's love – the child loves its mother, the mother loves her child, the mother continues to love her child – and the child is turned into an animal by drugs, this is one of the most heartbreaking experiences that you could ever think about.

I hope that I have dealt with three things during this contribution: (1) the chaos – any improvement in the accounting procedures within the Ministry of Education; (2) the need for stressing modern technology in our educational system; (3) the need for better protection of our children from drugs. These are the main points I have made.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will ask the Minister.....

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, before you ask the Minister to wind up, the point that the honourable Member made in relation to the new information order and the development of technology and its relevance to the development of Barbadian society in the 21st century, was a point which the present Prime Minister has been trying to get down the heads of members of the Opposition for at least four years. He was the one who was the great mover of all of this information revolution and trying to spell out the need to develop Barbados as a centre where we can offer the services of the people skilled and trained to fit into the satellite requirements and so on.

My specific concern is just to assure the House in relation to drugs, because the way it has been debated in here today, they obviously do not want to debate Legal Affairs, the Police, the Prison and all of them.

Asides.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I want to make a contribution in relation to drugs and their tie-up to school children and what the Government is doing in relation to drug abuse by school children.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Would that not be.....

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Well, Sir, you allowed the honourable Member to talk.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You are dealing with drugs, school children and education?

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Yes, Sir.

The point I am making is that I think, despite the number of times that I have spoken publicly about what the Government is doing in terms of the control of drug abuse, there still seems to be an area of obscurity in peoples' minds. I am going to go slowly. First of all, there is a task force that was appointed in September, 1985. It is not comprised of any politicians at all. In the nature of things, it will report, and does report, to the Prime Minister and Minister responsible for Defence and Security.
6.55 p.m.

Its composition is inter-departmental and inter-disciplinary, it functions on a very confidential basis and as such no member would expect me to divulge the membership of the task force. The function of the task force is to co-ordinate a national plan for the eradication of the drug menance, drawing on the work which is being done in the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Legal Affairs and putting together all the threads.

Asides.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Did they say the Ministry of Education? I thought I had said the Ministry of Education. I am sure I said the Ministry of Education to have relevance to this particular debate.

Broadly, the Government's plan envisages that the greater publicity that can be given to the drug menace, to disabuse people's minds, to advertise to prevent their involvement in drug use, the more we can do by way of promotion of anti-drug literature and advertising on television and so on, the more we believe that it will get home to the people who are most susceptible. I gave a few weeks ago in here that age group between 18 and 25, judging by the criminal statistics in relation to drugs, as being the most susceptible to drug abuse. You see, we are trying to get across the message by a variety of means.

Now the honourable Member can be assured that the Ministry of Education will have posters in schools. Already, despite what some person said at Welchman Hall, somebody called Comic Song, the police have had now for years, at least three, possibly five, an ongoing campaign of lectures to schools, of lectures to PTAs, to maintain contact with school children and parents, to educate of the harmful effects of drugs.

I think at the moment there is a meeting going on to which representatives from Barbados have gone. In the Caribbean area there have been Caribbean meetings of Ministries of Health on the question of tackling drugs and the type of campaign that should be used. It is being done regionally, too, but every country is expected to operate on an individual basis within the limits of its resources. The great benefit of a regional approach is, of course, that one would be able to attract financial and international assistance from those agencies, abroad, which are only too willing to contribute, but wish to contribute on a regional basis rather than on an individual country basis.

There are all kinds of things that will happen. There will be posters, there will be bumper stickers, there will be things put on utility poles. I believe that if honourable Members search their consciences, they will know that within the last year they have been able to see powerful movie people like the man who does Night Rider and the fellow with the haircut, Mr. T., speaking out against the use of drugs. CBC is currently working on local programmes advertising the ill-effects of drugs. I hope that the Ministry of Education and Culture will use some of the calypsoes that have come out of Trinidad this year. The calypsonians have taken it up now as a social issue and singing about it, and I hope that the Ministry of Education can put together something. There's Sparrow's good tune of "Coke is Not It", there is one by Bally. These things can be done and will be done. This is a function of the task force.

Sir, we have to fight on the educational front. Secondly, perhaps most importantly, is the area of detection. To that extent, a supplementary Resolution was brought here a few weeks ago for additional funds for the Drug Squad of the Police Force. Not one word was said by the other side; it passed easily. We are giving the police increased equipment, we are doing a number of different things, and I think the time has come that I can make it public that ever since October we have had at the airport additional facilities, on my instruction, to help identify drugs coming into the airport. There was a time, Members will remember, that there were suitcases coming from St. Vincent and going around and going around and nobody was coming to identify them, because the word was out as to what we were doing and are doing at the airport.

The detection process requires not only better activity on the part of the police. The eight cars that we have patrolling Barbados 24 hours a day now is only part of the thing. The 50 police who have been out since December are only a part of what is happening. The main requirement now is for public co-operation and assistance, on the strictest confidential terms, with the police authorities as to who are involved in drugs in a big way and who are pushing and peddling drugs in this country. The response from the general public who have knowledge has been slow, and it will take some time for the police on their own to root out the source of importation and dealing in drugs. If we do not get information from the public, the task becomes that much harder.

A facet of detection depends upon the close co-operation between Barbados and foreign Governments and powers in the sharing of intelligence. Only recently we had a good example of the benefit of having a collaborative effort between Barbados and the United States which is giving great assistance in this area, in the case of the Mary Glory. There are other activities and manoeuvres which are carried on between the two Governments and Governments in the region, and we believe that we are making progress in terms of reducing the level of importation of drugs into this country. But it will take time for the full effect of the programme and the enhanced programme to be seen.

Now the third area is the area of legislation. You cannot start with legislation. You have to start with education, then you have to catch the criminals and then you have to deal with them. I want to make it clear that so long as I have responsibility for law and order in this country in relation to drugs, the laws will be very very tough indeed. I believe now that our laws are tougher than Trinidad, which just amended theirs in December. I make no bones about it. It had been agreed already that anyone found on the premises of any school offering drugs for use to school children will be visited with life imprisonment, and I want a licking on top of that for them, too. You can get licks for rape now.
7.05 p.m.

(Aside: Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: We have not agreed on that yet.)

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: We would not have any difficulty in getting agreement on that. Perhaps Members may have criminological views or criminological ideas about flogging. That is a matter for them. As far as I am concerned, lock up for a long time and lashes!

In September last year, Sir, I indicated that I would go further than the current law. The present law in Barba-

dos, the Narcotic Drugs Act, 1983–29, provides for the confiscation of profits and vehicles used in relation to the specific offence for which you are charged. In other words, somebody comes in here with drugs in a yacht, $250 000 and/or five years and confiscation of any profits that are made and the yacht. That is the present law. That is an example of how it can work. It is up to the magistrates and the judges to enforce it. That is what is provided for in the present legislation.

What the present legislation does not allow is to trace profits or assets acquired over a period of time prior to the time when you are held. There is an international movement now about that. Britain is doing it, Trinidad has done it, in a way about which I have reservations – I do not want to follow the Trinidad precedent, I think it is open to all kinds of criticisms, and that is a view shared by my officers and advisers, too – but Trinidad has provision for tracing and confiscating – December, 1985 – Singapore, of course, Malaysia, America, all of them have it. England, as I said, is moving towards it. In Barbados, we have a written Constitution that prevents a person's property from being confiscated, I use the word, "confiscated", perhaps, wrongly, from being expropriated, except in certain stated cases and upon payment of compensation.

It is a very serious step to try to take away somebody's property. It is an area that could be fraught with problems. It is entirely possible – I am not reflecting on anybody – for drugs to be planted on somebody for whom a spite is owed, get the person convicted and then have the person's property confiscated. When I was a student in London, I read of a case in Leeds of a man from St. Kitts when English police burst into his flat with a package of marijuana, threw it at him and said, "Catch that," in the hope that if he had seen so foolish as to catch it, his fingerprints would have been on it. Those police got seven years.

I have to be careful with the fundamental rights of Barbadians, and I am prepared to be guided by the consensus in the Commonwealth on the methodology for such serious interference with rights. I have announced that there is a Conference which Barbados will be attending in Zimbabwe in July, end of July early August, the Commonwealth Law Ministers Conference. It is on the agenda there. There is a view at Cave Hill, among the legal luminaries up there, that unless you are very careful, the legislation that you pass could well be unconstitutional. This country is not going to get the chance to say that I had the responsibility for introducing any unconstitutional legislation, because I am not bringing any unconstitutional legislation. I am going to be very careful that I uphold the Constitution of this country, which I pledged to do on assuming office and taking the oath from the Governor-General. Say what you like, I will be very careful.

I wish to give this country the assurance that there would be even tougher legislation than there is now. But I think Members ought to appreciate that in the area of depriving people of property, one has to tread with great care. That is all I am saying. After we win again and I have a change to examine all the various models of legislation, I will be bringing some down.

(Aside: Mr. P. M. GREAVES: You do not have to win to do that.)

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I do not have the time now.

The fourth area, obviously, is the area of rehabilitation, and I have expressed my views in here previously about the need for a rehabilitation centre. The honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, as a doctor, would know that there are probably persons out there who want to be helped, but in a limited society like Barbados are afraid or ashamed, let us say ashamed, to go in a public place and say, "I am or was on drugs, I want help." We need to have a facility to help those, Sir.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I believe I can put the question now. The question is.....

The Honourable Minister wants to wind up.

Hon. B. A. MILLER: Yes, Sir. Just a few words.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister will wind up.

Aside.

Hon. B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, Sir, some years ago when I suggested that it is important to control the movement in and out of the school gates of vendors, when I suggested that we should appeal to parents to be careful in the quantity of pocket money they gave children, I was berated in here. Yes! People stood up in here and said that I had a certain upbringing and I had pocket money and now I do not want the children to have, I do not want the small man to make a living at the school gate. All of that I heard in here and outside. I did not want to appear to be terrorizing people, and now I am seeing it come full circle. A lot of other things are going to come full circle, too.

This is something which was asked in here this afternoon, "What is the position?" The position is that at the secondary schools the boards and the heads together can decide, according to the size of the school roll, how many snowcone people, how many tray people,

how many small vendors they are going to allow on the school premises. They must be properly licensed people who would come in at break and lunch time, who would not be there on an ongoing basis, because if they are, it means that children are going to be buying all through the day. I even suggested that it might be in the interest of the health of the children that they would move more to fresh fruit and dairy products and away from less nutritional snacks.
7.15 p.m.

But it is a fact that the school gate was a very popular place, less so today, for the exchange and the sale of items which have nothing to do with food or drink. It is a very serious problem in the schools, and we have in the Ministry of Education gone to much trouble to make sure that we have at least one trained person on the staff of every school, every secondary school in the first instance, who can recognize the symptoms and who can be the trouble-shooter where it is suspected that there is drug experimentation, or drug use or involvement on the part of children. Those people, we hope, in turn will train other teachers and instruct other teachers in these techniques.

A great deal more has to be done in this area, not only in the secondary schools but in the primary schools as well, especially among the older children in the primary schools, because drug dealers really have no conscience in this matter and their greed has no horizon. There is no margin on account of age in their reckoning, and I am glad to see, at long last, all Members on all sides are satisfied that it is a major struggle and that every opportunity, every tool, every avenue at my disposal to fight this, I must use.

Mr. Chairman, a question was asked about the St. Joseph Primary School. That was a school in the first World Bank Project. Any reference to it now in this year's Capital Estimates will be references to residual items of equipment and furniture, although the school has been almost entirely equipped under the first World Bank Project, and, of course, sums outstanding for the contractor which are connected to retention fees.

In respect to the School Meals Department, Mr. Chairman, we have tried to make the food more attractive and appealing to the students. There is a high wastage. In fact, I have visited every single primary school now in this country and I saw the wastage for myself. Children rejected food that was well presented to them or food that was not attracted to their palate. We have tried to eliminate wastage while at the same time enforce the nutritional content of the meal, especially bearing in mind the findings of a recent National Nutrition Survey.

We have come to the end, or very close to the end, of our third extension in the Wold Food Programme and the skim milk and cheese, which are the only two items still outstanding which we are the beneficiaries, will come to an end at this third extension, and at that time we would have to purchase those items at our own expense.

There are presently six kitchens or centres in operation, Sir – these questions were asked – one at the Harbour, which was an amalgamation of the one at Reed Street and the centre at Westbury School – I am trying as fast as I can to remove School Meals kitchens and centres from school premises – and then there is one at St. Christopher and St. Clement's. They are the only two at school premises left. I am presently looking for a site to replace St. Christopher, an independent site, and I am hoping to amalgamate St. Clement's with the operation at Lancaster, which has a lot of space for the expansion to accommodate all the School Meals services for the northern parishes of this island. There is, of course, one at Summerville, one at Country Road and one at Lancaster, as I have just referred to.

We serve roughly, on a daily basis, about 26 000 meals. There are 643 or thereabouts staff in the School Meals Service. I cannot think of any other specific questions which were asked in respect of School Meals.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have come to the end of a long and illustrious debate on Education in these Estimates. It really is a matter of concern that petty exchanges and unfounded allegations should have consumed so much of today's debate. One would have hoped for a high level of debate where many of the major issues facing education not only in Barbados but in all countries in the world, but particularly those issues which are occupying the attention of developing countries, would have engaged us in a high quality debate today. I regret that this has not been the case. I hope that as this Estimates debate continues during the week, the quality of the debate will rise and that we will find ourselves engaged in progressive and productive discussion.

I now move, Mr. Chairman, that the sum of $14 229 653 under Head 76 – Capital – Ministry of Education and Culture, stand part of the Schedule.

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

The question that the sum of $14 229 653 under Head 76 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 progress to His Honour, the SPEAKER, and asked for leave to sit again, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, before we suspend, I have a Supplementary Notice Paper, which I propose to give notice of at this point, Sir.

I beg to give notice of:

A Resolution to grant the sum of $574 519 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1985-86, Part II – Capital, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1985-86, No. 33, which form the Schedule to the Resolution, Sir. I propose to do this during this sitting, Sir.

I beg to move, Sir, that this House be suspended until 10:00 a.m., March 19, 1986.

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

The question that this sitting be suspended until Wednesday, March 19, 1986 at 10:00 a.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the House accordingly.

7.30 p.m.

ON RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed.

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

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and Mr. J. G. ODLE took the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY RESUMED

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

HEAD 82 – CAPITAL – MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I beg to move that Head 82, Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Consumer Affairs for the sum of $2 480 848, stand part, Sir.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is that Head 82.....

Hon. L. R. TULL (St. George South): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this past year has been a very difficult one for industry. It has been the continuation of a trend that was established at the beginning of the 1980s when a number of regional and international factors made their impact on trade in this region. It is well known that the recession of 1981 was the most devastating one ever since the last war, and perhaps the most devastating one of this century, and it has played havoc not only with regional trade, but also with international trade. There has been a growing rise in protectionism throughout the world, and the Caribbean has been no exception, and this has caused a diminution in the flow of trade between Barbados and other countries to which it exports.

Here in the Caribbean we have also been the victims of other phenomena. First of all, there was the problem with Jamaica, with the rapidly changing exchange rates and the dual exchange system. That has caused a tremendous amount of problems not only in terms of lack of confidence in the Jamaican market, but it also gave rise to a problem of payments by the Jamaican importers of goods out of Barbados. Happily, in the last few months, some progress has been made in that regard, because the Government of Jamaica, some short months ago, took a decision to end the scheduling of payments through their Central Bank, and, therefore, our manufacturers and exporters from Barbados have been given a little bit more heart in seeking to get back in a very positive way into that market.

We have also had the problem with Guyana. Their problem stem mainly from the fact that they are not in a position to pay for their imports. The falling off of their foreign reserves – in fact, that is put in a generous way – the drying up of their reserves has been responsible in large measure for their inability to import goods. And with the prices at the moment in Guyana, we hear that there is a shortage of gasolene and they have returned once again to the use of horse and cart as a means of public transportation. All this stems out of their inability in being able to meet the amount of foreign exchange to import goods. The Government of Trinidad and Tobago has refused to ship any more oil to Guyana without Guyana paying for it up front, in foreign currency, and this has caused a problem in Guyana.

With respect to Trinidad and Tobago, Sir, our problems remain, although indications are that there has been an easing of restrictions by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago in respect of CARICOM trade. Our exports to Trinidad and Tobago during the past year, during the year 1985, fell by, I believe it was 48.9%, and it respresents a decline that has been taking place since 1983.

We in Barbados have taken certain measures to deal with the situation. I believe it is as a result of that that we saw towards the end of 1985 a greater flow of generosity in a way, but a greater flow of goods between

Barbados and Trinidad. Indeed, what I am trying to say is that a greater number of licences were granted by the Trinidad Ministry of Industry and Commerce for imports of goods from Barbados, and there has been a barely perceptible change in their attitudes in respect of the harmonization of licences and their EC 0 system.

That is not to say, Mr. Chairman, that everything is hunky-dory. Far from it. We are still continuing to experience great difficulty in returning our trade to the levels that it used to be, and indeed to have a flow that is well-oiled and not meeting all along the way a number of artificial barriers. Nonetheless, Sir, discussions are continuing between the Governments of Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago in an effort to resolve these difficulties of which I speak. We have had bi-lateral discussions on trade at the official level and we are shortly to resume those discussions. I am expecting, within a very short period of time, maybe within the next two weeks, to have discussions with my counterpart in Trinidad and Tobago to see to what extent we can accelerate those discussions and bring about certain conclusions acceptable to both sides.

Also, Sir, during the past year, we had some difficulty – although, again, that began to improve towards the end of 1985 – with the manufacturing industry in Barbados, and the two things are related. Obviously, if the markets in CARICOM are presenting some difficulty, they must have their impact on manufacturing in this country. But I am happy to say, Sir, that towards the end of the year we have been seeing some pick up in the fortunes and in the viability of a number of our manufacturing plant.

We have had words spoken in this very debate on the problems with electronics. The downturn in the economics industry worldwide, but particularly in the United States from which we draw our resources in that particular area, was reflected in the falling off of output in the electronics industry in Barbados. So about October last year I think it was, I had discussions with the President and other senior executives of INTEL – as you know, Mr. Chairman, INTEL employs about 1 000 Barbadians – and at that time the situation seemed rather gloomy. INTEL had just closed two plants in the United States and were definite at that time that they had to close one of the two offshore plants, either the one here in Barbados or the one in Manila. Of course, you would also appreciate, Mr. Chairman, that there are a number of very positive advantages of firms like INTEL being in Barbados, particularly vis-a-vis a place like the Philippines at a time when they are going through great turmoil, with problems social and political and so on. There is nothing that a businessman wants more than a stable social and political climate for his investments. Indications are, however, that the gloom that attended discussions on the electronics industry four or five months ago are now beginning to lift, and that there are forecasts for a better future for the electronics industry in the short and the medium term. Again, that will affect what happens to the electronics companies in Barbados.

We have continued this year, Sir, through the instrumentality of the Industrial Development Corporation and the Barbados Export Promotion Corporation, to give tremendous assistance to manufacturing, and indeed exporters in Barbados. The Industrial Development Corporation has been carrying out its traditional role of seeking offshore investment in Barbados in industry, particularly seeking joint venture operations, and has been trying to attract wholly-owned subsidiaries of offshore companies to locate in Barbados. We have had a study done as to what areas are likely target areas for growth in the medium term and the study identified garments, electronics, medical supplies, medical equipment and information services as potential areas of growth. We are targeting those areas and indeed doing a lot of work internally to attract the investment in those particular areas.

10.10 a.m.

It is not that our efforts are confined to those, Sir, the IDC also has been looking overseas. Most recently they have been to Brazil looking for sources of relatively low cost raw materials that will reduce the cost of produced goods in a number of areas in Barbados. We also have been looking at joint venture operations, because we are of the view that joint venture operations provide excellent opportunity for the transfer of technology, expertise and management skills.

We have also, Mr. Chairman, been selling to potential off-shore investors the good sense of operating in Barbados because of the preferred markets that are available to us, and I speak specifically of LOME, the U.S. markets, through the Caribbean Basin Initiative, and I speak also of potential, though small, increased access to the Canadian market through what is known these days as CARICAN. CARICAN is the Canadian equivalent of CBI and it will also open up the Canadian markets and give greater access to goods from the Commonwealth Caribbean countries. The final details of this particular plan have not yet been finalised or sorted out, but all indications are that there will be a modest increase in access to the Canadian markets when these proposals are finalised and elaborated. We sell these as possibilities worthy of consideration by potential external offshore investors.

We have benefitted, not directly but indirectly, by the rise in protectionist sentiments in the United States Congress. They have put quotas on goods, particularly garments, coming from South East Asia, Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, and the rest of them. The result is that a number of Far Eastern companies are now showing an

interest in the Caribbean to see how they can relocate part of their operations to the Caribbean and take advantage of the Caribbean Basin Initiative to penetrate the extra-regional market.

The Export Promotion Corporation, has also continued to play the role for which it was set up by statute and loyal to the goals set by Parliament at the time. They have been working very hard trying to study, analyze and identify our external markets, and then, through trade exhibitions and discussions with businessmen in a number of countries and so on, have made it possible for a number of our manufacturers to put goods in Caribbean countries. There was a reasonably successful mission to Puerto Rico last September, and I know of two firms in particular that have picked up significant orders out of Puerto Rico as a result of that mission.

They have also been able to get into the south eastern part of the United States. A lot of work was done. It was targeted for the development of our furniture exports and we landed a fairly exciting and lucrative contract with a firm in Virginia, Palasky Corporation, who has given the furniture manufacturers in Barbados targets to work towards. We have shipped over a $½ million already in top quality mahogany furniture, and they have been so satisfied with the quality of work that has been done that they have now given us an open order. All we can produce they will be willing to buy and distribute in the United States.

It is a challenge to the furniture manufacturers in this country, and the Government has given its total support to this particular venture and has informed the Barbados Furniture Trading Company, which is a company with a partnership between the IDC, the Barbados Development Bank, the Export Promotion Corporation, and the furniture industry. The Government has put a lot of capital into the company, and although in these early stages one does not expect immediately that we will see any return in terms of capital on the initial investment – it represents more as an incentive and support to the industry for future growth than for immediate returns – we have set up this furniture company. It is located down on the Spring Garden Highway and it is operating as a common services facility. We have bought a lot of equipment. We have kiln for the drying of the wood and we have just ordered a second one, a larger one. We are buying a lot of wood required for the furniture company of Barbados. We are buying it through the company and, therefore, making it available at a low cost to the manufacturers in Barbados. That is a continuing commitment of the Government, and we believe that, in the fullness of time, furniture exports from Barbados will be one of the most significant sectors in respect of our whole export thrust.

Through the Export Promotion Corporation, Sir, we also had a study done on garments and we have had, through the corporation of the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation of the EEC and EDF, a number of experts, designers and so on, attached to various enterprises. They have been giving assistance and advice to a number of manufacturers in Barbados and we are beginning to see the results of the work they have been doing. Productivity has gone up, the quality of the products has gone up, the design and styles and so on have improved.
10.20 a.m.

We have also assisted in that area of small manufacturing by setting up a series of seminars in collaboration with BIMAP. They have looked very closely into a number of small operations in Barbados, studied them and made proposals about how the operators can improve their operations, assisted them in improving their operations and we have put in Cost Accountants and the various types of expertise that will help them to improve their operations.

Mr. Chairman, you have signalled to me that I have only less than a minute to go, and I think that at this stage I will move the Head and at subsequent periods during the course of this debate, I will be glad to answer any questions ....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You seconded the motion.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Oh, I seconded it, Sir, but during the course of the morning I will be glad to answer any questions on any of the range of areas that this omnibus Ministry covers as we go from Industry to Commerce, Trade, Consumer Affairs, partial financial services and a wide range of things. I will be willing during the course of the day to answer any questions raised by any honourable Member.

Mr. P. M. GREAVES (St. Michael North): Mr. Chairman, I have listened very carefully to what the Honourable Minister had to say, at least some of it, because I was absent for some of it, but every year we have heard Ministers of Industry come to this Chamber, they make very lofty promises, they are very laudable and very high in their expressions in terms of what they plan to do for the IDC and for industry in Barbados, not only the IDC, but industry in Barbados, but we seem never to get beyond that stage, and industry in Barbados remains in the doldrums. The fact is that there is a crisis in manufacturing in Barbados, and that is borne out by the fact that the factory space made available for manufacturing is about half of its capacity. There are empty shells, industrial parks, in this country. The work force has reduced from somewhere in the area of 500 to now below 100 – the IDC work force I am talking about.

Some years ago, the IDC went to the north of this country and they put in some infrastructure, the roads and so on, for a new industrial estate in the north. Those roads are now overgrown with grass and weeds and bush. That, Sir, reflects the state of manufacturing in this country today. I do not know if that was intended for the honourable Members of St. Lucy (Mr. R. E. Brathwaite) and St. Peter (Mr. O. S. Arthur) to be able to hoodwink the electorate of the north into believing that something is being done for the north of this country. In fact, after all these many years it remains the same. Nothing has been done.

We still have problems with markets, both intra-regional and extra-regional, despite the fact that we have heard that some little toehold – and it cannot be more than that, Sir, the little toe, that is – has been able to gain some entry into the United States market. Inter-regionally, Sir, the markets in the Caribbean area are so bad that they have led to the certain demise of a number of manufacturing industries in this country. Despite all of this, we hear from time to time of these great and laudable plans of the Ministry of Industry for this country, so this is nothing new. The speech that we got this morning from the Honourable Minister is the speech that we have become accustomed to in this Chamber from time to time. I cannot speak for the years prior to 1981, I can speak for the years from 1981 and onward, and I have heard this over and over and over again, but yet the manufacturers are still complaining.

The IDC have gone on some promotional trips to the east – South Korea, Japan – in search, presumably, of joint ventures or to encourage investors to come and invest in Barbados, at great cost to the IDC, at great cost to the taxpayers and at great cost to this country. I would like to know, Sir, what were the benefits that have been derived from more than one trip to South Korea, Japan and wherever else in the east. This is at least three years since the last trip, that I am aware of, was made, and I have not heard of a single oriental investor coming to Barbados in order to invest in this country. I have not heard; maybe the Minister can tell us, and that is exactly what we want him to do.

The CBI. We have been told here this morning that the Ministry has been able to set up a number of seminars to look closely at small enterprises. We need more than this. The CBI was intended, I believe, for people of the Caribbean – It is supposed to be a Caribbean Basin Initiative – to take some advantages of trade offered by the United States Government. I believe that the manufacturers should be helped along so that they can be better able to take advantage of this. I know there were some proposals made and announced in the last Budget, but we have to go beyond this, we have got to be constantly making the manufacturers aware of the changing conditions in the United States market, because the United States market is not an expanded market, and there are heavy lobbies in the United States against the very CBI and the terms of trade it can produce for the region. So we have to be constantly monitoring all those many changes in the United States market – the market conditions, the market requirements – and not only monitoring them, letting the manufacturers know of these changes; holding seminars constantly – not a seminar, not just a seminar – so that the manufacturers can be aware of what they are up against.

10.30 a.m.

That is not all. The manufacturers must be helped along even beyond the kind of assistance that has been announced in the last Budgetary Proposals, because those are not enough. Eventually, we will sit down, if we are not careful, and be forever talking about the opportunities opened up by the CBI and never be able to take advantage of those opportunities. The manufacturers have problems – there are problems of markets for the manufacturers, there are problems of financing for the manufacturers – and the Ministry or the Government will have to provide financial assistance for these manufacturers so as to be able to take advantage of the wider market of the United States of America.

What is the point of being able to produce a product and when one goes to the United States of America and an order is put through, that volume cannot be filled. The United States of America does not want mere – what I would call it – token supplies. The United States market is a big market. I am not talking about the total United States markets only, I am talking about the individual States markets. They are big markets, and to be able to supply those markets we must be geared for them in terms of the technology that we are going to require, which includes all the logistics of manufacturing, machinery, finance, promotional efforts, everything. If we do not do this, as I must repeat, we are not going to be able to take advantage of all these many things that should be coming our way.

There is a study, we were told here this morning by the Minister, which has identified various products. They have identified garments, electronics and medical supplies as areas which we should engage ourselves in a big way. But this study is at least five years old, or about five years old.

(Aside: Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: Four).

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: Four is about five. And still we are no step beyond the study, and that study was very costly. That study cost us in the area of half a million dollars. For us, that is high cost. For the United States, probably that is peanuts, but that study was costly, and there is no point having study after study and then we get no where beyond the study. The Democratic Labour Party would like to see greater local participation in the industrial programmes. But, Sir, we have problems, and when some local people engage in this kind of programme, all kinds of obstacles are placed in their way.

I would like to hear the Minister on the impasse with Hill's Rice Milling Company. One thing is certain, that the Minister cannot close down the factory, because he is a Barbadian, and he has a right to set up his factory where he wants to set it up, if you have standards, so long as he meets those standards. But the Ministry can effectively close down this factory by not permitting him to get the raw materials with which to work, and, Sir, as I understand it, that is precisely what is happening. The Ministry has one story and Mr. Hill has another story. There must be some truth somewhere along the line, and I would like to hear the Minister on this, because it cannot be an encouragement to local entrepreneurs who want to invest in this country to find that at the very source, at the very point, the Ministry, which should be giving encouragement to local entrepreneurs, is cutting off the supplies by some administrative action.

I would like to hear the Minister on this particular matter. I will stop there. I do not know enough of it.

(Aside: Hon. L. R. TULL: You are talking like you know).

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: I am not talking as though I know. I have read what I have read in the newspapers, paid advertisements by Hill. There is a conflict between Mr. Hill and the Ministry. The Ministry has one story, Hill has another story. There is a conflict and, I cannot know, because I can only know what the Ministry puts out and I can only know what Hill puts out, and the two do not come together. Therefore, there is a conflict, and they cannot encourage people who want to invest in this country and this is precisely what we would want them to do.

Sir, the furniture factory on the Spring Garden Highway – it costs a considerable amount of money to put the factory there, a lot of money. It costs a lot more to get what, perhaps, is an integral part of it, the drying kiln, in place. I believe that in the long term it can be of advantage to this country. In the short term it is very questionable, because, as I understand it, the raw material, which is the mahogany, is imported into this country at high cost. We do not get the moisture content that we would require and, therefore, we have to spend a considerable amount of money in drying kilns in order to arrive at the kind of moisture that would satisfy the manufacturers as well as the importers, and the thing is very costly.

At this point in time, I would want to hear the Minister on this.

There is one other point I would like to make, as I see the time.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: One minute more.

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: In this one minute, I would like to say that I would like to see the Ministry reviewing the rents at the industrial estates. There is a problem to manufacturers on these estates by the high rents charged by the Industrial Development Corporation. They may not be high by themselves, but if one is encouraging industry, then the rents charged have to be a consideration in terms of the encouragement one gives to industry, and if the rents are so high as to be an element in causing the price of the product to be increased where it becomes non-competitive, intra-regionally or extra-regionally, then I think that the rents at the industrial estates will have to be reduced.

Sir, I will come back again another time on this matter.

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM (Christ Church East): Mr. Chairman, towards the end of his speech, the last honourable Member did say specifically in relation to the problem which Hill Milling is experiencing, that he did not know enough. I thought that could have been the description of the speech on the whole. The honourable Member just does not know enough about this area. So you will forgive me, Mr. Chairman, if I speak in somewhat didactic terms in my contribution, but I think it is important that we restate certain fundamentals in relation to industrial development in this country which no Government, neither this Barbados Labour Party Administration nor any other Administration, can escape. 10.40 a.m.

The basic fact is, Sir, that once you go, as we have gone now for the last thirty years, for industrialisation by invitation, as it is called, as the principal emphasis in our industrial strategy, that is, setting up a climate of incentives here in Barbados so as to attract internationally mobile capital, principally from the United States of America, West Germany, other parts of Europe and elsewhere, and only to a lesser extent relying on our Barbadian industrial initiatives, it means that we are linked into the international economy to the extent that whatever happens elsewhere will severely affect us here in Barbados. That explains why it is that industry is in the doldrums, as you say, here in Barbados. But it is not only here in Barbados that industry is in the doldrums, industry is in the doldrums everywhere in the western world. Japan, perhaps, is an exception to that, but in the North Atlantic and the western world industry is in the doldrums.

The heydey of attracting capital was in the Fifties and Sixties. Since then there has been a slowing down in the movement of international capital available for investment in countries like Barbados. In fact, we are today not only competing with other developing countries for international capital, but we are also competing with States within the United States of America for inter-

national capital, and that is a development more of recent years than it has been in the past. It is a question of emphasis, this more so now than it has ever been in the past.

The difficulties in the CARICOM market are particularly relevant to what is happening here in Barbados, and it is no fault of this Administration. It is no fault of this Administration that Trinidad has so organised their affairs that Trinidad was, and is today, as dependent on oil and oil-related products as we were here in Barbados dependent on sugar 15 to 20 years ago. Trinidad has a mono-culture economy. They paid little or no attention to tourism, they paid little or no attention to light manufacturing, and now that oil has collapsed in Trinidad, that market is in severe difficulties in a way that we would have been if we were dependent on sugar to the extent that they are dependent on oil. It is not our fault that Jamaica is as desperate economically as it is. The point that I wish to make, however, without illustrating this particular theme at any greater length is that the matter of our industrial development and our dependence on markets and capital from overseas means that we are locked into what is happening around us and in the western world more than ever before.

But that does not mean, as the last honourable speaker seems to be indicating, that we have not tried hard here in Barbados to promote local manufacturing activity. The IDC has been emphasising local manufacturing activity as much as offshore manufacturing activity, but we are a small country with a small market of a quarter of a million people and a small entrepreneurial base. We are still fighting the battle in agriculture of trying to get people to move away from sugar to other crops. Equally, we are still trying to persuade, notwithstanding the generous regime of assistance and incentives provided, the old, large firms in Bridgetown, traditionally involved in import distribution, to move away from that traditional activity more and more into manufacturing activity. It is not easy, and I would be glad if the honourable Members would tell us what is the key to it. They did not succeed in their day and I am not too sure that the process has gone as far as any of us would like, but it is not easy, because in the end people rely and practise what they know, and many of them seem reluctant to break new ground. But the regime of incentives could not be any more generous. They enjoy subsidised factory space, they enjoy upwards of ten years freedom from corporate taxation, they enjoy duty free importation of the raw material and of the machinery, they get continuing technical advice and assistance from the Industrial Development Corporation, the Export Promotion Corporation is there to help them penetrate new markets. Every sort of advice and assistance is put their way but they call for more and more, and neither the Democratic Labour Party nor the Barbados Labour Party must ever involve themselves in putting industry on welfare.

There are some manufacturers out there who are not prepared to play their part, but would like to be relying on the Government more and more. And I have said absolutely nothing about the regime of assistance which is being provided by the Central Bank of Barbados. Some of them, and this point must be made clear, make no distinction in their accounting between their own financing and the company's financing. They put their hand in their own money to the extent of $100 000 a year and whatever is left is good enough for the company. I tell you what I know of my own knowledge. This is no hearsay. So that we must be very careful when we are making a plea for them to recognise that there are some of them out there that you cannot help and maintain your pride and integrity as a Government.

Now with respect to the trips which were made to the Far East, it must be emphasised that the principal aim of the first trip, in which I was involved, was not necessarily to attract capital from the Far East, though we were anxious to do that if we could, but we wanted to expose Barbadian manufacturers to the technology that was available in these countries, we wanted to show them what their competitors were doing and we wanted to expose them to a wider range of manufacturing activity so that they may pick up some new ideas. Along the way we tried our best to see if we could get some joint venture activity out of South Korea in particular, but the principal aim of that first exercise in which I was involved was exposure to new ideas of technology and to get them a feel of what their competitors were doing.

Now the difficulties which the world is going through and the difficulties of all countries in trying to get the manufacturing sector viable would demand that we in Barbados refine our techniques of promotion, that we review constantly and monitor the strategies and techniques that are employed, and that we seek new opportunities at all times for manufacturing activity and for the manufacturing sector. Here, the recent emphasis of the Government must be emphasized. It is not only that, following the Booz Allen Study, we are targetting in specific areas – and that study is about three to four years old, not five as was mentioned by the last honourable Member.
10.50 a.m.

(Aside: Mr. P. M. GREAVES: I said, "about.")

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTEHHAM: But the service activities which we are emphasizing is a point which I think needs to be highlighted. We have, in recent years, set up a regime for foreign sales corporations, we have set up a regime for captive insurance companies, we have set up a regime for offshore banks, for flag ships of convenience with headquarters located here and for other management companies. And the service sector is showing

considerable growth, but the point has got to be made again and again that we are now competing with the entire world in this regard. The developed countries are out there competing as vigorously as we are at work, and they are doing so with more resources behind them. And here in the Caribbean, there is a particular problem. It relates to the fact that there are more developed countries in the Caribbean and less developed ones in CARICOM. The less developed ones for the most part have a lower wage. And to the extent that wages are an important component of the total cost to manufacturers in light manufacturing activity, we find ourselves in competition with Antigua, St. Kitts, St. Vincent, St. Lucia and many of those islands that are now giving us here in Barbados, particularly as the infrastructure improves and their wage bill remains relatively low in relation to ours, more and more competition.

I am satisfied, however, Mr. Chairman, that the Government's strategy is right. We are paying more and more attention to local manufacturing activity, while at the same time trying to continue to attract international capital and branch plant activity from North America and elsewhere. We are putting as much support behind the manufacturers as we can by way of export promotion, by way of technical assistance and technical advice. We have identified particular areas where we are throwing Government financial resources behind the manufacturers, such as the area of furniture manufacturing, and the situation generally is kept under constant review, to the extent that even though the Booz Allen study may be regarded as a recent study, that, too, is under review in the dynamic environment in which we are operating.

The Opposition has got nothing new to add to Government's efforts in this regard. And to say that the sector is in the doldrums is not to say anything new, because that is not a reflection of Government's inactivity – the fact that is has not collapsed is due to the vigorous efforts of the Government to keep it alive. The fact that it is in the doldrums is a reflection of what is happening elsewhere both in the region and in the wider world. We are part of the region and of the world.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN (Christ Church East Central): Mr. Chairman, Sir, ...

Asides.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: You are long behind me. I have started so you now want to get up.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I am not even looking at you. I just walked through the door. Mr. Chairman, who do you recognize? Yes, Sir.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I am so far ahead of you, you even entered at these four words, "You are way behind."

Applause.

Laughter.

(Aside: Mr. P. M. GREAVES: Four words. That is a hyperbole.)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I welcome this opportunity to debate industry in Barbados, and I want us to debate it against the background of the environment that we have to operate in, and the factual base that we have to operate on. Two hundred and fifty thousand people is no market for any meaningful industrialization. It was for that reason, among others, that the founding fathers of the Caribbean Economic Community sought to create free trade among the British Caribbean to provide a larger market for the potential manufacturers. From the very beginning of industrialization in Barbados, when the Development Board was formed, it was also recognized that we would have to look outside of the domestic maket, and even when CARICOM was created in 1973, that market, too, of $4½ million, now $5½ million approximately, was regarded as being small. So that from the outset, whether it was the DLP or the BLP in power, we knew, and everybody in Barbados knew, or ought to have known, that a crucial part, and indispensible *sine qua non* of meaningful industrialization means markets. You have to have markets.

Whatever you can say over there cannot disprove the fact that in the world economic environment, manufacturers, whether in Barbados or in any other part of the Caribbean, have to face up to that question of markets. That is one of the reasons why we fight to negotiate for better access in the United States of America, under the Generalized System of Preferences, under the Caribbean Basin Initiative. It is for that reason that we fight to negotiate under the LOME Convention for better access, and why we keep asking the Canadians to improve for the Caribbean area, our access under a new plan.

Let us now look at what we have done. We built up some competence in garment manufacturing, in electronic manufacturing, in agro-industrial manufacturing, in chemicals – so-called chemicals, I mean mixing – and in resource-based industries where we use raw materials to manufacture, so you have bricks, clay, cement and, not to forget, oil. That is the industrial scenario in Barbados. We are only dealing with that; when we come to services, we will come differently.

Now what has happened in the area in which we built up the greatest confidence, in the electronics industry? That industry expanded phenomenally in the 1970's. Right up to last year it provided an excellent growth rate annually for about ten years. But last year, and whether the honourable Member for St. Michael North likes it or not, the

Japanese manufacturers dominated the demand in the United States for chips, in that they were able to send them from Japan to the United States, and they caused a tremendous contraction in the American indigenous manufacturing industry and, by extension, the offshore industry, not only Barbados. The honourable Member should let the honourable Member for St. Michael West give him a lecture or two on this. We lost about 1200 jobs in electronics. Singapore lost thousands, some say in the vicinity of 20 000. Singapore, the model developing country in the world, lost thousands of jobs last year because of the downturn in the electronics industry.
11.00 a.m.

Since September last year, when a significant action took place – the five leading manufacturers in the United States of America of chips and other electronic products challenged the Japanese importation before the International Trade Commission in the United States with an anti-dumping suit – two things have happened. The Group 5 Meeting has forced the value of the Yen up from $2.35 approximately to $1.75, and the honourable Member will appreciate that that means that in terms of the American dollar, the yen is more expensive, so the competitive position of a Japanese manufacturer, by reason of the change in the currency relationship between the yen and the dollar, will become less competitive. That is one factor. But the most significant thing of all was that the evidence unfolding was that there was subsidization of exports of the chips. As more and more evidence was revealed, the Japanese and the United States Government entered into discussions on how to change this situation. By the time of the Miami Conference, when we came back from the Miami Conference, we told Barbadians that we had been assured of two things: firstly, that the case was a good case that had been filed and, secondly, that something would happen either by the first quarter or that the case would be pursued to a conclusion.

So what has happened? I am going to use this to illustrate how, to a large extent, small countries like us and big countries are dependent on the success of a particular industry, upon the actions of third parties over whom they may not always have full control. Now what has happened? The Japanese have had to cut back some of their exports either by a reduction of the subsidies or by deliberate company policy, and already in Barbados we are feeling the effects of it. The last quarter of last year, particularly the last two months of November and December, indicated that orders were coming through for electronic products where in the previous nine months there was a slackening off of orders. Of course, as the honourable Member for St. Michael West will tell the honourable Member for St. Michael North, there is a large period between getting an order and supplying the order. We did not supply it in December. But check the export figures of Barbados for January and you will see there has been an upsurge in millions of dollars for electronic products the first quarter, the first time for a long period of time.

We go further. Electronic factories are setting up. I am not going to deal with the details; the honourable Minister of Trade and Commerce is going to deal with the details. We keep that for the last. Let fools rush in where angels fear to tread. You allow them to jump in there. Keep that! Electronic companies are opening new factories in Barbados. So that we are making back up some of the losses in employment that have occurred.

Now, look, the first thing we must understand is this, that industry is a dynamic thing, it is not static. If it was static in any kind of activity, we would have no technological improvements at all. So that technological improvements are probably the greatest cause of redundancy in the industry. That is so. Secondly, we must understand that the world is really the market-place for some industries. Thirdly, we must understand that if you are trying to be an industrial country, you must encourage your competitive position constantly and all of the factors of production must be continuously monitored, and that is what we have been doing.

A study was done by the Industrial Development Corporation using the inputs of thoughts which are generally recognized, and the results of that study indicate that the administrative cost and management cost in some of our industries were the greatest cause of uncompetitiveness, particularly so in the so-called indigenous manufacturing activity. There were some firms that were analysed and every item of household and other expenditure – I am not going to go into details – were charged to the factory.

Sir, this Government, in addition to what the honourable Member for Christ Church East said, has a record of providing inducements for indigenous manufacturers which in other countries, and according to the multilateral institutions, are far too generous. The multilateral institutions are saying that you should not grant duty free concessions on raw materials to the extent that we grant concessions in CARICOM, you should not grant subsidies in rents that are granted in Barbados. And we have gone further; we have told them.....

Asides.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: You cannot accept that, because you have no access to what the people are telling you.

The World Bank studies on CARICOM Incentive Schemes are persistently criticising the Governments in the Caribbean for granting incentives on duty free raw materials, and everytime they tell me that, I ask them,

why do you not go and tell the developed world why they do not charge duty on raw materials for their industries?

(Aside: Mr. P. M. GREAVES: Have you not changed it?)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: So we have not changed it, but we have gone further. Even in areas like the garment industry and other areas where for a long period of time, including the period of time of the other side, over ten years ago, no new tax incentives were granted for garment manufacturers except they were enclave, we have gone further. We have introduced three significant things to help the garment industry. First of all, we have taken them back to school. We found out that they were so backward in their design, marketing and productive methods that, for the last year and a half, we had to take them back to school. Secondly, in the last Budget we specifically provided a tax regime for exports outside of CARICOM which would allow them to have considerable reductions in any possible tax that they could ever have to pay. Thirdly, we have, through the Industrial Credit Fund, and through the Export Promotion Corporation, brought a flow of capital to them at subsidised interest rates in relation to other interest rates that people have to pay, and we are going further.
11.10 a.m.

I am going to tell you industry by industry what we have done to help them. Some of them are benefiting from the help. There are at least six or seven of them which are now exporting under 807 operations and otherwise to the United States. But there are some you cannot help, because their idea of being a manufacturer is to blackmail each and every Government, each and every bank, each and every institution, into giving them money so as to satisfy their unlimited appetite of all kinds.

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: I will be very brief here, Mr. Chairman. What we have been treated to here is great expectations from the Honourable Minister responsible for Industry, and in subsequent contributions from the Minister of Agriculture and the Prime Minister, which amount to nothing more than apologies for not being able to achieve what they had promised this Chamber to achieve on previous occasions. That is precisely what we have got here this morning, nothing more than that. They have agreed with me. Certainly the Minister of Agriculture has agreed with me that manufacturing is in the doldrums. He has agreed with me, and I thought what we have got from the Honourable Prime Minister are reasons why they could not achieve what they set out to achieve, so where do we stand?

Mr. Chairman, what we want is positive action. We want to see industry and manufacturing move forward. We do not want excuses, we want to see it actually moving. It is dynamic! It is supposed to be. At this point in time it is in reverse, they are going backward, and it is my duty to call the attention of this Chamber to the problems here in industry. That is our duty on this side, and I am doing just that. I am telling it as I see it, and as everybody outside there sees it as well. They are seeing it that way, too, but they are pretending they are not seeing it that way. What is the saying about a blind man? There is none so blind as he who will not see? That is the position with the Government at this time in this particular matter.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW (St. John): Have you finished?

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: If you want to get up, go ahead.

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

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I am speaking. I am not entitled to speak because I am Leader of the Opposition? I know I do not get enumerated because I belong to the Democratic Labour Party, but I did not know I could not speak. What is going on now in here?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: We always welcome the Right Honourable Member.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I know I can speak in your house but I cannot speak in this House.

Asides.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Under Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Head 82, there is Investments, and it looks like $1 million, Purchase of Equity in Commercial Ventures.

Some time ago the Government ill-advisedly relieved Barclays, on the eve of the retirement of a Director of Barclays Bank, of the necessity of having to explain to his Head Office how the bank had lost, accumulated deficit, over $2 million in a company called Aero Services. The Government bailed out Barclays Bank, came to the House for money to bail out Barclays Bank, did not pay any of the other equity shareholders, assumed control, the son of the Leader of the House was made Manager, shortly thereafter relieved of his duty and an

Englishman brought in, an English military person brought in, and then the Government came to buy a Skyvan from Bristol Aviation Company for over $3 million, which we advised them against.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What item?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Purchase of Equity under Consumer Affairs Head, and chapter and verse given to you before.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please, enlighten the Chair. Head 82, what are you exactly dealing with?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I said before I started – you may not have been listening, Sir – but it was Head 82. You may have been otherwise pre-occupied. Capital – Investments – Purchase of Equity in Commercial Ventures. That is what I am dealing with, and the purchase of Aero Services was a commercial venture.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would really rather not, but I have to.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I am going to deal with the furniture company just now, but I am dealing with the general principle under which this Head was established. I am going to be very brief on this, because they have successfully kept it out of the newspapers that the same Skyvan was arrested in Venezuela, because the Venezuelans claim it was a military aircraft and should have been shot down.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please, that has nothing to do with.....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Oh yes, that was the commercial venture.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I do not accept it as coming under this Head. I am the Chairman of the House in Committee and I am not entertaining debate on it.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Go and check on it.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order! Order!

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: So that the honourable Member would know that the Skyvan is in Barbados .....

(Aside: Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: It came back.)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: It came back from Barbados.

(Aside: Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: After they released it.)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: So what?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Everything is, "so what."

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Every day boats, planes, everything is arrested.

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

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Why didn't you tell the public?

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Because there is no reason to tell the public of an incident which is commonplace in the aviation world.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order in here on both sides now.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: This is open Government? Our plane gets arrested in Venezuela and you say there is no reason to tell the public?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The matter raised by the honourable Member is totally irrelevant.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Totally irrelevant? All $3 million....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member must take his seat.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Our $3 million in Venezuela, that is totally irrelevant?

Certain remarks made at this stage by Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW were ordered by Mr. CHAIRMAN to be expunged from the record.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I am going on to something relevant now that is not going to be struck from the public knowledge by tomorrow morning, though. Our money arrested down in Venezuela, that is irrelevant to a debate on investments? Anyhow, I am going off that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Before the honourable Member continues, I would like, just for the benefit of members of the Committee, to say, according to Standing Order No. 40:

> "The Speaker, or the Chairman in Committee of the whole House, after having called the attention of the House or of the Committee to the conduct of a Member who persists in irrelevance or in tedious repetition ..... may direct him to discontinue his speech and resume his seat."

The honourable Member may continue and he will speak to Head 82.

11.20 a.m.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I am not continuing with any irrelevance. I am finished with that for now.

About the furniture, can I speak on that, Sir?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I had a call from that big corporation that manufactures furniture, and I heard from the Minister how much help the Government is giving to the Barbados Furniture Trading Company. I had a call that a big order was put in for mahogany in Brazil. I have permission from my clients to disclose it. The Barbados Furniture Trading Company ordered this furniture and had no money to pay, and the people who had put in the order for them are now liable for something over $300 000 because the Furniture Company did not have any money to pay for the furniture, although they are supposed to have big orders overseas.

Asides

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: He said, "So what?" There is no point talking anymore. I am gone, if I am going to hear, "So what?" You have orders, the people are waiting, the workers are waiting to make furniture, and you boast about how much money the Government has put into this company and they do not have any money to pay for the wood they order in Brazil, and my clients now have to look for $300 000 now to pay for them, and you are going to say, "So what?" I am going to go and call up the people and tell them do not look for any help.

(*Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW left the Chamber*)

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

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, first of all.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Before you continue, I must say that the Chair views with a certain degree of disgust the manner in which the Right honourable Member for St. John left the Chamber. I want that for the record.

Please continue.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, the honourable Member for St. Michael North in his contribution made a number of statements that bear a little consideration at this time. It is a criticism of the Government that its policy in relation to industry is a consistent policy. The honourable Member feels that there is really something wrong in putting our own position year after year without any major deviation from our policy. I just want to let him know that I have always understood that there is virtue in consistency, something that is alarmingly absent from the Opposition as they speak with different tongues on every item in this debate so far.

I want, Mr. Chairman, to deal within the 15 minutes at my disposal with one or two of the points that were raised, but, specifically, I want to deal, first of all, with the Hill Manufacturing Company problems; after that, I will deal with furniture.

The honourable Member is asking what is the position, and at the same time he is suggesting what the position is. If he is willing to learn, he will quiet down and I will tell him exactly what the position is.

I understand, Mr. Chairman, that the number of statements issued by Hill Manufacturing has caused some confusion in the minds of Barbadians as to exactly what the position is. A decision was taken by the Government some three years ago, I think it was, that rice being brought into Barbados for packaging should be Grade A American rice with 4% broken grain — I think that is what it is — and this rice, 4% broken grain, was the only rice allowed to be brought in from outside the region for packaging. That policy was communicated to all the importers of rice at the time, and all of them adhered to that decision.

Some time last year, Mr. Hill brought into Barbados milling equipment which he established somewhere — I believe, in the Haggatt Hall area — and he wrote a letter to the Ministry of Finance, I think it was, pointing out that he had assembled this plant for the milling of rice. There was no reply, according to the files, by the Ministry of Finance, but there was a letter written by the Customs Department, I think it was, acknowledging that he had set something up, which was neither here nor there, because I do not think that people have to tell the Government if they are setting up a plant anywhere in Barbados nor does the Government have any particular reasons to reply or not to reply. If you want to set up a plant, you set one up.

Mr. Hill applied to bring in unmilled rice from outside the region for milling in that plant, and that was in direct violation of the agreement of the policy made and enunciated by Government some two years ago. We told him so, that he was a party to the discussions leading up to the agreement, that he had been told what the decision was, that all the rice importers were adhering to that decision, and how he could expect to suddenly spring something on Government which was in violation of its policy. And then war was declared. He declared war. He bought a lot of newspaper ads, put his case, quite often, as I have said, publicly, misrepresenting the facts.

We had a meeting with Mr. Hill, because that is how we operate. We thought we would talk with him, look at the problem and see how to deal with it. We told him that he should import his rice from inside CARICOM, that we had an agreement as part of CARICOM to make sure that these raw materials, rice inside the Caribbean, rice produced by Belize and Guyana, should be had from

them, and it was only when they were unable to produce rice in the quantities required for milling and packaging that he could go to the extra-regional sources. We further told him that we would enquire within CARICOM, that is, Belize and Guyana, to find out if they could produce the quantity of rice required for milling at Mr. Hill's plant. Our enquiries told us that they could not produce the quantity of rice required. We, therefore, told Mr. Hill that he could then bring in the rice from extra-regional sources, the United States, Thailand, or wherever he felt like bringing it from, and he was told specifically by me that he could apply for a licence to bring in that rice from outside the region and that the licence would be approved.

Some time at the beginning of February, Mr. Hill applied for a licence to bring in over 200 tonnes of rice from the United States, and it was approved, and the licence was handed to him early in February. But, a month after he had the licence to bring in the rice, he put a big paid ad in the newspaper saying that the Government wants to close down his plant and would not allow him to bring in the rice.
11.30 a.m.

When I saw the ad in the newspaper, which was brought to my attention by people in the Consumer Affairs division in the Ministry, again we got into touch with Mr. Hill and asked him, "Did you not receive a licence, approved by us a month ago, to bring in the rice, 272 tonnes of rice?" He said "Yes, I received the licence a month ago." I said, "If you received the licence approved by us, why then did you go and tell the public of Barbados in a newspaper ad that we are preventing your mill from operating?" He said he was concerned about paying duty on the rice he was bringing in. We reminded him that we had discussed that aspect of it before and we told him that, in accordance with CARICOM Agreement, we have to go to the CARICOM Council to seek a waiver before we could deal with that aspect of it, that a Council Meeting was coming up in the month of March, and that we had already sent on to the CARICOM Secretariat an application for the waiver, it would be dealt with at that time in March, but in the meantime he could bring in the rice that he wanted for milling. That is all that I know about it in respect of that general position.

I wondered why Mr. Hill was taking that decision of total unreasonableness, because I was quite open with him on it. I had spoken to him on a number of occasions and told him what I could do, so I was surprised at the decision he has taken, until I heard he was in the supermarket in Roebuck Street telling the shoppers to vote DLP. When I heard he was doing that in the supermarket on Fridays and Saturdays, telling all the shoppers to vote DLP, I understood where he was coming from.

But there are other things that need to go on the record, because there is nothing in this whole matter to hide, and I hope it can be published now for everybody to understand. Mr. Hill told us in his original submission to the Ministry that it would affect ten or twelve jobs, and subsequently he said 20. Now he puts out an ad saying it would affect 80 jobs. I asked him, in your first proposal, when you talked to me, you said eight or ten jobs, in a subsequent letter to the Ministry you said 20 jobs, and now you are telling the public of Barbados 80 jobs. What is the situation? Are you going to employ 80 people in milling rice? He said, "No, I do not mean that; the 80 people are all of the milling company employees; the drivers, the millers, the cleaners, the supermarket clerks, everybody is included in the 80."

In addition to that, and this is also important, I asked the Price Control Officer to find out what is the cost of milled rice coming into Barbados for the consumer, supermarket shelf, and to find out from Mr. Hill what price he would be bringing in unmilled rice at, what would be the unit cost per kilogramme or whatever to mill it, and what price it would reach the supermarket shelves at for the consumer. Two of the three people who are bringing in rice milled already gave us figures of the price it is selling at at the moment to show that the rice they are selling to the consumer is cheaper than what Mr. Hill would give it to them at. I think it is six or seven cents a pound, or whatever it is, more. In other words, when Mr. Hill goes through this whole process, the price of the rice to the consumer in Barbados from him will be higher than the price of currently imported milled rice.

Now I mention this for one reason and one reason only, that is, because Mr. Hill has been saying in all of his ads and public statements that he would be producing cheaper rice for Barbadian consumers. But his own figures, in his own letterhead signed by him, Lionel C. Hill, says the exact opposite. So we said to him, "Why did you tell us one thing in the Ministry and you tell the public something else." No answer!

I do not know what more I can tell you about this mill business. If Mr. Hill wants to bring in rice from outside the region to mill, I will approve the licence, as I have approved a licence six weeks ago, for him to bring in the rice before he even put the ad in the newspaper. A month before he put the ad in the newspaper! I do not know what more to tell you about Mr. Hill and this whole issue, so I am finished with that.

The furniture company, Sir. Now the honourable Member for St. Michael North talks about the furniture company costing a lot of money and a lot of money for the kiln drier and so on. He said it cost a lot of money and that the cost of kiln drying was very high. You want to get into a multi-million dollar industry where we have orders in the United States that could amount to $40

million for furniture from Barbados, and you are complaining that we have brought in the equipment necessary to realise that $40 million from export of furniture to the United States by saying that the cost of kiln drying is too high?

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: On a point of elucidation, Mr. Chairman: I never complained. I said as a fact that the cost of some of the factors was high. It was not a complaint. I merely stated a fact.

Hon. L. R. TULL: The honourable Member says the cost is high. You do not make statements like that. If you say it is high, you are trying to say it is high in relation to something. What I am saying is that for an industry that could produce $40 million in furniture over the next few years for sale in the United States, the cost of buying a kiln to dry the wood is infinitesimal in the context of this particular operation, and therefore one has to be careful what one says, because I may very well see a newspaper headline tomorrow saying "Greaves says cost of wood drying kiln high." So "high" means what?

The Right Honourable Member for St. John mentioned some problem about paying for wood imported from Brazil. It is a fact that the furniture manufacturers in Barbados, who started off with a significant part of the shareholding of the furniture company, did not have the money to put into the company to meet all that was required in things like wages, materials and so on before shipment of the furniture to the United States and payment. They did not have that money, and, therefore, the Government, through the IDC, has had to invest over $1 million into the company at this stage, because there is a lag between the time they have the orders. You have to buy the material, you have to do the work, you have to ship them and they have to be accepted in the United States before you get paid for them, and the Government has put money into the company through the IDC. If the order was made without the money at the time, we have put the money in. There is money in the Estimates here, $1 million for 1986–87, and we also have put in money from last year, and we have a supplementary currently before Parliament to provide the necessary funding for this important operation until such time as it becomes viable.

Again Mr. Chairman, I do not understand what is the difficulty in these things. Does one understand by these querulous statements by the Opposition that somehow they are not supporting to the hilt the Furniture Trading Company of Barbados and the efforts of the furniture manufacturers? Is that their position? If so, say so.

The furniture manufacturers in Barbados had a very large part of the Trinidad market up to two to three years ago. The bottom has fallen out of that, because Trinidad and Tobago have put up restrictions on the inflow of Barbadian furniture into Trinidad that has caused a lot of layoffs and reduction in the output of furniture manufacturing in this country. And one thing that the difficulties with CARICOM has taught us is that we should no longer ever put all our eggs in one basket. The manufacturers in Barbados have put their eggs in the CARICOM market in a way that, perhaps in hindsight, they realise they should not have. The problems that they encountered in getting goods sold in the CARICOM has had some good come out of it. Shakespeare said sweet are the uses of adversity, and the adversity faced by the manufacturers in Barbados in the last three years in respect of the CARICOM market has done a lot of good in sharpening them up for competition in moving into the extra-regional markets. They have cut off a lot of fat, they have got more efficient, they have increased their productivity, they have improved their style, the design, the quality of their work. All of this happened as a direct result of the difficulties they faced in CARICOM, because they cannot put into the extra-regional market, the United States market and the European market, even here, the Puerto Rican market and so on, goods that are less than of top quality. So these difficulties in CARICOM have succeeded in sharpening the total efficiency of local manufacturing, and I believe that we are going to see the benefits in the immediate and medium term flowing from that.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I am going to join this debate at this stage because I think that we are in danger of getting a veil of confusion which will serve to mislead the entire country. There are certain principles relating to the industrialization of Barbados with which no right thinking Barbadian can disagree, and what I notice is happening in this debate is that the Prime Minister and the Ministry responsible for Industry have been able to make a number of broad statements of principle, which, because of their intrinsic value, may serve to obfuscate the actual difficulties and the problems arising out of failures of the policy of the Barbados Labour Party Administration.
11.40 a.m.

Now if in fact all that the Prime Minister has said, and all that the Minister has said, is correct, then why is the situation in industry in Barbados the way that it is? They have sought to give the impression that, because things are bad all over the world, it follows that things in Barbados are bad, and, therefore, there is nothing anybody can do but to wait until things get better in the world. They have sought to give the impression – indeed, the Prime Minister's comparative analysis of the number of jobs lost in Barbados with the number of jobs lost in Singapore would lead to the impression that Singapore is, at the end of the day, as badly off as Barbados. But the truth is this, Sir.

(Aside: Hon. L. R. TULL: That is bad logic.)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I know it is. Those things have happened. But the foresight which is present in Singapore and other similar countries has been lacking in Barbados.

(Aside: Hon. L. R. TULL: Singapore collapsed. You do not know what is going on.)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: You see, Sir. You hear, Sir. All of them. That side. You do not know what is going on! The fact is that we do not need to go to Singapore to observe what has been happening in industry to find out whether Barbados has been doing what it should do.

What the Minister of Commerce said today about the Booz Allen study is evidence that if the Booz Allen study has, in fact, been completed, very little has been done by way of targetting and using the correct methodology to benefit from the recommendations of that study. Let the honourable gentleman on that side, Sir, indicate one single solitary industry in electronics, in medical supplies, or in garments that has come to Barbados as a direct result of the new approach of targetting arising out of the Booz Allen study. What I am saying is that there has been no shift in the methodology which is being used by the Industrial Development Corporation. There has been no shift by the policy makers in terms of reorganizing our approach to industrialization by invitation. We are using basically the same methodology that was being used 15 years ago. That is what is wrong with us. That is what is wrong with industrial development in Barbados. But because we are debating these matters in broad sweeping terms, what we are having is repetition, statements that were made last year, year before and the year before that, and if we are not careful would have been made the following year.

Sir, I want to zero in on what the honourable Member for Christ Church East had to say. I want to show him that, in fact, it is not the principle that is at fault, but it is the method. If he looks at the industries in Barbados – he sought to suggest that neither the Democratic Labour Party nor the Barbados Labour Party could do anything about the methodology once we had turned to industrialization by invitation – I wish him to direct his attention to the Barbados milk plant, direct his attention to Hanschell Inniss, the plant that is substituting in Barbados a number of things that were imported, direct his attention to Barbados Packers and Canners, direct his attention to a number of other similar industries that have grown up in Barbados, including Wonder Bakeries, and that have drawn so-called importers around to understanding that manufacturing is the salvation of Barbados.

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: We agree with that.)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: The point I am trying to make, Mr. Chairman, is that there must be a combination of policies. The policies cannot be in a vacuum. The policies have to be a combination which will allow import substitution to work *pari passu* with the invitation to those in electronics and other fields.

(Aside: Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: Who has done that? We are practising it.)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: The honourable Member says he is practising it and I am not going to get involved with a debate of that kind.

The point I am making, Sir, is that you have to have in Barbados, precisely because of the reasons that have been outlined – because of the small market, because of the other difficulties of a developing country – a continuous hands on approach by the policy makers if we are to be successful on a daily basis, and you must not be diverted by utterances from other quarters which are designed to keep Barbados in a position where a few people can benefit at the expense of a large number.

Now take the Prime Minister's statement on the United States and Japan. The United States and Japan went to court on the question of subsidization of exports from Japan. And yet, the Barbados Government allowed itself to be bamboozled into charging a so-called economic rent at the IDC on the same factitious basis, propelled by the same international agency from which they borrowed the money telling them that they could get the money to build factories but they must charge an economic rent. That is utter rot! Because what has happened as a result is that whereas we as a community should be subsidizing the indigenous manufacturers by provision of a rent that may be uneconomical from our point of view, that is the IDC's point of view, but would be beneficial in keeping marginal industries going at a time when the bottom is dropping out of the market, we, in fact, through that error in policy, allowed a number of marginal industries to shut down. 11.50 a.m.

Mr. Chairman, it is unfortunate that, so few people in Barbados understand the industrial process, there seems to be an almost rejoicing when a man who has started a business fails. There seems in this country to be a general rejoicing if a black man attempts to go into manufacturing and somehow he did not make it, because the way in which the society has been arranged, ordinary people are not supposed, apparently, to become successful manufacturers. But the truth is that unless the Government props up or assists, and indeed almost walk with the people in their hands for a substantial amount of time, manufacturing in Barbados will not grow, because it is not something that we have a great tradition in. We do not have a great tradition of manufacturing in Barbados. It is something which you have to learn, and, therefore, the Government has to take the initiative in cutting off – yes, Sir – cutting off markets when necessary, the

import markets that are here in Barbados. So you have to offend importers sometimes, so that manufacturers can survive, because manufacturers provide jobs, and it is not always recognized, when the policy is being implemented, that the medium term will be beneficial. The short term is sometimes perceived as the most important, and as a result, policies are engaged in which allow importations into Barbados that affect the body politic, not only in terms of the balance of trade but in terms of the number of jobs which are lost.

Let us take the garment industry, Sir. When you read that they had someone in Barbados with the mentality that could knowingly allow South African goods to be imported into Barbados, when you read that, Sir, when you hear it, when you see the efficacy with which the individual, whoever he is, was able to say that he did not want to get involved, in the politics but that the people want to purchase the items which are going like hotcakes, there is a contempt.

(Aside: Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: It is the same thing with cricket.)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Let me balance my speech, man. Don't get cute.

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: They said no ban.)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, when a man can make a statement in this country about the importation of garments into Barbados, when, in fact, the garment manufacturers who manufacture for the local market are the ones who have been suffering the most, but we have Barbadians buying goods that came in from South Africa and the person is still allowed to continue to practise in Barbados, there is a clear indication that not enough strength exists in the Government's policies. No one should be allowed to get away with that.

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Before they defeat me, I am not talking about the criminal aspects of it. I am not talking about the criminal aspects. I am talking administratively, that in order for those goods to come into Barbados something must have happened that should not have happened.

(Aside: Hon. B. A. MILLER: That is stating the obvious.)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: You wish me to go into details? I am not going into any details, Mr. Chairman. The point I am making, Sir, is that Mapps Garments in Grazettes and a number of other companies in Grazettes have been closing down. But the people in Barbados are wearing products that are produced in Japan, that are produced in South Africa, that are produced in the United States, when, in fact, the people who should be producing them in Barbados for Barbadians to wear are out of work.

But what are we doing? We get caught in a discussion on free trade. We get caught up in a discussion on free trade that has absolutely nothing to do with small, poor, developing countries like Barbados. We talk about free trade in theory, when the United States and Japan are not themselves engaging in so-called free trade. We get caught up in free trade! We are afraid – pardon me, Government seems to be afraid – to take the necessary steps even within the Caribbean Communities to ensure that Barbadians remain at work for as long as is humanly possible to produce in Barbados.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Two minutes more.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I do not need a lot of time to make the point I have to make. It seems to me that you cannot have your cake and eat it, too. There has to be a regime to satisfy the economic times, and when we get into economic difficulty, such as we have been in, what we need is the will to ensure that as many of the indigenous manufacturers in Barbados as possible can stay alive. We need to reduce the rents to stay alive, or to do without rents altogether in certain circumstances.

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I said to do without the rents altogether in certain circumstances.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, order, order.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: You seem to be obsessed with one or two individuals. There are a large number of small manufacturers who have been hounded out of the IDC buildings. I am not discussing anybody who .....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Hon. V. L. JOHNSON (St. Michael West Central): Mr. Chairman, the honourable Member for St. Michael West is not particularly noted for his clarity of thought.

Laughter.

(Aside: Mr. B. M. TAITT: Look who is talking!)

Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: But one got the distinct impression that he exceeded himself today by being completely confused as to what ought to be the policy of this Government with respect to the question of industrial development. One feels that by now, certainly the honourable Member would have had enough opportunity to be

schooled in the policy of the Barbados Labour Party with respect to providing an entrepreneurial climate in this country that would see our youngsters and our adventurous people departing largely from an environment that is distribution oriented to a parallel arrangement; while we do not kill distribution, we at the same time develop a strong industrial climate providing for the rational development of those skills which are essential to success in this very competitive world in which we live.

The honourable Member for St. Michael West said that what we need to do is zero in on a policy that would encourage entrepreneurial development by, I gather, eliminating rents at the industrial estates, because he says that we allowed ourselves to be bamboozled by advisers who come to Barbados seeking to interest us in loans.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of elucidation: The honourable Member, Sir, because he is not familiar with this subject area, obviously did not understand what I said. The Prime Minister would have understood. The point that was being made is that the Barbados Government borrowed money from an international agency to build factories. When they borrowed the money, one of the conditionalities was that they would have to charge an economic rent. The gravamen of my argument was that we had resisted that in the past and that they ought to have resisted. We can agree to disagree. But it has nothing to do with the advisors coming here. It has to do with the conditionality. 12.00 noon.

Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: He said that in our effort to grasp money from the hands of these international lenders we allowed ourselves to be pressured into the position where we accept conditionalities that militate against the rational development of sound industrial policy. I understood him to be saying that, but one of the first principles that we have to teach our young businessmen is that there are costs associated with a rational development of industrial policy. We have to teach them to understand that there is not only manufacturing, but we have to educate them as to the need to be sufficiently oriented to the sound principles of marketing so that you do not make snow to sell to the Eskimos. We have to let them understand that, if they are to be serious industrialists, they must learn to identify a need in a particular market, understand that need in all of its ramifications, and then direct a product to satisfy and meet those needs.

Sometimes when we are young we believe that we can manufacture anything at all we feel like manufacturing, and that it is the right or the duty of the Government then to impose upon some imagined market the duty to purchase that product. But that is not the way it is, and for many years now we have been trying to sensitise local manufacturers to the need to understand that there is a certain fragility in the CARICOM market. It is relatively small, it does not have the same sophistication that one would expect to find in developed societies, consumerism is not at its highest peak and, consequently, we can get away with a lot of goods that are not up to genuinely sound international standards. As a consequence it is possible for a man to believe that once he can sell to Barbados, which may have a certain protectionist attitude towards our own manufacturers, by definition of extension he can then sell to Trinidad, to Venezuela and the United States.

There are a number of marketing conditions. We had an experience, and I am surprised to hear that honourable Members on that side cannot understand that this Government is no longer oriented toward single product development, but we are a multi-product society, not only interesting our people in garments – and we did not have to wait for Booz Allen to come down here and tell us that either – long before Booz Allen came. All they did was to come and tell us what we already knew, but sometimes, in order to deal with international agencies, we have to let them understand that we are not only developing things in our own minds, but we have brought in expertise to help to advise us about the realities of rational product development.

Booz Allen identified the decline in the garment industry and indicated that there was need for the Government to expand and to look beyond garments in order to develop a sound industrial base, and it is precisely that we are doing, because the furniture company, which I heard described this morning in terms that were not necessarily complimentary, is precisely that exercise in its infancy, in its developmental stage. The Government is nurturing the furniture industry to bring them to the level of sophistication that will allow them to manufacture Morris chairs, or whatever the United States market requires, without the joints breaking loose, as happens. I believe that every Barbadian consumer who has sat in a Morris chair looks at it and sees that at the joint up by the top there is always an inevitable break.

(Aside: Dr. R. C. HAYNES: You are attacking the manufacturers now?)

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: You were one. You were a manufacturer and it went bum.)

(Aside: Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Rattan was the best furniture product.)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please, please.

Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: The best furniture product ever developed, but not a single Rattan item is being manufactured in Barbados now, because the manufac-

turers principally involved, the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, the honourable Member for St. Michael North, never understood the kind of lessons.....

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order.

Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: .....they are trying to teach them now.....

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order.

Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: .....so that they and Forbes killed what he himself.....

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir.

Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: ..... described as one of the best products developed in the world.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order.

Hon. V. L. JOHNSON:.....But the two of them together ruined it.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir.

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

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: The honourable Member, Sir, is not telling the truth. If Rattan is not being manufactured profitably now, it is because I am no longer involved in the operation.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order. Please carry on.

Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: When we first went into the United States market with furniture, we experienced difficulties with the product. Although the product was suitable for Barbadian conditions, it was not a product that could be easily introduced into the North American market without taking into consideration all of the factors that impinge upon the development of a sound product for that particular market, because when we introduced it into a new climate, certain difficulties which were not encountered in Barbados became evident. It is because of the Government's insight, foresight and developmental acument that that furniture manufacturing factory down there was able to get people to come in and consult with our local manufacturers so that they can now re-introduce themselves into the North American market and not go in the market with something that will ruin the produce for ever, but go in with a product that can meet the most stringent standards set up by a very sophisticated consumer market like the United States. That is the policy of this Government.

Not only do we allow people to get into a back corner and develop, these honourable Members seem to forget that it was the Barbados Government that did the most to make sure that people who started off as marginal manufacturers are now the leading manufacturers in Barbados, not only in furniture, but in any other manufacturing concern. The honourable Member for St. Michael West made an interesting point in the Lobby by saying that this Government is not doing anything to diversify the manufacturing base in Barbados, by demonstrating that we have, as he described them, the milk plant, Hanschell Inniss, Packers and Canners, Wonder Bakeries, and a whole host of other companies that manufacture, a whole host of new companies diversifying, identifying markets, developing the necessary expertise and dealing with all the marketing implications of developing that product to a standard that would allow it to be accepted not only in Barbados but beyond the Caribbean. That is the policy that we will continue to follow.

I must give full marks to all those persons who have been exercising their minds in the process of developing a rational growth process through which people in Barbados developed all of the skills necessary to stand up not only in the markets where they are protected, but to stand up, which is the ultimate test, against the stiffest kind of competition. Because only those firms that master the entire marketing mix are the ones that are able to survive the rigours of competition, not only competition from their own peers but competition from abroad, competition in terms of price, competition in terms of quality, and we have to develop products not that we like but products that the consumer likes. Sometimes we believe that if we manufacture a beautiful chair, everybody in the world should be enthralled by that chair. That is not the process of marketing. We manufacture for others, not for ourselves. As a matter of fact, Sir, one of the truths that is very widely known is that some manufacturers hate the products that they do, because they cannot understand why anybody would buy them, but that is what the consumer is calling for and that is what has to be provided.

12.10 p.m.

The honourable Member for St. Michael West talked with a forked tongue. He said just a few days ago, I believe it was yesterday, that we should not involve ourselves in banning. We should not ban anybody from doing anything, and you watch me, Sir. This general call to rights and to freedoms without responsibility has ruined many societies in the past, and will ruin Barbados, unless we who are charged with the responsibility of governing this country have enough backbone to resist the repeated calls in here to allow people to engage themselves in all classes of lawlessness, claiming rights that they have no entitlement to, and violating not only the

principles of morality, but violating every other principle that is involved.

We have people, as he indicated, who are prepared to bring garments from South Africa. They are only interested in making money, but the consumer in Barbados has not yet developed the kind of consumer awareness that would allow him to reject, in principle, a garment made in South Africa. So it is our duty, as managers of this society, to help to inform the public that he must learn, when he is selecting his products, to select not only what has functional utility, but which has utility in terms of satisfying the basic human instincts for morality and decency, and we ought not to support any manufacturer who buys goods from Japan and puts a local label on them if we can identify that that is what he is doing, nor should we support any distributor who brings goods made in South Africa into Barbados. And I will tell you something else, too.

Asides

Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: From the Philippines, not from South Africa. I am talking about South Africa. You see, the honourable Member for St. Michael North is quarrelling with me now. I mean South Africa. I said that we should not support people who will take goods made in Japan and put a Barbadian label on them. I made a second point that we ought to reject, and teach the consumer of Barbados to reject, goods made in South Africa, or any other country that practices the repulsive, abhorrent, and dehumanising practices that go on up in that country.

We in Barbados, have been engaged in a developmental process, we have instituted a learning environment, but the process of industrialisation does not only reside in the capacity to go into a factory and make something. We have to develop all of the necessary skills, and we have institutions in Barbados that are not only standing still, like BIMAP, for example, but we have a situation now where you can go on from BIMAP to the university to get the necessary qualifications in all of the disciplines of business, marketing, manufacturing, product management, all the things that are essential to a good understanding of the ramifications of getting involved in a competitive world. We are developing those skills for our young people and those are the areas in which we have to be pointing our youngsters.

One of the finest speeches I heard in recent times I heard in a constituency branch of mine a few nights ago. A gentleman, a successful manufacturer in Barbados, was addressing the youth, and he was telling them that what we need to do, as a matter of course, is to recognize that all of us were not intended to be people of the Humanities, people of th Arts. Some of us do not have those talents, but God has given every man on earth a talent, and it is our duty to identify it. Some of use are talented with our hands. Some of us are talented with our mouths. Some of us are talented in other areas. Our young people who do not have the capacity or interest – I do not believe it is always capacity – sometimes, or more often than not, it is interest – in academic studies, Latin, French, English, Religious Knowledge, should be encouraged, even if they go to Harrison College or Combermere and get five or six "O" levels, to come back out in the real world and develop skills so that we would have properly trained manufacturers, and people like yourself, Sir, who go into business, having been trained, as I seem to recall, in Science. You are now giving your attention to the world of business, where I presume, you have a larger interest. These are things that we, in the Barbados Labour Party, are doing and will continue to do, despite what they, on that side, say, to make sure that the environment is developed for the smooth transition from a society that was largely dependent upon the distributive trade to one that is oriented towards a balanced and rational development so that all our young people can have all of their needs fulfilled.

Thank you, Sir.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Sir, I must not allow the statements made by the honourable Member for St. Michael West to go without the Government putting forward its point of view. He has accused the Government of not pursuing a policy of protecting local manufacturers and of not identifying areas of import substitutions similar to what was done for the Pine Hill Dairy.

Sir, the facts do not bear out this. The philosophy that informs this Government is that in respect of import substitution, and in respect of protectionism, given the smallness of Barbados market of 250 000 people, it is impossible, except in very exceptional circumstances – and garments and furniture are not those exceptional circumstances, in our opinion – that we should seek to implement the protectionist and import substitution policies that are appropriate for us through the mechanism of a Common External Tariff, a common protective tariff, under the CARICOM Agreement.

We have always said that in this country, unlike Jamaica, which has a very large domestic market of over millions, we should seek to have the protection and the import substitution in the context of the regional basis, and that is what we have been pursuing all the time. That is why we are so bitterly critical, and will always be bitterly critical, of the hypocritical manufacturers in some quarters in the Caribbean who wish, on the one hand, to have the benefits of CARICOM through a good, high, common external tariff, and want to reserve their own domestic market for themselves. I will forever be their bitterest foe. I shall expose their hypocrisy, as I have been doing, and will continue to do, and we will continue

to pursue the policy that they cannot eat their cake and have it. They cannot expect to get protection in the rest of CARICOM and deny the rest of CARICOM access to their markets. We all want, in this area, to be moving forward together. That was the policy that was pursued at Nassau, and we agreed to it in respect of agriculture and industry, and we identified the industries.
12.20 p.m.

We also had a special regime for garments. The only reason why the special regime for garments has not come into operation is because the protectionist, selfish attitude of a few manufacturers in Trinidad and Tobago prevented a meeting taking place to come up with a harmonised approach in respect of garments. Mr. Cecil White was appointed the chairman of the task force to go into the garment industry in the whole of the Caribbean. The report is published. They envisaged each country coming forward with a report on the garment industry. We cannot get anywhere because there are some who believe that their market is bigger and better for them to exploit than the CARICOM market as a whole. I do not believe in that. That cannot be Barbados' policy, because 250 000 people can never provide a market in any meaningful industrialisation. So we have to pursue this policy of trying to have the protection in the specialised industries on a CARICOM basis. That is why our philosophy is rooted in this approach.

Now, Sir, I am going to tell the honourable Member about the effort that we have put in. He obviously does not live in Barbados. In the agro-industry area, we are very proud of the fact that we have given further encouragement to the very Pine Hill Dairy, to the peper sauce manufacturers, to the flying fish processors – he forgets that – whether the Peter Morgan, or Ince, or Wood, or King's Agro-foods. These are industries which, in our opinion, are worthy of protection, and we have been able to get this protection, and persuaded others in the whole of CARICOM that if there was one thing, in our opinion, that the late Dr. Williams was right on, it was the question of getting the Caribbean to eat more of what it produced and stop the importation of the $US1 billion approximately in food. We even had to persuade the late President Burnham in Port of Spain, and he agreed that the time had come where you had to provide a CARICOM-wise regime to replace the Agricultural Marketing Protocol with a new system which was predicated upon the entrepreneur producing and distribution, and state mechanisms of the marketing boards had to be dismantled CARICOM-wise. We have been following that.

I dispute the contention of the honourable Member that the Government has not been pursuing a policy of import substitution in these areas where we have a potential, and I have cited the area of milk, I have cited the area of the new policy in relation to beef, I have cited the area of fish, and I am going further. Look at what we have been trying to do with the cherries, the guavas, the melons and other products, and two other areas of import substitution, of course, that we have pursued – and what I do not understand is that we have the honourable Member for St. Michael West, for instance , saying one thing and other honourable Members on that side saying another – the greatest investment in the exploitation of your own indigenous resources and import substitution that we have is in the oil industry, in the cement industry and brick industry. These are resources about which we set up an independent study to determine the potentialities of exploiting them, within the context again.

This is the point that the honourable Member must understand: none of these things can be exploited on 250 000 people. You have to have a market larger than our domestic market. He is only talking a lot of theory. He wants to give import substitution to four or five manufacturers to rip off the consumers in Barbados. As soon as you close off the field in respect of these things and the only competitors you are going to have are in Barbados and you are not even allowing CARICOM manufacturers to come in, that is trouble. You get inefficient like the Trinidad manufacturers and they never want to go out. They want to buy Governments. The money that they make is so good and so easy and so sweet that they want to lobby and buy Ministers and Governments.

(Aside: Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Is that happening in Trinidad?)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I am not saying that. If you say that, that is your business. I say that is the inevitable principle of the lobby. Look at what is happening in bigger countries like the United States. Look and see how various industries in the United States have formed lobbies to prevent the removal of protection that is granted. It is something that you must understand if you are looking at the history of industrial development and the history of industrial development policy. Immediately you have protectionism, a lobby develops to prevent any removal of it. You must be strong enough to resist. Let them criticize me. I like the criticism of the honourable Member. But I can tell you this, that I still believe that the decisions of the Government in relation to pursuing protection only within the context of CARICOM is the best for Barbados, if you take into account the smallness of Barbados' population and the sophistication of the consumers in Barbados, particularly in the areas of garments and things of that kind.
12.30 p.m.

When we came into power, the garment industry came to us and asked us for certain things. I am a very proud man that we were able to persuade the Ministry of Finance to adopt a mechanism to allow people to get duty free importation for raw materials for a garment

industry, not a garment industry which was operated on a factory basis. The law under the same honourable Member was that you had to have a factory of 20 before you could get duty free importation privileges, because the garment industry only had duty free importation privileges. They never got fiscal incentives on the domestic market. You never got that. You had to be an enclave outside of CARICOM. Now we battled and battled and battled and worked out a machanism with registration at IDC and other mechanisms which permitted a large number of garment industry people to operate. You have them making blinds. You have them making high quality cocktail dresses. There is a whole riffle of them. You have them in the knitwear industry. You have them all around Barbados now. I am telling you that. I can give you the names. They are getting their raw materials in duty free, I can give you three or four of the names. You can go all around Barbados and see them. So, therefore, I again point out to the honourable Member that he is behind time.

I am going to deal with the rents. The problems of the financing of factory construction posed a difficulty to this Government. The Caribbean Development Bank does not lend soft money to Barbados as a rule. The World Bank wants to graduate Barbados, far less lending it money at all. So, therefore, if we needed money for factory expansion and we did not have it domestically, we had to go to these institutions and battle, as we did. We could not get better terms than they were willing to give us. But from the time those loans were granted, this Government decided in its mind that the creation of factory space for manufacturers in Barbados had to be a joint responsibility of Government and the private sector. We then changed the law to allow people to invest and build their own factories, and the subsidy we gave was an incredible tax break – 40% up front to write off the income that you would get from the factory and a depreciation of 4% for the balance of 60%. We introduced that law so as to provide manufacturers with an opportunity to go to the bank, borrow money and build factory space for themselves. The whole of the boat industry and other industries, the fibre glass industry that we have now, is financed from that place. Because this is what we found, that some of the people who had got the low rentals in the time of the early factory building used to laugh at you, because they used to exercise the option to buy at the historical cost, with the rent being as a credit, and walk around and say that they had made a capital gain on the Government of $200 000. It happened in the Grazettes Industrial Estate. Therefore, these people were on the one hand getting a low rent and on the other hand getting a capital gain. That was racketeering.

Now, Sir, when you take into account the value of free concessions, when you take into account the subsidies that you give in advice and marketing, when you take into account the protection of the consumers at the CARICOM level, you are doing. It is not true, it cannot be demonstrated, that the Government has never done anything.

We must go to lunch. I am going to stop here, Sir.

I beg to move that you report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

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

The question that Mr. CHAIRMAN report progress and ask for leave to sit again was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.

12.45 p.m.

ON RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: The House is in session.

When the sitting was suspended the House was in Committee of Supply. To that it now reverts.

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I beg to move, Sir, that Head 82 stand part.

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

Dr. R. C. HAYNES (St. Michael South Central): Mr. Chairman, I am glad that I was privileged to hear this Government at last try to adopt a philosophical approach to trade policy which, in many respects, matches that policy position which the Democratic Labour Party, through its chief spokesman, the Shadow Minister of Finance, has advocated for many years.

Laughter.

(Aside: Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Hear thee!)

(Aside: Hon. B. A. MILLER: The closest you can get, son.)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: There can be no doubt, Sir, that an economy such as ours must be careful.....

(Aside: Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Match that. A press release.)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: ..... to strike a balance between the vital demands for export orientation of our manufacturing efforts and import substitution. Whereas our overall objectives must be in the direction of export orientation rather than import substitution, for vital, fiscal, economic, monetary and balance of payment problems, apart from the price effects and long term consequences – for those reasons – it is essential that we face the realities of this world, and from time to time we have to establish the right balance between those objectives to meet current requirements, short term requirements, medium term and long term.

There can be no doubt, Sir, that when you are in a period of high unemployment and faced with a significant

decapitalization of your manufacturing sector, largely because of the enept policies pursued by the former Minister of Trade and Industry, the Honourable Prime Minister, there can be a major case put forward for some element of protectionism without losing your long term goal of trying to create an essential export-oriented industrial sector. I believe, Sir, that this matter is of such philosophical imtance, and has such significant fiscal and economic significance for Barbados, that it is worthwhile devoting some time in my first contribution to this particular area.

Many of us will recall that the United States, for many years, certainly during the years of the recession, took a very clear position: first of all, it said that it must conform to the GAT Rules and therefore erect no barriers to trade whatsoever; and secondly, that in accordance with a free market philosophy, there should be no intervention by the United States to alter the relative value of international currency. However, Sir, under that regime we saw a remarkable turnaround last year, when the United States' dollar advanced against all other major currencies thereby putting domestic American manufacturers at a significant disadvantage in relation to their main competitors, and I refer principally to Japan. At the same time, Sir, there was a major lobby in the United States, at the Congress level, responding to demands of various interests, demanding that the Government of the United States take appropriate measures in order to prevent the loss of jobs, bankruptcies and a reduction in investment in the productive sectors of that economy. The Government was faced with two options: (1) to go back on its policies in relation to free trade and indeed breach the GAT Rules, or (2) to enter the world money market.
1.50 p.m.

It is now a matter of history, Sir, that the Government of the United States, in order to protect its own manufacturing sector in the short term, without offering any long term alternative objectives, got into the money markets of the world and has forced the value of the United States dollar down by some 23% over the past five to six months, thereby doing two things, making imports into the United States from Japan and elsewhere more expensive and making their exports cheaper to the rest of the world. The point I am making is this, Sir, that the Government of the United States was sufficiently sensitive to the need to resuscitate its manufacturing sector that it took the appropriate monetary policies in order to protect its domestic market, and in order to make sure that jobs are protected in the United States, because it was vital for the survival of their manufacturing sector. They did not use trade measures, because of international commitments, but they used the monetary and fiscal measures to achieve the same objective. I make that point, Sir, only to emphasize that even the great United States, under the arch-conservative Ronald Reagan, had to back down on his position in relation to non-intervention in the international monetary markets and take action, in consonance with the other major industrial countries, to protect jobs in the United States and investments in the United States.

Sir, we are a small country. It is one thing having a philosophical position, which I think fundamentally is relatively correct and does not differ particularly from this side, but not face the realities. The problem, Sir, is that the Honourable Prime Minister is a talker, he is a dreamer, and that is why he has done so much damage to this country, because when you look very carefully at his performance as Minister of Trade and Industry, there is about hardly anything that he has touched that has not gone fundamentally wrong, and that is because he loses touch with reality. Whether it be tourism, manufacturing, aviation, whatever that the Prime Minister has touched over the past years, it has been a total failure. He means well, Mr. Chairman, I say he means well, and when I say that I really believe that, from a theoretical point of view, he means well. But he would not get down to the ground, he will not come to earth sometimes and face the realities, and if our manufacturers here are going bankrupt and people are losing jobs, then I say that whilst you wait for other people to honour agreements and so on, give them some measure of protection.

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I am not advocating, Mr. Chairman, that anyone should take this economy and turn it into a totally import substituting economy, because that is a sure way to disaster, as has happened in Jamaica. I am not suggesting that. What I am saying is that you must have a package of measures that address the short term, and if in the short term you need a measure of protectionism, then I say yes.

We may need, and I believe there was a case, looking at the overall events within the Caribbean and within the regional markets, a large element of protection on a short term basis for our manufacturers here in Barbados. That does not mean that you cannot keep your philosophical and long term economic goals and objectives in mind. Indeed, Sir, it could be an important point of pressure to force other people to honour agreements which they have entered into, thereby creating a larger domestic and regional market that we can all share. That is an objective, a very laudable objective. But you cannot open up all your markets to Tom, Dick, and Harry within the region and outside of the region whilst at the same time all sorts of impositions are placed against our own manufacturers here. The result must be, in the short term, problems for our manufacturers. So we are not differing that much philosophically.

They are talking about facing the realities of the situation as they confront us at the moment. Let us be sure of what we are arguing about. Because one of the problems that you have in this Parliament is that when you are dealing with fiscal and important trade concepts, there are only one or two people on that side that really understand what is going on, and you get a lot of foolish,

sanctimonious replies. But I believe the Honourable Prime Minister understands what I am saying, that there has got to be some sort of short term accommodations to the current problems whilst bearing in mind the importance of not turning the economy into an import substitution arrangement. In strict economic terms, Sir, if you were to over-emphasize import substitution as a long term objective, you will be destroying the very basis of this economy, and in the long run the consumers and Barbadians will not benefit. But in the short term — I want to be very clear on what I am saying — in the short term you need to protect jobs and you need to protect investment, and I will tell you why, Sir.

It is clear to me that despite a lot of other problems that I will be talking about later within CARICOM, at diplomatic level and at other levels, what has happened in the region is that there has been a substantial fall in demand for consumer goods, and that fall in demand has been consequential on the fall in the living standards of the people of the Caribbean. Until you reverse that overall trend, you can talk what you like, you can shout, but you are not going to get an increase consumption of consumer items. All the rest has to fall within that framework. When you are talking about licences, when you are talking about barriers and what not, we must understand that is a changed situation. And, by the way, Sir, that is a direct consequence of the indebtedness of the region and the IMF programmes which have been swallowed lock, stock, and barrel by most of the major countries in the area; a direct consequence in respect of two countries. They are designed to do that. They are designed to reduce demand, reduce consumerism and so on.

Why I say it is important to maintain investment and maintain jobs is because you are faced with the major challenge in this kind of situation where your domestic markets, domestic in the narrow sense of Barbados, contract because of a fall in demand, partially through Government fiscal policies and partially through the heavy job losses in the community and the lack of the availability of cash for people to purchase finished goods, and lack of demand in your regional markets because of the situation with those economies. But you have the problem now that, in order to get the manufacturing sector going again, you have to look at the extra-regional markets, and when you have to look at the extra-regional markets, you are talking about a new type of plant. That is the first thing.

2.00 p.m.

It was necessary therefore, to have taken steps to make sure that the capital structure of your investment remained intact and that jobs and skills in Barbados remained intact. That you did not do. You allowed those companies to go bankrupt, you allowed the capital losses, you allowed the job losses and you allowed the losses in skills to take place in Barbados. You allowed that to happen as a combination of many factors. You should be looking now to be marshalling existing capital to match the kind of plant needs that you require for the export market. You need larger plants, you need plants that can produce on an economy of scale, you need plants that can produce a finished product that can compete in the highly sophisticated markets of the United States and Europe, because you cannot compete in the export of rubbish. You cannot do that. You cannot compete in the export of cheap garments. It has to be sophisticated. So that if you had kept the domestic plant going, now with appropriate financial and other inputs, and even using some of the inducements that have been put in place by the present Government in terms of tax incentives for marketing and so on, you would be far ahead of the game today. But you have failed the country. You have failed the country because you had no vision, because you had no clear understanding of the needs of the manufacturing sector in Barbados.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Let us face it.

I have only dealt with one topic so far, Sir. All right, good. I do not want to create anything, but this is serious debate now, that we now have to see how we can scrape together the capital that we have and put this in such a form that it can be used usefully in order to create the basis for a sophisticated market that awaits us there.

Thank you very much.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I am very glad, Sir, that the honourable Member has now come around to the view that you cannot export rubbish, that you cannot compete with the mass market, that there has been a fall in demand in CARICOM. I do not agree with his reasons for the fall in demand as a result of the IMF programmes. I think it is more because of the fact that the Caribbean, like other Third World countries in the world, have had a tremendous battering in commodity prices, and the economy of Guyana, the economy of Jamaica, like the economy of Barbados, which depended for the generation of foreign exchange earnings from primary commodities — like sugar in our case, and bauxite in their case — has suffered greatly.

But this illustrates something, and this is the message the honourable Member misses; you cannot have an export industry without a market for your goods, so the crucial thing that countries like ours have to do is to be able to have access to the markets. We used to have access to the CARICOM market. It is only since 1982 that we had access to the United States market under the Caribbean Basin Initiative. It is true we had access under the Lome Convention, but the point that the honourable Member misses is that in the very industries that used to export to CARICOM, the indigenous sector, the products that they exported to CARICOM are not the products that have any

special preferential regime under the Caribbean Basin Initiative our under the export opportunities in other countries of the world, U.K. and Canada. That is a factor that has to be taken into account.

When he attacks the programmes that I pursue, he ignores the fact that the environment in which we operated was such that we could not save those companies which were producers of rubbish and were producers, or thought that they could produce, for the mass market. I am going to go through the companies. We have done an analysis in Barbados of the number of companies that have gone bankrupt and the reasons for their going bankrupt. The largest that went bankrupt is the Barbados Foundry. That is the largest that went bankrupt in Barbados, a public company, it was nothing to do with the policies of the Barbados Government. That will be the subject of an inquiry, because we have more facts, and the more the facts are coming the more they will illustrate that it was nothing to do with the policies of the Barbados Government. They only had two manufacturing entities in any event. One was Rattan Furniture, which they bought at an unreasonable price, and the circumstances.....I am not going to prejudge the subject. The other one was a descaler operation for L.P.G. That is nothing to do with us.

In respect of the other companies the honourable Member talks of that went into receivership in the garment and furniture manufacturing industries, an interesting thing has happened, that the management of those companies have responded to the incentives that the honourable Member acknowledges that we have granted, they have responded, and those of them who had a basic competence upon which to build, they are the ones who are taking advantage of the 807 opportunities which we always had, and this is a point that was missed in this society for a long period of time.

When we saw the deterioration in the economic situation in Trinidad and Tobago in 1983, we were the ones that were preaching to our manufacturers they they should not place too much reliance on that market and that they should try and exploit the opportunities under the Lome Convention which had been negotiated, and the opportunities with the United States of America, which were in existence for a long period of time and which provide the demand for a number of successful garment operations in Barbados, and we were encouraging them to take advantage of that. People like DaSilva, people like Mapp and a number of others attacked the Government, and they were advocating the protectionist philosophy, which we resisted. And thank God we did, because although Mapp's went out of business under the old manangement, in a restructuring programme in receivership it is significantly one of the companies that is most successful under the 807 operations and hired 80 new people at the beginning of this year. We go further. Koves that went into receivership is still in existence and is one of the companies that can take advantage of the 807 operations. In fact, it is happening.

Aside.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: It is happening. The honourable Member does not know, and the Honourable Minister of Trade a little later on will demolish completely all of your impressions with the facts. But that, in fact, is what is happening. Once we had a group of people who understood the language we were preaching and were willing to co-operate, we brought into place the advisory service necessary to allow them to compete with the Chaney project and with a multiplicity of other projects that we had with the Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce and with others. These things are happening in Barbados, so it is nonsense to suggest that we have not been dealing with the situation after 1982.

I want to ask the honourable Member this: how could I possibly be responsible in any way for the contraction in employment which occurred in the electronic industry in Barbados? CARICOM does not provide demand for electronics. It was, together with garments, the area of greatest employment. We were utterly dependent upon what happened in the United States and the European Economic Community with the demand for chips and other electronic products, and I pointed out that it was only since last year, as a result of the anti-dumping suit that was brought in the United States of America, that a demand has started again. Again, the situation with electronics illustrates the acute dependency that small countries have in relation to demand for the products that they produce, and you cannot compare or use an approach which may have validity in a country like the United States of America, the protectionist policy in the United States of America, with us. That is what you have been doing.

2.10 p.m.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Just give away for one moment: I am not suggesting that we should use that method. I made the point only to say that sometimes, in the context of a broad philosophical position, you may have to take short term measures. What our short term measures are seem to be a matter of difference.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: No, not short term measures, because you have said that just as the United States of America, despite the Reagan philosophy of the market forces having play, had to grant protection to some of their industries, so, too, we have to do it. But you keep ignoring the fact that what we were trying to protect was rubbish.

The type of industry that we had was only interested in ripping off the consumers. There was rubbish, and you, yourself, know that it was rubbish, because it was

specifically, and I thought cleverly, exempted from your protective mechanism anything to do with rubbish. And as I pointed out, those industries that have fallen by the wayside, have fallen by the wayside because of the incompetence, the arrogance and the indifference of their owners and managers to recognize that changes were necessary. They refused the help that Government had offered them, and now we have before us examples of those who accepted the help — Koves in receivership, Glen Parker and Mico in the indigenous garment industry. In the furniture industry, we had the others whom we helped through the Furniture Trading Company. That whole group can be separated from the others who were politicians, the DaSilvas, the Mapps, the Forbes, and all of them. They were politicians. They were interested in ripping off the consumers in Barbados with protectionism, which, thank God, we have resisted. So I reject, completely, the charge that the Government did not bring help when it was needed.

I have already delineated in detail how we have introduced the Industrial Credit Fund; how we introduced the duty free raw material privileges, not only to companies employing 20, but companies employing from one up; how we introduced the help with the Export Promotion Corporation and the Industrial Development Corporation; in the last Budget we introduced the incentives by way of taxation reduction in respect of export earnings, allowing them, also, to write off marketing expenses, all of those things. There was a whole series of packages and that was followed through with a reduction in their rents. It is a whole comprehensive package, and I must say that the honourable Member again ignores the fact that, prior to the implementation of this policy, we took the precaution of having an opinion expressed by way of a consultancy study from a well recognized international group of consultants, Booz, Allen, Hamilton. And we backed that up with an inter-departmental study, with our own people working in conjunction with a group of manufacturers from within the Manufacturers Association who were interested in progress and change and who were not political. So that is the position.

Our record is there, and it has been successful, because, as far as the enclave sector is concerned, we also suffered. The honourable Member has to remember these things. We also suffered in the enclave market because of quotas in the United States of America. Two years ago, we were producing foundation garments in Barbados at such a price and such a competitive level that there was a petition, under the agreement in the United States, the competitive need criteria, that we had produced more than our share. So that some of our very highly successful manufacturing firms which catered solely to production for the United States market were under attack by the protectionist elements in the United States. Those were some of the things we had to come up against.

Paralled to all of this, in the traditional areas we have been developing the agro-industries. Look at the help we have given in the fishing industry for processing and fishing. Look at the help that Government gave in the milk processing industry. Look at the help that we have been giving in the oil industry. Look at the help that we have been giving in the cement industry. They have only just come off stream. You come; I am going to walk you right down a trap with a few of those industries today, and I am going to fly the trap as soon as the appropriate time comes. That is the position.

We have not been static. Our policy has been responding to the demand, but we have had some failures, some failures because of incompetent management, because of lack of capacity, and some of them because of sheer theft, internal theft. That is what it is. That is a condition of business. Look at the City of London. Look at what has happened in the City of London with the Lloyds Insurance market. Mankind must understand that periodically, within a given industry in any country of the world, the best regulated industry, you will have people who will carry away money from their own businesses, and, more particularly, who will carry away money from the creditors. So do not let us fool ourselves. The record of the Government is very clear.

I am not going to deal with Caribbean. I am going to let you walk into the trap with Caribbean. You walk into the trap, because you do not know the facts. The facts of the matter are very clear.

(*Aside:* Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I am coming to the oil and cement soon).

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Yes, you come to the oil and cement. I want you to come to the oil and cement.

Part of the philosophy of the Barbados Government has been to improve our external access. We tried with LOME 3 because the Rules of Origin under LOME 2 were not as good as we wanted them. We tried to improve the Rules of Access, but that has not been ratified yet.

Another problem that we have to face, Mr. Chairman, all of us have to face it, is that our dollar, having been tied to the American dollar, suffered some of the consequences that the American manufacturers suffered, and the honourable Member mentioned that as a consequence. He said that as a result of the American dollar being so strong, the American manufacturers were not competitive *vis-a-vis* the Japanese and other competitors. But ours is tied to that, too, so you must understand that *vis-a-vis* Haiti, *vis-a-vis* the Dominican Republic, *vis-a-vis* Costa Rico, *vis-a-vis* Trinidad and Togago, *vis-a-vis* everybody, as far as Jamaica, Guyana,

vis-a-vis all of them who are inter-competitors with us in the CBI or in LOME, we would be at a disadvantage, too, so we had to narrowly select. That is what the Booz Allen Hamilton study showed.

Barbados had become a low cost structure primarily because of the price of your dollar, and you had to do one of two things. You had to become highly selective or devalue. I picked the highly selective route. I did not devalue. Let the honourable Member tell us what he would have done.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, it is quite clear that the honourable Member promised to do two things today: (1), remove some of the area of relatively objective analysis, and, secondly, set traps.
2.20 p.m.

Let me tell you, first of all, what we will do in terms of dealing with the relative domestic cost of production in Barbados. We will in no circumstances support the devaluation of the Barbados dollar. That is our answer, one straightforward unequivocal answer. Secondly, under no circumstances will we pursue a policy of wages' suppression in Barbados. We will leave that to the open market for wage settlements. That will be our policy. We have no intention of interfering with wage levels. We feel that that is best arrived at in the open market, because, in the final analysis, that is affected by the price you fetch externally, and, secondly, of course, by the general industrial climate and price levels in Barbados. So the Democratic Labour Party's policy is clear.

We will not seek to increase the competitiveness of our products either by wages suppression or by a devaluation of our currency, therefore, Sir, we have to look at other cost-related factors. The first one that we have to consider is the non-wage cost of labour in Barbados — not the cost of labour, the non-wage cost of labour — and that directly applies to those in positions which the Government has placed on corporations consequential on their payroll. That is one factor that affects the competitiveness of our position.

The second factor, Mr. Chairman. I have pleaded, I have begged the Government to look at the cost of money in Barbados for many years. I do not know what studies you may have done, or what your studies may have shown up, but I will tell you that there can be no question that most of the indigenous manufacturing sector in Barbados, the Barbadian, generally speaking, did not have a lot of money. The people who had money did not go into manufacturing; the Barbadians who had money, by and large, and the corporations that have large amounts of reserves did not get into the area of manufacturing, or tourism, for that matter. The people who got into those areas, and they should be applauded in some ways, were people with limited money, and very often there existed from the beginning a very unfavourable debt equity ratio in their businesses. That is a fact. This means that for the survival of that business, costs of operating have to be kept within reasonable limits, and I am saying that this Government, by a mistaken policy for many years of trying to keep domestic interest rates at a level with international interest rates, has contributed much to undermining the indigenous manufacturing sector in Barbados.

Sir, I will tell you why. One of the best speeches I have ever heard the Prime Minister make in this House, three years ago, was an impassioned plea to keep the interest rates in Barbados as high as possible. I hope you remember that speech, I remember it well. The point is that when you are saying that, when you allow the IMF and other people to tell you that you would attract foreign currency into Barbados if you keep a high domestic interest rates regime in Barbados, that was foolishness. When you allowed them to tell you that you would lose foreign currency because of differentials in interest rates, that was foolishness. When they told you that there would be short term pressure on your balance of payments because of people wishing to pay overseas commitments at an early time in order to save on interest, that was foolishness. But even if they were correct in all three regards, my contention always has been that the damage that it would do to your productive sector would have been far greater, and I would say that the Government, through its interest rates policy between 1981 and 1984, did a tremendous amount of damage to the manufacturing sector.

The third thing, and now I am going to see if the honourable Member is going to be really sincere in this matter, is this: I am saying that the collapse of the Multilateral Clearing Facility, with a substantial amount of money owing to Barbados, did Barbados a lot of harm. And I am charging, Sir, because I know where the responsibility is, that the responsibility must rest on the shoulders of the present Prime Minister, who was Minister of External Trade at the time, and, of course, the Ministry of Finance.

Sir, I know what was the position of the Honourable Prime Minister when he was asked to participate in an assessment of the problem. I want to hear what he is going to say on the floor of the House today. I want an honest and a sincere answer as to whether the political directorate must be held responsible for Barbados' predicament after the collapse of the CARICOM Multilateral Clearing Facility with $130 million owed to us. If it is not the political directorate, then tell us who it is. Tell us what your position as Minister of External Trade was at the time, plus what the position of the Ministry of Finance was at the time, and tell us what contribution you think that collapse has made to the virtual demise of the indigenous manufacturing sector in Barbados. The honourable Member knows what I am talking about. I am talking

about a famous Sunday, God's day. He knows what I am talking about. The others may not know, but I know. I say no more.

We are talking now, Sir, about relative costs. I think that there are two problems relating to the cost of operations in Barbados. There can be no doubt that the Democratic Labour Party was right when it was calling on the Government during that difficult period to reduce the rents charged to manufacturers. We called for it for many years, we supported the manufacturers. You have responded at last in some measure, but very often, too little too late, and that is one of the problems with these rents.

The second problem has been the cost of building by the IDC, the cost of construction. I was surprised to learn — I checked this out about a few months ago, because I was thinking of doing a little shell operation myself, steel and fill in — I was shocked to learn that the IDC was building at something like $110 per square foot, Sir, when other construction firms in Barbados at the time were putting up shell buildings at between $65 and $70 per square foot. Do you know what a factory is, Sir? You put up some steel, you put on a roof and then you fill in the sides with concrete blocks and you make the front part look pretty and the back part conform with the Faactories Act, the health regulations and so on. You are not building a house, you are building a factory, and I am telling you that the initial capital cost by the IDC for most of the buildings they have put up in Barbados in recent times has been too high. A hundred and ten dollars per square foot is too much!
2.30 p.m.

(*Aside:* Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: That is what you say. That is not true.)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Well if it is not true, all I am saying is I checked out the relative cost of building from given sources and I was told by a very reliable source that the most recent IDC building was at $110 per square foot. Wait a minute. That is what I was told from a very reliable source. I say I was told that. If that is not the case, tell us what it is.

(*Aside:* Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: You say that. You check it out.)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: No problem.

The third major factor has been the high cost of energy in Barbados. Now I recall two years ago, when poor, humble folk like me had to go singlehandedly and hire lawyers and seek to get accounting advice to go before the PUB and try to put up some argument against the increase in electricity rates in Barbados, that there were elements in Barbados who would have benefitted far more by a reduction in electricity rates or a non-increase in the prices and they would not participate in any way in the objection.

(*Aside:* Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: The Manufacturers' Association.)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: They would not participate. The associations would not participate. That is a fact. The Hotel Association would not participate. The Chamber of Commerce would not participate, under the foolish doctrine that they cannot be seen taking a contrary position to another part of the private sector. But today, now that they have seen the results of those energy prices, I see they have all banded together and now they have gone up to object in the Telephone Company hearing. I applaud that. It is a sensible approach to the whole matter. I am not criticizing them. I say they were wrong in their position two years ago and they would have been in a better position if they had come in and helped with the expertise that we needed at that time. But I applaud them now for the fact that they are going to defend their interests, and the public interest at large, in making sure that there is a fair hearing. And I also condemn the Government for not even making their presence felt at either one of the two enquiries. Heaven knows what they are getting up to secretly this time, as they did last time with the Light and Power hearing.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I really must ask the honourable Member, if he is going to accuse the Government of having a secret agreement with the Light and Power, to disclose in Parliament what the agreement is, because he cannot make the allegation and not justify it. That is a serious thing, to suggest that the Government of a country has made a secret agreement with a utility operator, when the honourable Member knows that the law of Barbados vests the regulation of utilities in a Public Utilities Board. If he says it is a secret, the only suggestion he is making is that we were guilty of collusion with the company to defraud the public of Barbados.

(*Aside:* Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I am saying it is a matter of fact.)

(*Aside:* Mr. P. M. GREAVES: It is a fact.)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I am saying it is a matter of fact that that Administration signed the agreement with the World Bank, came to Parliament, got the guarantee for US$12 million, and within that agreement that was not made public, that was not brought to this Parliament, a given rate of return was specified on the assets of the Barbados Light and Power Company which resulted in a particular rate that had to be arrived at. That is fundamental to the eventual rate arrived at. It was secret, it was not brought to this Parliament, but it had to be exposed so long as we objected before the Light and Power

Company. The agreement was made available to us at the Light and Power hearing,.....

(*Aside:* Mr. P. M. GREAVES: Of course.)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES:.....whilst the Government ran away. They could not even appear, because they could not come inside there and put up an argument against a rate return of, I think something like 8% or their assets or something like that. That is a fact.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: So the agreement obviously was put before the utility regulatory authority which is enshrined in law in Barbados. So how can you accuse the Government of secret conduct? How can you accuse the Government legitimately of secret conduct when all of the evidence went before the regulatory board? How can it be secret? That is the public forum for the determination of agreements in relation to utilities. So there is nothing sinister about it.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, the agreement between the Government, the light and Power and the World Bank was made long in advance of any rate hearing. It was made in 1981.....

(*Aside:* Mr. P. M. GREAVES: In Canada.)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES:.....and a Member on this side was actually put in court and then the law suit subsequently withdrawn because he said so. In 1981; the rate hearing was not until several years later. The covenants in the agreement came out in evidence before the PUB. We had to drag it out. But I say the Government should be inside there at these rate hearings, because the Government has the resources available to it....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES:....to be putting a case on behalf of the people of Barbados one way or another.

We will come back again.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: We have to come back, Sir. It is very important that at this particular time we have these matters out. I am going to start now, and I am going to deal seriatim with the points that the honourable Member made.

Payroll costs. He talks about payroll costs in Barbados, non-wage costs, and the honourable Member says that his party will not suppress wages. Now let us see if he is going to suppress benefits negotiated by trade unions. You want to curry favour with the workers by saying that you are not going to make Barbados competitive by devaluation nor suppressing wage costs. Now you say you would go at payroll costs. What are payroll costs? The number of holidays that you get a year is a significant one negotiated. After five years, it is four weeks in Barbados. Is the Democratic Labour Party going to cut the annual holiday of Barbadians? Because you say you are going to cut payroll costs.

Secondly...

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I am talking about non-wage costs, and I said, when I used the word "payroll", those costs which have been good impositions made on companies as a consequence of the levels of their payroll by the Government. I am not talking about holidays and so on.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: He is not talking about holidays. I thought you said non-wage costs. Okay. So what are the Social Security levies? Let us start with the Social Security levies. They amount in Barbados to about 7½%, 7½% for employee about 8% for employer.

Aside.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Look, you have the totality of the levies. I am telling you that they are of a great insignificance when you take into consideration what happens in other areas. The Singapore Provident Fund has 50% levies, 25% on the part of the employee and 25% on the part of the employer. And you are going to tell me the levies in Barbados! And what do you get for the levies? You get a bus service that is heavily subsidized so that the employer himself gets a benefit in the overall reduction in cost, because when he goes to negotiate his wages, he says that we have a wonderful bus service in Barbados that he can work a shift system, because there are buses running right up to 2.00 o'clock in the morning. So there is an indirect benefit to the whole economy in respect of some of these non-wage payroll costs.

What are the others? The Transport Levy. That is the one that deals with the question of the bus service, and if you did not have that contribution from the whole community, bus fares, instead of being 75 cents, would be $1.50.

(*Aside:* Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Under you all.)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Well, I know that the honourable Member is a magician. He can finance expenditure without having a source of revenue. I know you are a magician. I am going to look forward to you doing that. I mean, the non-wage costs are low.

The cost of money. If there is one thing this Government can be proud of, it is that, notwithstanding

our interest rates follow the general international levels, the overdraft rate or the borrowing rate to the customer in Barbados is still lower than in the western countries, with the exception of Germany and Japan. You know that, too. In addition to that, the Government has ensured that to the manufacturing industry and the productive sectors, there are special financial institutions that lend to them at non-ordinary rates. There are special rates for manufacturing through the Barbados Development Bank, for agriculture through the Barbados National Bank, and through special rediscounting schemes.
2.40 p.m.

So that when you are talking about interest rates in relation to the manufacturing sector, you must not look at ordinary rates, you have to look at the special mechanisms that have been created by the Government to allow funds to flow to these institutions. Now if they are not bankable, they are not bankable. The Industrial Credit Fund was created especially in order to cater to the need for pre-shipment and post-shipment finance by manufacturers, to deal with the question of the small capitalization and the high risk of the manufacturing industry. So the Government addressed that problem.

I have never heard, in any of the studies being done by the Government, the cost of money being advanced. I heard high wages. I heard Coopers, I heard at least six companies that came to Barbados say openly to the public of Barbados that the reason they are leaving Barbados is because of the union activity and the amount demanded by the union in the wage agreement. I heard that.

Asides.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I am saying whether it is right or wrong, but I am saying that the allegations that have been advanced by the people who have to make the decisions do not square with the facts of the theories propounded by the honourable Member, who is not a manufacturer.

Now he talks about the collapse of the Multilateral Clearing Facility. Let the honourable Member tell me what has the Multilateral Clearing Facility has to do with the export to the United States of America, Guadeloupe, Martinique, and Puerto Rico or any of those countries.

Asides.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Sir, the honourable Member, in his previous submission, said that whatever we say or whatever we do, as a result of his own most careful analysis he has come to the conclusion that CARICOM is no longer a market because of the lack of demand in CARICOM. But even if you have the most perfect Multilateral Clearing Facility, even if you can give them the greatest amount of credit, unless the Government takes off their restrictions in the form of licenses and in the form of foreign exchange approval, how are you going to sell? So the Multilateral Clearing Facility only is of relevance in those countries like Guyana and Jamaica, where the only obstacle to some of those countries was the ability to give credit for as long a period as the Third World countries are able to give to those contries. That is all. I can give you a classic example. Cuba gave Guyana credit for one year for cement. If we want to sell to Guyana, we have to match it, because in today's world of trade price is not the only determinant. Price and quality are not the only determinants. Terms of credit is also a factor. So what I say is this, that while the Multilateral Clearing Facility was a useful mechanism, and I will say that I still believe that it has a role to play, I believe that, for some of the very reasons advanced by the honourable Member, it is not going to provide the stimulus that we need in manufacturing in Barbados at the present moment, because the problem that we have is a lack of markets with money to buy the goods that we produce. That is the answer to that.

The Multilateral Clearing Facility is the subject of a detailed inquiry before the CARICOM Finance Ministers, and Barbados' viewpoint will be put to the hilt there. The rules are very clear, and our contention is that the Multilateral Clearing Facility had one set of rules for a product called oil when they were dealing with Guyana, different rules when they were dealing with Barbados and, as far as I am concerned, the Barbados Government is not accepting the book put forward by the managing agent of the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago. They have to re-write the book as far as we are concerned and put in Guyana's oil and our oil, or take out our oil and take out Guyana's oil. You cannot have one set of rules for the same group of people for the same product and a different set of rules for the same group of people for the same product. Common sense, equity, fairness, and reason would dictate that that cannot be so. That is the answer to that.

Sir, as far as electricity rates are concerned....

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of explanation, Sir: I accept the honourable Member's contention that the passing of oil from Trinidad and Tobago to Guyana was responsible for the limit being reached. The question which I asked was who was responsible for allowing the slip to take place, which eventually resulted in the limit being reached and Barbados being owed $130 million. That is the question I have asked.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Sir, the public utility price mechanism has been set under a regulatory authority which has been established since 1953. It derives its

powers from a statute which is based, to a large extent, on the public utility regulatory practice in the United States of America. In periods of high inflation, there is a difference in approach to the rate base, and a difference in approach to the rate of return in periods of low inflation. Everybody knows that in the world between 1981 and 1984, there was a period of high inflation caused by oil prices, and a period of high interest rates.

The honourable Member objected before the Public Utilities Board. The case went to the Court of Appeal in Barbados. He was resoundingly defeated by the Public Utilities Board and by the Court of Appeal. Now if the honourable Member wants to rewrite the law and subsidize public utilities, let him say that is his philosophy, let him say that be the philosophy of his Government.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order: I did not appeal the decision, because I could not put that kind of money at risk.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: It was a bad case. You got sense! You will not waste your money if you have a bad case. But the point is that you were resoundingly defeated, and the propositions that you put forward about public utility regulations were resoundingly rejected.

Sir, the other point about this is that the honourable Member must remember that public utility cost in Barbados is determined by two matters, and one is the cost of fuel, which is totally segregated from the other cost, and anybody who gets a public utilities bill in Barbados knows the two components of the cost. Now if there is one thing he has not ascribed to himself yet is the ability to buy fuel prior to January this year at the prices that would have led to a significant reduction or any reduction at all in utilities in Barbados.

The study that has been published shows that where the public utility costs are wrong in Barbados is the fact that there is no rebate for off-peak use of electricity. I agree, and the Government has had a study done on the question of marginal price costing of utilities, because we support the concept of off-peak pricing — industry benefits greatly — and we have been saying that openly. But it was the adherents and supporters of the Democratic Labour Party, Mr. Frank Alleyne and others, on the Public Utilities Board, who said that that was wrong. So the Democratic Labour Party cannot have it all their own way. When you have an opportunity, you try to introduce your concepts, and when they do not work then you blame the Government for them. Sir, the basic position is that it is competitive because of the reasons we have given.

2.50 p.m.

The Booz Allen study and all the other studies have shown that if we in Barbados are to have meaningful industrialisation, we must have (1), unrestricted access to big markets; (2), we must specialise in an area of production for which there is a demand at a price level which mass producers do not produce for. We cannot compete with Haiti, South Korea, Jamaica and a number of other countries — Costa Rica — in the production of mass goods, we have to look for high quality items in garments, and it is the same thing in electronics. We have to look into the industries that are more and more capital intensive. We must continue to pursue our efforts in the agro-industries, in those areas like the fishing and the other exotic areas, areas of producing exotica, to take advantage of the highly specialised market.

Nothing you say over there can make Barbados a competitor with our wage scales, and you say that you are not going to touch the wage scales. I do not want to touch them either, because I believe that part of the stability in Barbados is due to the fact that everybody in Barbados gets a reasonably fair share in relation to what they produce, and that stability has a price. You cannot have political stability and pay the wages that are paid in some parts of the Caribbean, and I believe that stability is worth something, and because we are small, we can pursue the policy. Sometimes the impact of the policy goes against us, but it also can go with us, and the experience has been it has gone more with us than against us.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, it is time to break up the dialogue. In liturgical terms they refer to it as an antiphony, one after the other. I have some observations to make that would move the debate somewhat off the course which it has been following for the last hour, both to answer a number of questions that have been raised and to do a few bits of clarification.

If one is familiar with the practical situation of the manufacturing industry in Barbados, one realises that there are a number of irreconcilables. One can argue for the rest of the day as to the validity of the theory of import substitution or open market. This is a debate that has been going on for a very long period, particularly in the post-war period, and in relation, primarily, to developing countries. And the argument goes on, but one of the things that one learns from even a modest exposure to public affairs, and indeed to the tenets of public financing and the development of an economic policy in any country, is that there are no absolutes. Nobody can say in terms of economic planning or theory, or public financing, that this is absolutely wrong and this is absolutely right. It is therefore possible, and it happens, in the best organised Parliaments that whatever policy is articulated by the Government, the Opposition gets up and puts the opposite, because there can be merit, according to the principles of economics, on either side. But there are several other factors that must be taken into consideration, and this is one of the reasons why those of

us who follow these things rather closely realise that the human factor is quite often the joker in the pack.

What is the situation in Barbados in respect of manufacturing? We have, on the one hand, manufacturers — I think of the smaller manufacturers — in Barbados — who from time to time, and less often now than they used to, agitate for protectionism. They wanted a lot of protection for themselves in the domestic market and they urged from time to time that the Government ban the importation of certain manufactured goods so that they would have a wider share of the domestic market. As I said, Sir, that is something that is put from time to time, but I hear it less so than it used to be in the past.

On the other hand, you have the interest of the importer/distributor. They are interested in bringing in their goods, having on their shelves in Broad Street or the supermarkets, or whatever, a range and diversity of goods that would be attractive to the average buyer, and indeed assist them in the volume of their own trade. So that their interest does not at all times, indeed seldom ever, converge with that of the interest of the manufacturer.

On the other hand, Sir, you have the consumer. The consumer is perhaps the most important person in this whole equation, because the consumer, who may also be a person working in a manufacturing plant and is concerned about layoffs and the diminution of their business, is the same person who, when he stops being an industrial worker, becomes a consumer, and goes into Bridgetown and complains if he has not got the range of goods that he wants.

Take the simple case of garments, Sir. At the time when we had the Royal Visit here some months ago, a lot of pressure was brought to bear on me — it was not necessary because of the policy existing at the time and still exists — that we do not prevent the ladies from bringing their evening frocks and the clothes they needed for the various things happening at the time, and one of the arguments they gave, and which is the one you usually hear, is that if you go into Bridgetown and you buy them, 30 and 40 of the women will turn up at one of these functions wearing the identical dress, and therefore you must allow them to have imported garments into Barbados so as to save us that embarrassment.

From time to time I have had discussions with garment manufacturers in Barbados. I can think of one or two in particular who sat in my office and spoke to me, and those manufacturers were arguing for protection, "Ban extra-regional goods and give us a bigger share of the domestic market," and while I am speaking to the manufacturers I say to them, "I like your shirt, where did you get it from?" and they bought it in the United States. So you understand, Mr. Chairman, the various irreconcilable forces tugging in different directions, and that is the position in which the Government, or the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, finds itself at any particular time. But there must be an answer, and the answer lies in the area of pragmatism. You cannot make absolute policies and say this is right, that is wrong and this is what you must pursue and we must never change. It is a fluid situation. It is like an amoeba, it changes its shape with every bit of light and movement, and as it changes, a Ministry that is sensitive and responsive to all these currents must shift its policy to seek to get the common good.

3.00 p.m.

We have heard, Mr. Chairman, coming from the other side, that they are not advocating that you go over board on import substitutions, nor are they recommending that you free up all your markets. That has been the position in respect of Government for a very long time in Barbados, so that is nothing new. But one can quarrel and argue for the rest of the day, for the rest of the week, for the rest of the year, on what is the point in-between these two opposites that one must settle, and with different men, different minds, you get different opinions. You ask 12 people on Broad Street and you get 12 different answers as to what is the exact point. Therefore, it is futile and a waste of time to engage in this kind of sterile debate where one can only argue that you have to strike a balance between giving full protection to your domestic manufacturers or opening up the markets. That is a waste of time, and a debate that will lead you nowhere.

Taking into consideration all the pressures and the constraints under which we have been operating, particularly because of the downturn in trade in CARICOM, and also because of the inevitable effect it has on the financial viability on manufacturing companies in Barbados, we have had to use a mix of policies that takes into consideration what is happening in industry from day to day, week to week, month to month, and year to year.

We have, in the past few months been urged — and I believe that this is one of the things that is being urged on us — if anything clear came through, it probably is that — to treat other countries with whom we have trading arrangements in roughly the same way in which they treated us. The last honourable Member who spoke, the one who was involved in the antiquity with the Prime Minister, directed his comments and his criticisms to the previous Minister of Trade and Industry. That is a strange thing. One would have thought that in these debates, you would direct your criticisms and your comments to the substantive Minister. Maybe he feels that there is no change in the Ministry. Maybe he feels that it is not a good thing to lock horns with the current Minister. I do not know what it is, but this current Minister has instituted a policy in dealing with CARICOM, particularly Trinidad and Tobago, in much the same fashion in which they deal with us, and if you look in the newspapers yesterday, you

will see that the Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers Association are crying out for the same reasons that the Barbados Manufacturers Association have been crying out for the last two years. They are quarrelling that the goods are unlicensed now in Barbados and that the importers in Barbados are having difficulty in getting licences to get goods out of Trinidad. They are quarrelling and saying that while it is taking them a little while to get licences in Barbados, there are third country goods on our shelves.

What is new? That is an argument we have been hearing in Barbados for the last two years. It is not only an argument that you have been hearing. It has been the subject of continuing and prolonged negotiations between the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and the Government of Barbados, because one thing that separates us from a number of other countries in the Caribbean Community is that we are firm adherents to treaty arrangements that we solidly entered into, and we do not easily deviate from them.

I am glad to hear the spokesman for the other side agreeing with the Government taking these kinds of measures to try to redress the imbalance that currently obtains in the arrangement. But what the honourable Member did not do, Mr. Chairman, was to say, "I congratulate and commend the Government for taking that step." What he does is put it in the form of a criticism. "I would do this", he says, as if it is not happening, and that has been the whole thrust of the debate coming from the other side. They would do this, and practically all of the things they said they would do, are things that we are currently doing.

Some go to extremes, like the honourable Member for St. Michael West in his contribution. He made me feel, sitting over here, that he would empty the Treasury into the laps of the manufacturers in Barbados. That is the impression that I got. No rents; if they cannot pay the rents, let the Government pay the rents. That is what he is saying. I do not think even the manufacturers in Barbados would fall for that kind of hogwash.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, you heard the contribution I made. It is obvious that the honourable Member is so hot in his head now that he making wild statements. I never said there should be no rents. It is a criticism of the Government's policy in extracting economic rents. I said that in some cases it may be necessary not to charge any rents at all.

Hon. L. R. TULL: The honourable Member gets up and interrupts me to say exactly what I said. He sees cases in which there should be no rents at all. That is the point I am making and if you follow all the things the honourable Member has said, and the honourable Member for St. Michael North, you would think that what they want is for the Government to empty the Treasury into the manufacturers' laps and say, 'You want the help, take all the money.'

The Government has given the most wide-ranging set of incentives, support and assistance to the manufacturing industry in Barbados. And you know something? The manufacturers in Barbados are not complaining about Government's policy. I talk to them all the time and they are not complaining. As a matter of fact, the manufacturers in Barbados, by and large, are supportive of the efforts that the Government is making to assist them. I deal with them all the time. I do not hear these criticisms. They are not people, historically in Barbados, who are afraid to say what they feel like saying. That is one of the most open groups in Barbados, and if they were unhappy, they would say so, but they are not saying so.

Now this question of rents. I heard the honourable Member who spoke a few moments ago talk about building costs, and in his usual — I almost said exuberance, but I do not think it is that — the honourable member, in his usual style — I will leave it at that for today, Sir — said that he understood that the building costs of IDC were $110 per square foot. That is nonsense of the highest order.

These Estimate Debates are designed so that private Members can enquire of Ministers what they want to know. If you want to know anything, you must ask. I have here with me the amount of money spent between 1980 and 1985 by IDC in developing industrial parks. From the amount they spent and the amount of square footage they got for the money spent, my elementary arithmetic taught by my primary school teachers tells me that it works out to between $65 and $70 per square foot. I am willing to have it subjected to the computer boys and the calculator boys, but you cannot say these things and get away with them.
3.10 p.m.

You also heard the honourable Member for St. Michael North say this morning that people were being laid off in construction. He did not say construction, but I take it to mean the construction wing of IDC. Well, it is always easy to say one thing and leave out the corollary to that. What the Government has done, and the Minister of Finance in the last Budget in particular, is to give incentives to the private sector to get involved in factory construction, so the result is that over the last few years a lot of construction that normally would have been done by IDC is now being done by the private sector, much to the delight of the private sector. Indeed, the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central who just spoke said that he, himself, was looking into the possibility of getting into the act so that he could get a piece of change back off his taxes, and that is exactly what it was intended

to do. You do not have to feel ashamed of it. You do not normally have any shame, so you do not have to feel ashamed of that. That is exactly what the policy was designed to do, to get people in the private sector to go out there and build the factory space and allow themselves to get certain tax incentives, and IDC, on the other hand, would scale down the volume of building. It is all right to say that one hundred and some people were laid off from construction at IDC without, on the other hand, looking to see how many people were employed to do the work of private factory construction. These things work that way.

I want also, Mr. Chairman, to deal with this question.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You are on your last two minutes.

Hon. L. R. TULL: I had better leave those two minutes for the honourable Member for St. Michael West. That honourable Member said at some point that we must not be afraid to offend importers to protect the manufacturers. He is an old hand at that. He can write a learned treatise on offending importers. As a matter of fact, when he was the Minister of Trade, he almost destroyed this country in his efforts to destroy importers, but we do not run Government on the basis of offending somebody to please another.

Our policy is to try to harmonise the position to compete on opposing sides, so that at the end of each day everybody feels that his position has been taken into consideration and he can live with the result. That is not his policy. Offend the importers, he says, do not let them bring in so and so, do not let them bring in a, b, c or d goods so that you allow the manufacturers in Barbados to develop on their own. I answered that earlier in the day. Since I said it, it came out again, a repetition of things I had said earlier, that if you allow that to happen, too much protection of local industry, you will not be in a position to egg and push on and urge the manufacturing sector in Barbados to improve its standards, to refine its techniques, to develop better quality, better design, better productivity, more efficiency, better management, all that, and that has come as a result of exposure to other competition in the extra-regional market. If he ever begins to close the door again and say let us manufacture just for ourselves in Barbados and widen the domestic base for local manufacturing, the last state will be worse than the first.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, it is remarkable that the Minister can finish his otherwise fatuous statement in the last fifteen minutes with such a remarkable statement. The Minister and his Government presided over the systematic destruction of what local industry they found when they came in 1976. All one has to do is a comparative analysis between what was there, what manufacturing industry was in the industrial parks, with what is there now.

He misleads the House when he talks about offending importers. To offend an importer was in the context of a discussion which I thought we were *ad idem* on. It was in relation to the failure of a number of importers to go into the manufacturing sector, a point which has been made by his Prime Minister, and a point with which I was agreeing, and I indicated that one has to be willing to offend importers if one wishes the same importers to move over into the manufacturing sector. I then went on to demonstrate that in fact it had happened and that evidence is there for all to see, and I name companies where persons who used to be importers were now manufacturing and were glad to be part of the productive sector of the community.

As the Honourable Prime Minister has said, not every one in this Chamber understands industry, and the mere naming of a person to be responsible for a Ministry will not, without more, give that person an understanding of the processes. So one can appreciate that the Minister responsible for Commerce and Industry might not yet have got it altogether in relation to his responsibility, and one sympathises with him, because it is not an easy thing. One does not grasp this overnight, and even in the areas where he has had longer experience, he has not demonstrated any capacity for easy and early grasp of certain essential facts relating to the system. The honourable Member, therefore, need not spend any time on the previous Minister of Industry. The record of this Minister in industry is clear.

What I would like to ask him, since we are debating the Capital Head, is whether he can indicate under Subhead 1 what are the factories that are being constructed, where are they being constructed in the industrial parks. It seems to me that there has not been any new construction in the industrial parks since the honourable Member for Christ Church East left the IDC. It seems to me, in fact, that there has not been any need for the construction of new factory space. It seems that most of the factory space that has been constructed in Barbados has been constructed by the owners of the factories themselves, and so I think he would be much better served if he would indicate to this Honourable Chamber where the factory construction is going to occur.

Secondly, there was a substantial amount of money spent in construction of what is now the IDC offices. I think that the IDC probably has the most elaborate offices of any non-productive sector in the community. I say non-productive not disparagingly, but in the context of a cost and benefit analysis of what the IDC does, what

it has done in the last 10 years, what it did in the previous 20 and before the proceeds which have been envisaged in providing it with the vehicle and the environment from which it will work.

As I understand it, the IDC has offices that cost in excess of $2 million, and yet, as one looks here at Subhead 2, it says that the Subhead provides for the completion of construction of the office extensions and renovation to the existing building. I wish to know, Mr. Chairman, why do we need renovation on a building that was completed last year. What are the renovations to the IDC offices which will be occurring? One does not understand, unless they are talking about the older plant, and I think the Minister owes it to this House to explain. The sum of money voted under that Subhead is $435 000 and it appears to me that that amount needs some explanation.

Earlier today, there was some discussion on the Furniture Trading Company and there was an area of the Furniture Trading Company which time did not permit me to raise, which I now raise with the Minister. I wish to ask him if he is in a position now to give us final figures as to the amount that has been actually invested in the total complex. You will recall that a statement was made in this House some time ago from this side which occasioned a tremendous amount of recrimination, but one still wishes details concerning the construction of the Furniture Trading Company environment at Spring Garden. My information suggests that we can have spent in excess of $1 million more than was absolutely necessary to put that plant in the position that it is in, and I would welcome verification that my information is wrong. I would welcome verification from the Minister by him providing the details, the actual information in this Chamber, to this Committee, in some detail, of the amounts that have been spent in putting together the furniture complex at Spring Garden.
3.20 p.m.

We are not discussing the principle of whether the Furniture Trading Company is a good idea. The debate has tended to go in that direction and we are *ad idem* that the Government has a responsibility to lead the way in the provision of investment funds where the private sector is reluctant or worried about taking certain steps. What we wish to know is that such monies that are advanced are being properly managed. I would think that the Government has as much interest in this as anybody else in Barbados, but in the event they do not, we on this side are insisting that the Minister should make a full disclosure of the cost involved in the creation of that environment at Spring Garden. I believe that there are certain irregularities which have occurred in the construction of that environment which need and which cry out for explanation.

Mr. Chairman, I go on to say that in spite of the promising statements or the statements of promise made by the Minister, the outlook for furniture exports from Barbados continues to be fairly bleak. I wish to say further that there is no evidence that we have had any success in the export of furniture from Barbados. And I think that some attention needs to be paid to the methodology that is being used in the importation of the mahogany from Brazil. It seems to me that we are importing, for example, mahogany with a 6% moisture content, which results in our paying a substantially higher price for the mahogany than if we purchase mahogany with an 8% moisture content. The mahogany recaptures the 2% or more in the travelling from Brazil to Barbados, so having paid the higher price for our mahogany from Brazil, when the mahogany arrives in Barbados it has the same characteristics as if we had paid for 8% mahogany. The result is, therefore, that we are paying considerably more than we should for raw material which we purport to make available to the manufacturers in the conglomerate. I call it "Conglomerate" for want of a better word, Sir – that is called the Furniture Trading Company. And because of the lack of resources at the managerial level of this company, this company, even when it has been able to secure contracts for local production, has been unable to compete with other local companies in Barbados. I can tell you, Sir, of my own knowledge, of a situation where a contract was let out to three manufacturing concerns in Barbados, this one and two others, and the work emanating from this company was so bad that we had to allow the other two companies to take over their contractual arrangement and produce the furniture.

Now it is not because there is any lack of skill on the part of the persons involved, it is beccause there is a lack of co-ordination. And what is not fully understood in Barbados is that not everyone who holds a managerial position has managerial skill, and, therefore, that a person may be a general manager of a statutory corporation does not mean that he will be able to run a company which is producing along commercial lines. I say that, Sir, not as a personal criticism of any particular individual, I am saying it as a guideline for the Minister to pay some attention, in his capacity as the director of funds that emanate from this Parliament. We are saying to him that he should pay some attention to the structural arrangements that have been made at the Furniture Trading Company.

The Barbados Development Bank should continue and get on with the business of development Banking. Furniture manufacturing and furniture trading should be dealt with by people who have had expertise in managing furniture manufacturing and furniture trading. Calling on the one to do the other is like asking a cow to run in a horse race.

(Aside: Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: We are Bentom and you are Country Act.)

Laughter.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I think that when we spend as much as $3 million or $4 million on a project, we should have accountability in this Chamber. The Barbados Labour Party Administration seems to be angry when we raise questions of accountability. But we need accountability. It is not sufficient for us to vote large sums of money in here and then some of the Ministers come in and literally gloss over the circumstances surrounding the expenditure of that money. I am therefore calling on the Minister, before we agree to the sum of $1 million additional to put into the equity for Furniture Trading Company, to do what any shareholder would require a company director to do, to show us what happened with the last amount of money. We are being asked to put another $1 million in. We do not have any objection in principle, but we think that the taxpayers of Barbados ought to have some indication as to what happened with the last $2 million, or $3 million or $4 million. We cannot simply come in here and because it is the Estimates, and because it is the Government, cough up another $1 million, and next year we increase it to $2 million.

The corporation by now, should be in a position to say to the public of Barbados, we have done this, we have done that and this is what we anticipate would happen. The Minister has not, unfortunately, told this House anything so far, and perhaps the Minister is not able to tell this House anything, and therefore the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance should assist the Minister and tell us, or insist that he brings the information concerning the furniture company before we put in the $1 million.

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I agree.)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: The Prime Minister says that he agrees with me, so I will not go any further on that.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the method we have been using to debate is such that while we are under the Capital Head, we have been having what, in essence, is a fairly free debate. However, that method tends to put certain constraints on how far one can go in exercising the Chairman's patience, because there are a number of matters relating to the Ministry which really fall under the other Heads, which I should like to raise, and I should like your guidance, Sir, on whether you are going to permit me to raise those questions under this Head or whether we will have to wait until the Head is called. Since you say the Head has to be called, it means that I would have to formulate my questions into broad statements relating to Capital Expenditure which cannot be done in the minute which you say I have, so I will yield to my colleague, who wishes to continue his aspect of the debate.

Hon. L. R. TULL: No. I want to answer in a few minutes. I do not want fifteen minutes this time, Sir. Mr. Chairman, to answer the honourable Member, the total investment in the Furniture Company by Government has been something around $1.7 million, up-to-date.

(Aside: Mr. B. M. TAITT: Does that total include the cost of construction?)

Hon. L. R. TULL: No, no, no, no. That does not include the building. This is.....

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, he obviously was not listening because I said that we were not raising questions about the equity *per se.* Remember, there was some question raised about the acquisition of the property, the construction, *et cetera,* the total cost. We want to get an accounting now of what we, as taxpayers, have actually put into the complex at Spring Garden, including the equity.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, I would give the honourable Member those figures before the end of this debate. But the money we put in for working capital is just over $1 million.

In respect of the question about where are we going to construct factories – I think the honourable Member should listen, you know, because he accused me of the same thing – I have already said that a lot of factory construction is being done by the private sector and that is an important part of the Government's Policy. Government has provided tax allowances for the private sector to get them involved in factory construction. So the answer to the remark about the falling off of construction by the IDC is that that is partly responsible, almost entirely responsible, for the fact that the private sector is now getting into the construction of factory space. We are going to build .....

3.30 p.m.

Aside.

Hon. L. R. TULL: What do you mean where? You got up there and said – you talk so much you do not understand what you said. You got up there and said not long ago that the private sector people are building their own factories. If you can say that, how come you do not know where they are building them?

Mr. B. M. TAITT: If you will give way. For a man who is always talking about how much Classics you know, you know there is a difference between half-built and building. I said that the policies related to factories

having been built. Now if you look at Intel, Intel built their own factory. But that is not part of this vote, and that is not part of the discussion which we keep having about the IDC laying off the 300 people. You said that the IDC laid off the 300 people because the private sector is now building factories, and I asked you where. That is all.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, I am getting a lot of problems over the use of language, Sir. One moment he said half-built, but these Estimates are "will build." So if you want to deal with past tense, present, and future – well, that is it. The Estimates here relate to what will be built in the future.

Asides.

Hon. L. R. TULL: The people at Warrens, too. The people built up at Warrens and all over the place.

Asides.

Hon. L. R. TULL: No, I do not have time for that, Sir. I learnt a long time ago in my life to ignore the trivia.

The Government between 1981 and 1986, through the IDC, has built 143 374 square feet of factory space at the cost of $6.1 million, and this factory space was built in places like the Airport, the Pine, and Spring Garden, the same one of which we speak, and Pelican. The money in the Estimates for this year will build factory space at St. Peter and/or the airport. In fact, we are going to build at the airport again, but we may also be building in St. Peter. This is a small business, Sir.

One of the things I want to mention in relation to factory space is that when the honourable Member for St. Michael North made a point that there was empty shelves around, meaning empty factory space, he made it sound almost like Eureka. He discovered something great and fantastic, when it is, and has always been, the policy of Government, including the Government of which you presided over in the Ministry, to have in reserve factory space. Because if a manufacturer wants to come into Barbados and puts in an inquiry and starts the negotiations, you cannot go out and suddenly start building the space. So you have to have empty factory space in reserve.

Aside.

Hon. L. R. TULL: You are tying me up with your language all the time. I can tell you how much factory space is currently unused in Barbados, and I can tell you that the amount of square footage of factory space not being used in Barbados is consistent with the percentage of factory space which is usually reserved for new inquiries and new plants. So don't giggle about it like some little girl. I can give you the figures. If you want them, ask me. We have no secrets. You ask me and I will give you the figures.

(Aside: Mr. B. M. TAITT: You are misleading yourself.)

Hon. L. R. TULL: I got them, Sir, but unless he can say, please, Sir, and ask me, I am not going to tell him.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, there are three short questions which I would like to direct to the Honourable Minister of Finance since they arose out of his speech in dealing with manufacturing and industrial development in Barbados. Under the general principle of establishing a manufacturing base out of indigenous resources, he referred in passing to the Barbados Oil Company and the cement plant. The three questions I would like to ask in relation to the cement plant are as follows: (1) What were the losses in the first year? (2) What were the losses in the second year? (3) What are the projected losses over the next five years as indicated by a study done within that organization?
That is the cement plant.

In relation to the Barbados National Oil Company: Whether the subsidy in the 1983 Budget.....

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Read the Budget, man. I cannot read it for you. (1) Whether the subsidy in the 1983 Budget via adjustment and taxes amounted to $6 million, and whether that was enough to maintain the viability of the plant. (2) What was the break even point for the viability of that operation in terms of the price paid by Mobil Refinery to oil produce at the refinery. (3) Will the highly desirable fall in international oil prices adversely affect the investment in that industry which is categorized by the Prime Minister as one that is extractive of indigenous resources.

Very brief, Sir, because I believe we are coming to the end of this Head shortly.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is there any other honourable Member who wishes to speak on this Head? If so, I would like an indication, please, because I think we should be getting ahead with this now. We are way behind.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, the Minister is not in his place now, but I am quite sure that provision is made in the Standing Orders for the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central to put those questions down so that the Minister will give the appropriate reply at the appropriate time in the appropriate place.

The question that the sum of $2 480 848, under Head 82, stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the infirmative without division.

HEAD 81 – CAPITAL– MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT $1 769 000

Head 81 – Capital – Ministry of Labour and Community Development – was called.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, I beg to move that Head 81 stand part.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is that Head 81 stand part. Honourable Members in favour please say, 'Aye.'

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman ....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question has been put.

The question that the sum of $1 769 000 under Head 81 – Capital – Ministry of Labour and Community Development was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move, Sir, that this Honourable House give consideration to hearing the honourable Member. I do not think .....

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, believe me after 20 years in here I have heard a lot of nonsense, but I really have not heard as much nonsense as that today, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There is an opportunity arriving if we get going along quickly.
3.40 p.m.

HEAD 39 – MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND COM– MUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I beg to move, Sir, that the sum of $519 166 under Head 39 – Ministry of Labour and Community Development – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. L. A. WEEKES (St. Michael North West): Mr. Chairman, dealing primarily with the Child Care Board, I am of the opinion that the amount may prove inadequate, probably due to the fact that the unemployment situation and the question of some irresponsible parents and the increase of teenage pregnancies, nothing to do with the amount of child abuse and so on, may create a situation where the younger children may be at a disadvantage.

Mr. Chairman, I have had the experience of seeing some homes where the mother has been removed from that home and the children are left in the care of older people, and in some instances the older people have no form of employment or a way of getting revenue apart from pensions. In some instances, some are not pensionable, and it creates a very serious situation where the children are left in the position to seek welfare assistance.

My feeling is that if you are going to deal with the problems of children as they are and you have the Child Care Board dealing primarily with these problems, the Welfare Department may find that the ability to deal with the entire situation very much does not work out too well in the favour of these young children. I am suggesting that the Child Care Board's scope should be broadened, because whereas where much of the Welfare Department tends to handle some of these problems, particularly the financial aspect, although I understand that the Child Care Board may give a grant or so, sometimes it is very inadequate, and then there is a lot of moving around trying to get from the Child Care Board to the Welfare Department to solve the problem.

I think the Board itself is capable of extending the service a bit more in that area so as to allow the parents to get a bit more financial help, because certainly the foster care approach seems not to have taken on well and it may very well sort of spread over into the children's homes. I think the concept is that children should more or less be kept close in a family with their parents rather than in public institutions. It is for this reason that I think the Minister could look a bit more at broadening the scope of the Child Care Board to take care of some of the problems which some parents have found. In other words, the small grant that may be given by the Child Care Board in relation to what may be given from the Welfare Department tends not to even out.

The other Head I want to look at is the one dealing with Community Development. Community development is very often very much conditioned by housing development, and there are some housing developments where I think the planning seems not to be the best. It is all well to provide facilities – housing, proper roads and light and so on – but there are a number of children within the area who could make use of some of the facilities that should be extended to them.

I can give you an example of what I am speaking about. Take the Ferniehurst Development. Prior to that development, we used to have the Deacons Development where a number of games – I think at one time there was a community centre there as well – used to be played. It tended to bring the community together. Since the housing complex there, the open area has been left without any form of development, and it has removed

from not only the people in the immediate Government housing development, but the other private residential areas, and as well the Eagle Hall Infants School, which is very close to that area, any recreational area. That school does not have any playing facilities or anything like that, but I think when you take into consideration the whole community, it would be ideal if the Government could allocate some of the funds voted today towards that development where it will serve not only the school or the new housing complex they have there, but the older development which has been accustomed to using that area for their sporting activities.

I think, Mr. Chairman, there is also a need in the general area for another development of this kind. The Minister of Education indicated that the St. Stephen's School would be removed, and I am sure that that is an ideal location for some form of community development. I do not think there is any other development within that whole section, apart from the small one at Deacons Road, which really does not serve any useful purpose. I think the Minister could look at that as well and provide that particular area, the whole St. Stephen's – Black Rock area, with some form of community development.

I am satisfied that the Minister will take note of what I have said and at least give some consideration to the demands – and they are real demands – because in these areas there is only one day nursery, and a day nursery and a community centre would prove beneficial to the residents in those areas, especially the low income groups who very often work in the city.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE (Christ Church West): Mr. Chairman, my friend unfortunately does not keep his eye on the microphone, he keeps his eye on you.

I want to begin by congratulating the Child Care Board for their exceptional and outstanding work in looking after the children of Barbados. Before I expatiate on this topic, let me declare an interest. I do advise the Board on legal matters from time to time, and I would not like to hear later that I spoke on a measure which has financial implications and for which my Chambers at some time may be employed.

There is no doubt, looking at the recent report of the board, that the case load of the board has increased significantly. I think it is something in the region of 262%. One of the reasons for this, perhaps one of the most significant reasons, is the fact that there has been amendment of most of the legislation affecting the duties of the Board. There has been an amendment of the Child Care Board Act itself. There has been an amendment of the Adoption Act, and there has been an amendment, of course, by the promulgation of a new Family Law Act. All of this has had implications for the staffing of the board, and it has meant, therefore, that more and more matters have come before the Board's attention, and I believe today that the case load of officers of the Board is running in excess of 183 cases. I think the time is fast coming when the Board will have to be given additional resources to deal with the several delicate and intricate problems which come before them.

3.50 p.m.

Perhaps the most serious problem confronting the board today is the problem of child abuse, both the physical and the sexual abuse of children in our island. Those of us who have followed the work of the Board would have been conscious of the efforts being made by the officers of the board, the Director, the Chairman of the Board, to give publicity to this type of problem, and to enlist the support of members of the public in dealing with this problem. There is no doubt, Sir, that their effort has been commendable, but it will be necessary for us to amend existing legislation in order to strengthen their hands in fighting this growing and disgusting practice, particularly the practice of sexual abuse of young persons. I am aware that the Ministry of the Attorney General has under consideration an amendment certainly to the Offences against the Person Act, along with other legislation, and I hope that before these Estimates are finished, we will be able to get from the Attorney General some indication of how soon Parliament will be allowed to look at the relevant legislation.

I believe that there is a need for a greater co-ordination of the work between the various departments of Government. I believe that there must be more understanding on the part of the police of the work of the Child Care Board in this respect, and that the Child Care Board should be given greater support, not only in detecting the cases when they occur, but on the follow-up to the cases, which must, in some cases, of necessity be the prosecution of the people who are guilty of these sexual practices and sexual abuse.

Sir, I do not know how many people have followed the problem in other countries in the world. Barbados has an uncanny knack of following practices whenever they start in North America, some of them which may be good, and others not so good. In this case, this one is not so good, but, certainly, recently in Canada, in the last few years, and in the United States, there has been a tremendous increase in this problem itself. In fact, certain Canadian provinces have set up special commissions to look at and to review the relevant legislation and to look at and review the work of the agencies of Government connected with stamping out the problem of child abuse.

I think we ought to take this problem seriously. In many cases, it is hard-backed men who are preying on small children unnecessarily and sexually abusing them. I am aware of the veiw that has been expressed that this is

not only a practice common to men, but some women as well. I am sure, however, that the hard facts collected by the Child Care Board would show that really there are very isolated cases involving women, that most of the cases are committed by men themsleves.

What makes this a very disgusting problem is that in some cases, the child abuse occurs within the family unit. There have been instances of grandfathers abusing children of three years-old. Those cases have occurred. I am aware of them. There have been cases of fathers abusing their wards. There have been cases of fathers sexually abusing their daughters. There have been cases of co-operation between the stepmother and the father in relation to sexual abuse, or the stepfather and mother.

It is not a problem that we can afford to discuss only in hushed tones. I think it is a problem to which each one of us in this House must address our minds and add our voices. And we must do more than that, we must enlist total community support in order to deal with this disgusting problem wherever it occurs within our community.

It is not the first time, Mr. Chairman, that this problem has surfaced. I recall several years ago, back in the 1960's, the problem surfacing particularly in the area of Eagle Hall and a person being charged and brought before the court. I remember the problem then where it was said it was a growing problem as well, and which called for drastic measures, and I trust that we will see drastic measures being taken in order to rid Barbados of this type of problem.

Mr. Chairman, I said that that is perhaps the most nagging problem confronting the Child Care Board today. The board has been able, through the efficiency of its director and supporting officers, to deal with delicate problems of family law, and in many instances, has given the correct advice in order to keep the family unit together. They do a tremendous job when they intervene on behalf of children in our courts supporting the rights of the children.

We have had an increasing number of cases involving Barbadians giving their children to adoption overseas without going through the proper legal procedure called for, both by the statute law and the common law of Barbados, and in those cases, we have found that once the children are outside of our jurisdiction, all sorts of problems occur; the potential adopter is not a fit and proper person within their own jurisdiction, and the Child Care Board has been saddled with the duty and the expense of making sure that the child is returned to the jurisdiction of Barbados.

We have had cases where the mothers of children have eventually come to say that they want their children back, that they really did not understand that the adopter intended to make the children their own, and the board has found itself, in collaboration with our overseas offices, having to take steps to bring the children back, and in some instances to pursue litigation overseas as well in defence of the children of Barbados.

So the board's function, its work, is most important. It is one which I think we ought to highlight and support. I hope that the Minister considers that the provision in these Estimates goes somewhere towards looking at the sort of problems and helping them to confront the problems which they have, but I am sure that we may have to supplement these estimates, if my forecast for an increase in the type of problems which we see is correct, and I trust that the Committee will not lack in generosity in providing enough to enable them to do a most important job.

4.00 p.m.

I want also under this Head to raise one or two other matters. Within my own constituency there is the Madam Ifill Day Nursery. Obviously, once again I declare an interest. The day nursery is named after my distinguished mother – I had the good fortune to be adopted by her – and therefore I would like to see that day nursery always looking spick and span. I believe that is in need of a coat of paint and tremendous refurbishing. Only yesterday I accompanied a senior officer of the Ministry of Transport and Works to the area at Pleasant Hall where the nursery is situated and pointed out to him that the access road to the nursery had fallen into complete disrepair – there is no road now, it is really a track – and called on his Ministry not merely to acknowledge receipt of my several letters on the matter, but to construct and macadamise a proper road to assist those several mothers who have to bring their children to the day nursery. If the approach is lacking in any aesthetic value, it could well affect the attitude of persons towards this day nursery, and I hope that the Minister will give me some assurance that he will join not only in my plea to his colleague, the Minister of Transport, but from his ministerial position of influence ensure that within the next few weeks the day nursery gets the necessary touch of paint and upgrading and refurbishing, and that at the same time the roads and access road leading to the day nursery are fixed.

The work carried out in that day nursery is outstanding. I do not know how many persons take the chance to visit day nurseries, but you will see that the day nurseries have introduced several modern methods of child care and that they have gone ahead beyond the pilot stage of integrating child rearing with child training and the education of children, and that, in many respects, the day nurseries are now performing the role of nursery schools as well. I think they are doing a tremendous job in this field, and I personally would like to congra-

tulate them on their farsightedness. I think there is a growing case for Government to integrate more and more the several services which we provide, and this is one area that we can extend – the nursery concept beyond the normal day care centre to which we have become accustomed in this island.

Finally, Sir, I would like to, under this Head, also deal with the question of community centres. First I wish to thank the Minister for having built in my own constituency and on the border of his a community centre to assist the people of Wildey and Clapham Park, Forde's Road and that area. That community centre was long overdue. But, Sir, I am a person who does not rest on one foot, I must be standing firmly on the other foot as well, and I am sure the Minister is aware of the need for more community centres within the whole parish of Christ Church, and specifically within the area of Christ Church West. We are one of the most densely populated areas in Barbados. I think you only have to look at the register of electors to see that that statement can be substantiated, even if you have not got a recent census in Barbados, the figures of the last census having looked at the demographic survey done in this area of Christ Church. We need, certainly in areas like Bonnetts where there is already land available – if I may point this out, the crown owns a substantial amount of land in this area – a community centre there as well.

I am aware that the Minister has provided a playing field in the Rockley area. I believe that the opportunity ought to be taken by the Minister to combine this with a community centre as well, and just as has been done in other areas to use the community centre for skills training. And may I remind him that the same show can be repeated in the area of Rendezvous. We have perhaps the most natural pasture for a playing field. It would cost the Government a minimal amount of money to upgrade that facility which is at present used as a playing field.

I am aware of the fact, Sir, that recently the owners of that land have offered to exchange that and adjoining lands with Government, Government having acquired five acres of their land and bifurcated the land now. My friend, the honourable Member for St. Michael West, wants a piece as well, so I am asking the Minister how far his Ministry has progressed in the plans to provide a playing field at Rendezvous and of the plans he has for the provision of a playing field at Worthing View.

Finally, Sir, I am asking the Minister if he would, taking into account Christ Church West being the home of the most outstanding basketballers that Barbados has produced, give urgent consideration to providing on part of the Garrison a permanent home for a sports club such as Springfield Sports Club in Dayrells Road.

Hon. DeL. O BRADSHAW (St. Michael South East): Mr. Chairman, first of all, let me respond to the comments made by the honourable Member from the other side who is not now in his place. He seemed to feel that the foster care approach has not been catching on very well. Now while I do not blame him for having such a view, I must say that the foster care programme was first embarked on in 1981, and there has been some measure of success. The Government feels that we should move away from the concept of residential care, and more and more emphasis will be placed on foster care. There are several advantages in foster care. We have looked at one of the advantages, and we have seen that it is not as costly as residential care, and at the same time it offers the children who are fostered an opportunity to get involved in normal, social and community life.

I must say that the fears of child abuse and all of the problems that go with children have occupied the attention of this Government, and the Government has plans. The Attorney General's Office has drafted child protection legislation which the Government hopes to have introduced as early as possible. The question of child abuse has always been dealt with by several people, but they only look at one aspect of child abuse. When we hear them talk in terms of child abuse, we listen to them and what they talk about is sexual abuse, but there are other forms of child abuse and we should also pay close attention to them: the question of neglect generally by parents and parents who abandon their responsibility. That causes problems not only for the children but for our society, and it is the area that the Child Care Board is looking into.

On the question of physical abuse, some people do not understand how serious this particular problem is. People abuse children physically, they beat them badly, they brutalise the children. It happens up to this present day, and it is a matter which has caused some concern to the Child Care Board.

4.10 p.m.

On the question of incest, there are a number of cases reported. But here again, Mr. Chairman, one of the problems which the Child Care Board has, and the Government generally, is that while we are able to detect a number of cases, to report a number of cases and even investigate them, some parents, some persons who know, and who are in a position to give the evidence which would enable the culprits or the perpetrators to be brought to justice withhold such information. Some of them are afraid to talk. They do not inform on their male partner, whether it is a husband or a boyfriend, they do not want to talk, and the Child Care Board finds it extremely difficult to pursue a case. Once the Child Care Board carries out an investigation, then it puts

the matter before the court. It is difficult in some cases to get those persons who are guilty of such offences brought to justice.

I would like to on this occasion appeal to those parents not to be afraid to speak out and give the evidence, but to come forward so that we could bring some of those persons to justice. It is no sense our talking. The Child Care Board can do that much and no more. They have been doing a fantastic job. And let me say this, because it is time that I point out that it is not that there are more and more sexual abuse cases in Barbados. I do not want anyone to feel so. It is because of the competence of the Child Care Board that these cases are reported. There has always been child abuse, but the Child Care Board has been doing such a fine job, an outstanding job, and so more and more cases are brought to the fore. So when we see those statistics, we must not feel that the society is getting worse.

(Aside: Mr. N. K. SIMMONS: It is.)

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: It is that the Child Care Board, and we must give the Child Care Board full credit for having been able to take the initiative in highlighting those cases of sexual and other abuse.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: If the Minister would give me one minute. The Child Care Board is doing much better than England. At the time, England is 81 for 6. Please continue.

Laughter.

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Mr. Chairman, thank you. I just want to let the honourable Members know that it is a very difficult job. The Child Care Board has its work cut out, in other words, and though we have strengthened the support staff of the Board, we know that we still have certain underlying problems. But with the co-operation of all we can help to reduce the level of child abuse in Barbados.

On the whole question of community development, it is not a question of looking at a community centre. Whether a community centre or pavilion is built is not the point in question here – it is the use to which it is being put. Government has a policy.

(Aside: Mr. N. K. SIMMONS: What is it?)

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Government use community development as a way of inculcating in the young people of this country social, cultural and even national development. Therefore, the programmes are geared not only to provide physical facilities to develop the youth of this country, but also to get them to acquaint themselves with much needed skills than can take them forward in the years to come. We have a responsibility, and it is with that in mind that the Government embarked on a programme in respect of youth to make the centres available, so that we can have skills training to equip the young people with a skill or a trade so that they could make their contribution in a tangible way to national development.

The community centres are used now not only for cultural activities, but also for skills training and as pavilions. The criticism which we used to have that the centres are under-utilized can, I am sure, no longer be a valid criticism. The centres are open from 8.00 o'clock in the morning right through to 10.00 o'clock as long as activities are going. It is a deliberate policy of the Ministry and Government to insist that the centres remain open to accommodate the young people in their quest for knowledge and personal development. All pavilions have been put in a state of readiness to accommodate not only sportsmen, by the skills training activities.

We have expanded the skills training activities considerably, and I will hasten to point out that there has been a demand by the youth of this country for the programmes of the National Training Board. Scores of children and young people daily are flocking to the National Training Board at Culloden Road asking for training. At the moment we have the Skills Training Programme, one programme, we have the Work Experience Programme, which was known as the Skills Action Programme, and we have the Apprenticeship Programme. In addition to that, we have the In-plant Training. All of these activities or programmes are geared to develop the young people and to make them play more meaningful roles in the development of their country and our country.

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: How many of them are in there now?)

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: At the moment we have some 1 220 young persons between the ages of 16 and 25 undergoing training at the National Training Board.

Let me spend a little time on the Apprenticeship Programme, because people have been asking why there have not been more numbers in the Apprenticeship Programme. But we must not forget that, as there was a downturn in the economic activity, employers decided not to take on the apprentices. They said they could not afford it, and we can understand that. As the economic situation improved, we have seen remarkable improvement in the Apprenticeship Programme. More and more persons have been going into the Apprenticeship Programme because employers and business places are satisfied of the Government's economic policy, its attitude and its approach to business in this country. I

want to commend the employers for having given the support to such a programme and those who have pledged further support for the Government's training programme.

In the area of the Work Experience Programme, it is important to point out that we in Barbados could not understand also why some people who had four and five 'O'levels could not get jobs. It was not because the employers were not willing to take them on, it was not because there were no jobs, but it was because there was a requirement that persons who had such qualifications did not have the necessary working experience. This Government, in its wisdom, has embarked on a programme called the Work Experience Programme whereby those persons coming out of school with the basic academic qualifications could now enter the work force with the much needed work experience.

In the Work Experience Programme, the applicants are attached to work places supervised directly by the employers, but are accountable to the National Training Board. The National Training Board has a responsibility to see that the level of training on the job meets with the standards which are set and laid down. There are some 350 persons in that programme, to be exact 342 up to March 17th, and more and more employers have expressed an interest in the programme. That is what encourages me and makes me happy, and Government, that employers are so happy with the programme that they are calling the National Training Board, they are calling me, calling the Chairman of the National Training Board and the Director, asking that they participate in the programme.
4.20 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time. The honourable Member can come back again and I am sure that I will hear about it.

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

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

Mr. N. K. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, first of all I want to commend the Child Care Board for the work which it is doing, because I can appreciate the difficulty which they encounter. I believe that, not only in Barbados but throughout the world, not enough money is spent on Social Services, and if there is one thing I would ask of the Minister it is that he gives the Child Care Board more staff. I think that if persons were acquainted with the type of work which the Child Care Board's officers have to do, then they would appreciate that, very often, the Child Care officer does not work eight hours a day. It is not a question of working eight hours a day and 40 hours a week. It is a question of investigating a case and whatever time that takes you, and very often the work is somewhat frustrating, because they are not the answers which are readily available in other endeavours. Therefore, I believe there is a need for more workers, and in respect of the foster care for children that was most evident, because it seems to me from the report that one of the reasons that scheme was not as successful as it should have been is that we had to be depending on one person who had that expertise, and probably if there were other officers in that area probably that scheme would have continued.

Now as far as some of the work in the Child Care Board goes, the problem usually arises from the family situation. Of course, incest is a family crime, and that in itself presents a problem, because although, on the one hand, it is an offense, the family, on the other hand, is going to suffer the ambarrassment, whether the man who commits the offense goes before the court or whether the girl, the victim, goes before the court. So that in itself is a mammoth problem, but what makes an even greater problem, to my mind, is the type of court proceedings which we have. Those of us who work with the courts will appreciate, for example, that the cross examining of a girl of 10 or 12 who has been raped by her uncle or stepfather is not the easiest of tasks for a lawyer or for the child, or for the court, and sometimes this does deter the parents or the child from coming back to court and, therefore, frustrates the work of the Child Care officers. This is a problem.

Now I do not know exactly how we can solve that as far as the court proceedings are concerned, but I would like to think that if and when the Family Court is set up, these matters will be directed to the Family Court alone, and that, for sure, they will be behind closed doors and in an informal atmosphere, although not in the district atmosphere where somebody stands up and very often the little girl is shouted at and she is made to look as though she is the worst thing ever born rather than trying to understand the problem and getting at the root of it so it can be solved. That is one of my ways of looking at it.

As far as the other work for what you may call deprived children is concerned, I believe that the Child Care Board, in itself, will not be able to do enough, that the community at large must be sensitized to understand the needs of these children. If I may say so, in our understanding of a family unit you should have a mother and a father. Very often in Barbados children do not have fathers in the true sense of a father. I mean you will have a father when you are born, but a lot of those children have not got fathers in the true sense, and many have not got mothers either. When you visit the homes, sometimes you see the most beautiful child and you cannot understand how it is that that child could be in the care of a public institution. This is unfortunate, and

I hope that somehow you can reach out in the community and show them the problems which the Child Care officers are facing.

The other area of the children's homes I would like looked into is the question of the male influence in the children's homes. I know that can create a problem in itself, but, to my way of thinking, there is – I would not say too many females in the children's homes working – not enough presence of the males in the children's homes.

(Aside: Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: They are doing that.)

Mr. N. K. SIMMONS: You did that? I am glad to hear the Minister say we are getting that, because, again, in our society a male and female have a part to play in the child's development, and whenever I go to the children's homes – I try to visit a few in my rounds – I notice that there is a dominance of females. It is not that women should not have work, I am glad to see the ladies are having work, but I think that we need more men, because, at least, the youngsters can view the role of a man, sort of an example, to see what men could do, and what men look like, and how men behave, although some of us are not always the best examples for our youngsters. That is another area I think we should look at.

As far as community development and community affairs are concerned, I have a different concept from the Government. I believe, quite frankly, that your policy is wrong. First of all, there is no way that you can service the needs of Barbados with nine officers. There is no way. As far as the Estimates indicate to me, there is one Chief Community Officer, six Senior Officers and five Community Development Officers. If that is wrong, then you correct me. To my way of thinking, each constituency, not parish, should have at least one Community Development Officer, because if you look at the changing pattern of our society, and I do not think I need to elaborate on this, our system of family life has broken down and it is changing dramatically, and wherever you go in Barbados, whether it is the villages, heights or parks, you can see that the community has disintegrated. There is no community spirit and life. As a matter of fact, in the so-called middle class areas, I guess the adults are so busy working that they do not have time to form a community group. They would expect you to come in and form it; they will come to the meetings if they have the chance, or if they are not looking after the next television or the next car. So I think the onus is on Government, because you run the country. In the final analysis, it is what we do in Government which will decide how our country will go, and it is very important today that we have more Community Development Officers.

The roles must also be different. I seem to think that our idea of Community Development Officers is that they go to a deprived area, whatever that means, an area where the lower class lives, and try to do something – and even then it is not properly planned or executed. But throughout every class in Barbados is a need for community development. Even if you look at this drug problem, it is not coming from the lower classes any more, it is throughout the whole society, and therefore something has to be done, and done quickly.

4.30 p.m.

The community centres, to look at them now, to my mind are total jokes. Why I say that? I think the Minister has said that in these community centres, pavilions, skills training centres, you have a building in which the people come in and do these various things. That is not possible. First of all, the size of the building makes it impossible. If you are going to use a pavilion where youngsters, after they play games, go in, it cannot be any one room building, it has to be a building with various rooms.

Let me tell you my idea about a community centre, okay? If you have a community centre in an area, there must be, for example, an area in which the Community Development Officer has his office, a proper office, in which he can interview parents of the area and youngsters in privacy. There must be an area, as you say, in which youngsters can play their indoor sport and develop properly. The Community Development Aide, as you call him today, is only a man who can unlock the door and close it back. He cannot even say "Good morning" properly or "Good night" properly. That is a fact. He must be somebody, if he is there daily, who can organise the youngsters in the area and understand the youngsters.

A lot of the problems at the community centres stem from the fact that the people who work there do not even understand the youngsters around them, and therefore it creates a great friction between the Community Development Officer and the youngsters. Let me tell you something. I believe the Member for St. Andrew (Hon. L. B. Brathwaite) might want to hear this. Recently they moved a Community Development Officer, or Aide, from Buccaneer across Baywoods and sent him somewhere else and they brought the chap who was at Holetown; a fairly good fellow, but the youngsters there were happy with their aide because he was doing something for them. He organised various activities for them and they enjoyed working with him. Today the fellows say they are not even going into the building, because the person they have brought there, "we do not want him, he can do nothing for us."

When you are dealing with such people you cannot – as you must appreciate it, community work is not like

a policeman – move them from station A to station B. If a person is producing at his place of employment, you should make sure he stays there, because every community is different, and the same way you cannot go into one area and decide that the youngsters must play cricket because we are giving you a pair of pads and a pair of bats, you cannot go into a community and decide that the fellows must have drama instead of singing if they want singing.

The community centre must be built around the needs of the people in the area, not what we believe they want. This is another thing you have to look at. You must develop it as far as the people want it, not what the Community Development Aide wants.

(Aside: Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: We are carrying out surveys now in the Department on that.)

Mr. N. K. SIMMONS: I hope that you have reports on the surveys. Do not only carry them out, but also have reports on them, and implement what the report says. Okay. That is as far as Community Development is concerned.

As far as the Skills Training Programme, again you cannot use a community centre for skills training. Take a thing like electrical installation. Do you think that any person who is going to teach electrical installation every evening when he is finished is going to take up his tools and the work and put them in the back of his car and carry them home until the next morning or next week? Or anybody who is teaching plumbing? It is something which should be permanent there so you continue when you come back next time, not you pick it down and put it in the back of the car and go along.

I have said constantly you must have three or four skills training centres.

(Aside.)

Mr. N. K. SIMMONS: I have heard it, but this is the first time it has come on. I have been mentioning this for the last five years. You must have it. I do not know the strength of some of the disused factories, but looking around the place it seems to me that you can get the architects and structural engineers and they will tell you if I am right or wrong. I do not know, but there seems to me to be a lot of very strong disused buildings in this country and we must make use of them. Youngsters are easily frustrated, so you might think you are doing a fantastic job for the youngsters in sending them to the centres, but they might only go there because there is nowhere else to go. That is all they might be doing. So you have got to have these proper centres for the youngsters so when they go there they understand 'look, I am not being fooled.'

(Aside: Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Time will give them that.)

Mr. N. K. SIMMONS: But you must start on the right foot. When you start on the wrong foot, you end on the wrong foot. To my mind, it would have been better to spend a year planning the whole system and putting it in gear properly rather than the sort of makeshift system we have now, that 'youngsters, after four years of putting you in a centre, we have failed, we are now going to get three centres.'

(Aside: Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Why did not you build them when you were in power?)

Mr. N. K. SIMMONS: You see, we are always looking back. I think that the Rastas have a good saying, "Forward, man." We have to go forward. I will come back to you. I am not finished yet.

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Mr. Chairman, I take the point made by the honourable Member for St. James South (Mr. N. K. Simmons). On the whole question of the community centres not suitable for skills training, let me point out that as Minister I am aware that some centres cannot be used for certain skills training. I know that. Some of them are not suitable for plumbing, some of them are not suitable for auto body repair, some of them are not suitable for upholstery. We know that. That is why there has been a very careful policy as far as the use of these centres is concerned.. We make sure that the centres can accommodate the programme. We look at the centre and we look at the programmes to see whether we can use a particular centre for a particular programme.

The Government only yesterday announced that a World Bank loan is being sought to build at least three major skills training centres, because we are aware that there are certain skills, like the heavy duty skills, as you would call them, auto body repair, plumbing, steel bending. We do not think we can carry them in the community centres, because the structure is not so good for that. At the same time, we have to be careful with the use of the gas, the cylinders that are used, because if you use that inside the community it could have adverse effects on the health, or even endanger the lives of people. So if you look at all that, it is not a policy that we have come up with in an *ad hoc* arrangement as far as training and choosing whether a site is suitable or not.

The community centres, the honourable Member dismissed as jokes. That is your concept. If you have a concept as to how to use a community centre, that is enough. I do not like to get involved in this political argument about how long you were in power and if there were not young people. There were always young people. You had 15 years. The honourable Member for St. James

South was the Director of Youth Affairs. He had an opportunity, a golden opportunity, as adviser to the then Government to have these centres suitably built for the young people of Barbados. You cannot now come and complain, when you were the adviser and did absolutely nothing. Let us understand that.

We revived the Community Development Department last year, under a year, and we have revived those posts that the Community Development Division had some time in 1979. We know that we have to monitor the situation to see where there is a need, and whether there is a need to expand and to increase the staff of the Community Development Division. As the need arises, we will find adequate staff. But, at the same time, the honourable Member should understand that we have back-up, or support staff, in the Welfare Department, and the National Training Board, so we are using that staff.

4.40 p.m.

It is an all-pronged attack on the youth, and not only from the Community Development Division. In your time you did not have the skills training. You did not have any staff. We have demonstrators on a full time basis in the centres. We do not have the aids. We are moving away from the aids, because there is a new concept brought to bear on community development. Equipment is left in the centres and we do not want to hear that the equipment is stolen for lack of supervision or policing so we have an around-the-clock watchman service.

Here again, every effort has been made to educate those officers so that they are versed in all aspects of how the centres can be used. We want to give them a rounded sort of experience as to the programmes, the same thing that the honourable Member is asking for, but we do not want you to tell us now, because we have already embarked on that. You are outdated. Probably you are looking at the Trents Community Centre and thinking that that is an ideal situation, that is how everything operates within the Community Development Division, or within my Ministry. It is not the case.

What the honourable Member ought to address himself to is that in the Skills Training Programme we are trying to equip the young people with adequate skills, because, Mr. Chairman, the world has changed. We have now gone full stream into the age of technology. I have said on a number of occasions that there was a time when a boy or girl could leave school and go and get a job as a labourer. When you were in construction, you could go and get a hoe and a peck and help to dig out the foundation. Nowadays you have to look at it very seriously. You have the back-hoe that is doing the excavation jobs, and a lot of people who would normally have gone into construction to do that work, are no longer able to find work doing that.

I want to say this. You may say what you like, or criticize the Skills Training Programme, but there is need for carpenters and masons in Barbados, and the Government has embarked on a policy to train the young people, because Government has made its projections. Look at our housing programme. Look at the construction that we are embarking on. After all, we know that there is going to be a need for carpenters and masons, and we do not want to find ourselves in the situation like in 1977 when the Government was about to take off in construction and we could not find the skilled people to do the jobs. That is why Government has set up the skills training activity to train people in as short a time as possible, a three months' programme, so that we could at least, find people with some sort of skill.

As we develop, we realize that we have to expand the three months' programme. It is now a year, because we know that a boy or a girl cannot have a full knowledge of a trade in three months. But do not forget the background against which a decision to train them in three months was taken. It was because you, when you were in power, never trained them. You never had the foresight. You never anticipated an economic recovery. You never anticipated the jobs we were able to create in 1980–1981. Do not forget that it was this Government that reduced unemployment to 10.8% in 1981. It was not your Government. You left it at 22.5%. You did that, and when we embarked on an economic course of activity, we found that we did not have the workmen, the carpenters and the masons, and we were forced to have, what you would call, a crash programme training for three months. But, now we have time to evaluate. We recognize that we must give people a longer period of training to give them a more grounded experience in the particular skill, and that is why a decision was taken to expand the programme over a year.

You must give credit to the Government, because even Members on that side, do not care what they say, cannot say the Skills Training Programme or the Government's programme is a bad programme. They may question whether jobs are going to be available, but let me make this point, because I have heard people talking about you are training all the young people, where are all the jobs going to come from? I want you to answer me this: when you go to university and you qualify as a lawyer or a doctor, where you are going to get a job? There are a lot of people who qualify from the university with degrees and as professionals and cannot get work, but what is important is that the people have the qualifications. They do not have to stay here. They can find work. They can be self-employed. What you did not teach the young people is that they could be self-employed persons.

I can go further than that. We are not only making sure that we are going to train them to work for

employers, but we want to encourage them, and we are going to offer the necessary incentives, to be private employers. This Government feels that in order to give Barbadians a share in the country and to make it more productive, we should encourage the small entrepreneur, the small businessman, and out of the Skills Training Programme we will be able to produce that small businessman. We are going to give them managerial advice. We are going to make sure that there is a fund available and we are going to encourage them to get involved in their own businesses; even finding them factory space, subsidizing factory space, or finding loans at concessionary rates, or even some non-collateral loans. That is what we have in store for the young people.

You must understand that we are thinking about the young people along those lines. I am sick when I hear people criticizing the young people and making it appear as though the young people of Barbados cannot do anything meaningful. I am satisfied, Mr. Chairman, that the young people of Barbados are willing to give of their best and to make a contribution towards our national development. But, under the Democratic Labour Party, they were given no chance at all. They threw them out of the schools, and they were the very young people that we were able to put into our skills training programme.

Let me say this to you. Do not go around the country asking people what they have been doing with their skills. Over at the Housing Welfare, there are two persons who are graduates of the Skills Training Programme who are building houses on their own. Two of them are attached there on a full time basis, and when you go down St. Peter, you will see two of those six houses built by young boys, two youngsters who are graduates of the Skills Training Programme. Now, you just told me they cannot build a whole house. They built a whole house, and you are asking whether they are capable of doing something. You just have to look. We are giving them every opportunity.

In 1980 – 1983 there was a high rate of persons finding jobs after graduating from the Skills Training Programme. Seventy per cent is considered to be a very high acceptable rate internationally, if you do not know. We know that no system can throw them out. As I said, even university cannot guarantee everybody a job. It does not, and everybody does not get work, but 70% of trainees come out of that programme and find work. It was reduced to 45% during the most of the harsher economic times, but it is now going back up.

Now what can we do?

4.50 p.m.

As unemployment skyrocketed to 19 per cent, it was difficult for some of these persons to find work, but we took the opportunity during that period to extend the training so that we could equip them to do a better job. You see, Mr. Chairman, I know the honourable Member has been trying to avoid a debate on this particular Head, and I would like him to address himself to that because we are not like him. He had plans to put them somewhere in St. Philip, 500 of them. He took the Nigerian money, $500 000, to build a camp for young people. That is what the honourable Member was going to do for the young people, put them in a camp, and I know of plans to make sure that all of the young people in Barbados may have contributed to a National Service compulsorily. Honourable Members on that side cannot deny that. They were going to make sure that every young person was conscripted into a National Youth Service, but they were not put into power.

Aside.

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Don't question it, you were not around. You are not an authority on this, you are here for the first time. I will tell you the person that told me. The honourable Member sitting down there in that seat knows, and he knows of a youth camp for $500 000 given by the Nigerian Government, and he was going to put the young people in St. Philip in a camp. It is just like Dominica and Patrick John, putting the young people in a camp. That was your idea for young people.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Your Honour do now report progress and beg for leave to sit again.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER took the Chair and reported accordingly.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be suspended for 15 minutes, which would bring us to 5.10 p.m.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.

4.55 p.m.

ON RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is now resumed.

When the sitting was suspended, the House was in Committee of Supply. To that it now reverts.

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

Mr. N. K. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Minister in making his reply, I am afraid, contradicted himself in a number of areas. But before I look at these contradictions, I would just want to say that one of my concerns for the day nurseries is that I am not sure if the personnel who work there are sufficiently trained to meet the needs of the children. I believe that one of the problems is that the salaries are not attractive enough to attract the type of personnel that you want. The formative years of a child are most important, and, as I go around and I look, I am wondering if the persons in there are sufficiently trained to meet the needs of the children. For example, there are a number of children in this country who have learning disabilities. I believe that if we had people sufficiently trained in the day nurseries, there would be a distinct possibility that even at that stage you could pick up a disability, not even a learning disability but a physical disability, which an untrained person might not be able to spot, and therefore solve a problem which might be long lasting for a child if it were allowed to go on. That is one of the areas.

Coming back to the Minister and this Skills Training Programme, I cannot understand how on the one hand he can say that after three months a chap did so well that he became a carpenter and could build houses, but at the same time he is expanding the programme for a year, and at the same time we have a polytechnic in which you have to attend two years full time and a one day release in the third year. The thinking seems to me to be wrong somewhere, because, as he says, it is a crash programme. You cannot give the children crash programmes. Crash programmes are not for young people when it comes to education. You are either going to educate them or you are not going to educate them, and you are only fooling them when you can think that you can put them in a scheme for three months and they can become carpenters. It is a joke, because when they go to work, they go with the wrong attitude. They believe, and you have told them, that in three months they are carpenters and when they go to somebody's job, they will say, 'I am a carpenter because the Government says I am a carpenter,' whereas they cannot drive a nail in a board straight. That is a fact. I am yet to see anybody who goes into any three months of carpentry being able to build a house anyhow. I do not believe that.

Now on the question of self-employment, do you really believe that youngsters seeing what is happening in this country with the Minister of Tourism telling them that if they go on the beach and sell and commit an offence, the second time you will put them in gaol, but at the same time you have goods coming in here from South Africa, going on the shelves and because the people co-operate – they did not always remember to co-operate – nothing happens to them – the fellow who goes down there, even if he makes the mistake and goes without a licence, even if he goes and solicits, because you told him to use his initiative, you will throw him in gaol after the second offence, but the fellow down Broad Street or Swan Street, who brings in goods from a country from which we banned our cricketers for life, co-operates, so you do not prosecute him – do you figure the youngsters will take you seriously? Not the youngsters we know!

On the 3rd February, at the same time that the Minister was telling the young people of this country that there is a demand for garments, the Central Bank put out a figure showing a decrease in the demand for garments by 25 per cent. I think that is what it said. Youngsters read the reports – even if not from the Central Bank itself, it is presented in the papers – so you cannot on the one hand tell youngsters to go into the garment industry and that there is need for garments, and on the same day say that the demand for garments had dropped by 25 per cent.

You took the youngsters from Rockers Alley and threw them at the back of the city where no proper provision was made for them. If you go through there you should be ashamed of the fact that they operate under such conditions. You told them you are going to build things for them. They have been there three years now. What has happened to them using their own initiative? Have you seen the conditions under which they operate? And they are doing some of the most beautiful sandals and shoes in this country. Look at the conditions under which they operate. Do you think that any youngster going down there and watching the fellows – what do you call the place, the back of the minibus stand on Lower Broad Street? – could believe that you are serious?

5.15 p.m.

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Who made it so? They made it so.)

Mr. N. K. SIMMONS: Even if they made it so, what I am saying to you is that with some training and help, because they do not know any better, conditions could be improved. The reason they have made it so is because they do not know any better. Nobody wants the worst for themselves, and it is incumbent upon a caring Government, so you call yourselves, to go down there and assist them. Instead, I do not even think they have toilet facilities down there.

(Aside: Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: I moved them down there. They have toilets down there.)

Mr. N. K. SIMMONS: You moved them but you have not been down there lately and seen the conditions under which they operate. I go down there sometimes and I talk to them, because I think that it is our interest, if we are going to represent people, that we go and see the conditions under which they work and which they operate, and see how we can upgrade them.

There is one other thing I want to say. I nearly forgot it. I think it is very important, because we are talking about young people and I mean to make mention of it earlier. One of the problems facing the young people in this country is that their role models are setting forth very bad examples.

(Aside: I tell you! Like Tommy Miller!)

Mr. N. K. SIMMONS: And I am telling you this, the display in this Assembly must make every young person shudder. I am embarrassed by it. We are not setting forth good examples to the young people of this country at all levels. And we call ourselves leaders! That is one of the biggest problems facing the young people of this country; that if they are to follow us, they must be poorer than we are.

(Aside: Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: True.)

Mr. N. K. SIMMONS: And I make no apologies for anybody. I am not saying that anybody can be perfect either, but once you set yourself up as a leader, you should try, as far as possible to reach perfection, and therefore .....

(Aside: Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Warn your brother.)

Mr. N. K. SIMMONS: .... we have got to be very careful.

We are making light work of this. You might laugh and giggle and skin, but when I walk down the street and I hear the youngsters swearing, I cannot tell them anything.

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: You do it, too.)

Mr. N. K. SIMMONS: Me? You do not hear me swearing. It is not necessary.

Asides.

Mr. N. K. SIMMONS: You understand? You make light work of this. You think it is a joke. I do not see these things as jokes. I take them seriously. You come in here and have people in asides shouting abusive language at each other and we think that is okay. That is okay, but when the little boy goes down the road and he is arrested by the police, we say we should lock him up.

(Aside: Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: You locked up a fourteen year-old.)

Mr. N. K. SIMMONS: You understand? You make light work, but these are the things we have got to consider more seriously. You can spend any amount of money on any social programme, if your leaders do not set forth the example your programme fails before it starts. And that is where we have reached in this country. And I am asking each and every one of us to take a serious look at ourselves and examine ourselves to see where we are going. That is important. That is all I have to say for now.

(Aside: Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: I am going to lock up some men for troubling little boys, too!)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN (Christ Church East Central): I welcome this opportunity, Sir, I really welcome this opportunity to speak after the honourable Member for St. James South. I am a student of what is necessary in Barbados to provide a comprehensive programme for youth development. I take a lot of interest in this area, and some of the things that have come from the mouth of the honourable Member in the speech here today are matters that we have to take seriously. We have a number of sick people, mentally, twisted, distorted, whose only contribution to the development of youth is to inculcate in their minds feelings of envy, spite ....

(Aside: Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Viciousness.)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: .....and viciousness.

This Government in 1979, in the face of all of the criticism from the other side, including an ex-Senator, made a careful analysis of the problem of selling on beaches in Barbados. I was the Minister responsible. I am proud of the decision. I said at the time, and I am pleased to see that what I said has been carried into effect, that the object of the exercise was to do a similar thing on the beaches as what is done on the highways in Barbados and in any other country, that you have to have a regime of regulation where there were competing users, and if each person who used the beach or used the highway did so without reference to the rights of others, chaos and dislocation would result. We therefore prohibited soliciting. We regard it as the right of a person to go to the beach, to sit down, to enjoy the beach, to talk with who they wanted to, to refuse to talk to who they did not want to talk to, and we said that that was the beginning of a policy. So we did not stop anybody from going on the beach. We did not stop anybody from selling on the beach. But we stopped them from going and "jucking" their goods in the faces of people, from

annoying people when they are sitting and enjoying the beach.

Between 1979 and 1982, despite a tremendous amount of debate, despite a number of appeals, the situation did not improve as much as one would have expected that it would have, having regard to the fact that the object of the exercise was to ensure that people who wanted to go to the beach to enjoy it in peace, and unmolested, did so, and people who wanted to go to the beach and sell goods to people who wanted to buy goods could do that, provided it took place with each group recognizing the rights of others. We got complaints from tourists and, what is never acknowledged in this country, we got complaints also from Barbadians, black, white and blue, old and young, that the situation had reached the stage where that method of regulation was not sufficient. So we came in here 1982 and we said that having regard to the commitment of the Government to the development of the economy, and tourism was identified as an important area, we would go further, and that we would create beach facilities either on the beach, in the case where the beaches were large enough, like Rockley and like Holetown, or as near as possible, in cases like Dover and others, where those who wish to sell clothes or any service at all would be put in conditions where they can carry on their trade and that we would help them.

Between 1982 and now, the only difficulty we have had in the implementation of that policy is with Town Planning permission because of the need for certain facilities such as toilets and things of that kind in certain areas. We started at Dover. We are working in Holetown, I believe, now. We are working at Pebbles. We have acquired the land here in Bay Street. Those are the areas where people will go if they wish to sell so long as this Government is in power. And we are not ashamed of that, because we are creating conditions equal to, or better than, what they had before, and we are ensuring an atmosphere in which every person can go and enjoy what nature has provided to Barbadians and, if they wish to buy, they can still buy within easy proximity.
5.25p.m.

Now if the honourable Member thinks that because we have done that that we have discriminated against poor young people in Barbados, well you advocate that as your policy, the politics of envy, the politics of spite, and the politics of imagined grievances. That is the kind of role model that you will perform. You will perform the role model of not telling the youngsters that they should, as young tradesmen, learn the etiquette and art of selling, learn the art of buying, learn the art of consumer satisfaction and things of that kind. You advocate for them the art of being spiteful, being vindictive, and having an inferiority complex. You advocate that, because that is what has come out of the speeches that you have made today.

Asides.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: No, you would not be in this because, as an elitist, I know you condemn the fact that when you and your family go to the beach and you are sitting down talking, people come and push things in your face, or look at any lady that you happen to have with you and give an assessment of the qualities which nature has bestowed on her. I know that you object to that. As an elitist, you object to that. I know that, never mind what you will say, in your mind, in your heart and in your soul you object to that. I know that.

Aside.

Hon. H. B. JOHN: I agree. So therefore the Government has no apologies to make.

Now in so far as what the magistrates do, the honourable Member was a magistrate. He had full opportunity in sitting from that position to exercise influence on the behaviour of the citizenry under whose jurisdiction he presided. The magistrates give words of advice, words of warning, and words of explanation as to the meaning and functions of the law. All of that is part of it.

Now when we come to the area of the Temple Yard, once again the honourable Member is not going to appreciate the fact, and he does not look at it with his twisted outlook, that the Government earmarked a spot in a very heavily utilized area of Barbados, next to a minibus stand, next to a car park, designated the area for retail trade, for street markets, as is done in any part of the world, whether they are communists or not. It is done in your favourite country, in Cuba. You must have seen it in Cuba many times. You have been there many times, and if you observed, you would have seen it there. You have street markets all over Africa and in Europe. Instead of preaching to the people who sell there that they cannot expect to sleep there, to exercise some or all of nature's calls in the same place in which they are dealing with the public, that they cannot expect to grow their banana trees and other trees right there, instead of telling them that they do not pay rent of any kind whatsoever and ought to have such pride in the place where you work that at least out of the profits which you make from selling — and do not let anyone fool you, they have good sales there — they also paint up the buildings they set out on, you are coming in here now trying to explain to them that they have a grievance, that they ought to be envious of other people because the Government is not giving them what is due to them. The greatest source of division and retardation in this society is the kind of mind that allows a person not to encourage upliftment but to preach jealousy, envy, and spite — the kind of mind that the honourable Member, from the speeches in here today, has been over-endowed with.

The Government is proud of the fact that, like the beach facilities, the market facilities for vendors of fish and vegetables in Oistins, the one at Cheapside in Bridgetown has been the subject of a re-development study and will be improved after the Bridgetown Fishing Harbour and fishing facilities have been considerably improved. We are proud of the fact that in Speightstown and in Holetown we will do the same. At Tent Bay, we will do the same, and what is more, the Industrial Development Corporation will continue at Pelican Village to expand the facilities granted there. We have to come up with the question: why should the taxpayers' money be used to do all these things for the benefit of a section of the community and that section of the community does not in return firstly recognize that they are under an obligation to keep the facilities which have been granted to them in as good a condition as possible? I go further; they ought to recognize that if they are going to pursue the ways of a capitalist, paying rent is an obligation and an inevitable consequence of being a capitalist if they do not own the goods. So, therefore, a policy has to be developed as to what is the level of subsidy.

Asides.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: What Head am I on? I am replying to a very fundamental question. You were not in here. I know that if you were in here, you would have been ashamed of the speech that was made. Because when you were Minister of Trade and Industry, Pelican Village was started, and you agreed with the policy of improving the selling conditions of small vendors in Barbados. So that the Government has nothing to be ashamed of in this respect.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: One minute more.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: We will continue to provide better facilities than ever were provided before for small vendors in Barbados and for small businessmen in Barbados. As a matter of fact, as far as our youth development programme is concerned, we are going to add something else to what we have now, which will be announced at the more appropriate time.
5.35 p.m.

I reject categorically that the honourable Member, when he comes in here and makes the kind of speech in which he preaches envy, spite and demonstrates clearly his twisted and distorted outlook on these matters, is a proper role model like what he has called for.

Mr. R. E. BRATHWAITE (St. Lucy): Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank the Minister of Labour and Community Development for what he is doing for the island of Barbados and especially in the parish of St. Lucy. As you all know, St. Lucy was a very neglected parish for a very long time, and I would like to commend his board members for visiting the Checker Hall house about three weeks ago, where we will have a day care centre. He said that the workers from St. Lucy are very honest and hard working, and there are lots of people who work as far as Sam Lord's Castle from St. Lucy and they find it very difficult to find places to leave their children, so I am sure that we all, the people from St. Lucy, are very happy as far as the day care centre is concerned in Checker Hall, which you would say would accommodate as many as about 6 000 people — Checker Hall, Bromefield, Crab Hill, Alexandra, Josey Hill, Half Moon Fort, Fustic Village, all around the vicinity. It is a very good place to put it, so I would like to say thanks for that.

There is one point, Mr. Chairman that I would like to mention. The honourable Member for St. James South, I do not think he is such a young fellow. The Democratic Labour Party came out of power in 1976 and that advice that he is trying now to give the honourable Member, the Minister, I believe would have been better done in 1974, 1975, 1976, because to compare the work that has been done by this Government from 1976 to 1986, I do not think there is any contrast. The space is big. I would say that the Barbados Labour Party has a very good track record as far as community development is concerned. We all know that the Democratic Labour Party failed in this direction.

As far as St. Lucy is concerned, when the Electors' Association used to publish, as they called it, in the Parry School, the conservatives in that day, they had one playing field, which was the Parry School pasture. It was a pasture that anybody could go on to play once the Parry School was not using it. One playing field. The Barbados Labour Party came into power in 1951, and from 1951 to 1961 they built a new pasture at Selah, and at Half Moon Fort, Rockfield and also a community centre in Rockfield. I want you to do a little arithmetic with me. That means that was three new pastures, along with the one which the Electors' Association built at the Parry School pasture, so that made it three and one, four. So you will understand now that the Democratic Labour Party came into power from 1961 and all they were instrumental in doing for the parish of St. Lucy was to subtract one from four; that leaves three. So under that condition, if we did not come into power in 1951 to build those three, the parish of St. Lucy may have been without a single playing field.

But now I would like to show you the work. From 1976 the Barbados Labour Party was in power, and I would say they did not have a candidate down there on the Barbados Labour Party ticket, from 1981 to 1986, not even five years yet, but today I can make a boast that I had one every year, five new playing fields since 1981, June 2, that I was a Member of Parliament for the parish of St. Lucy. Five new playing fields! We have one in Connell Town, we have one in Crab Hill, Durhams, Checker Hall and Rock Hall. We now have to just finish the grounds at

Rock Hall. So you can see that when you compare, that is three from 1951—76 and now we have five more, making it five and three, eight playing fields in the parish of St. Lucy, so you can see the strides that are going on.

I would like to appeal to the Honourable Minister that the late Prime Minister promised me a community centre in the district of Checker Hall, and I heard him a few months ago advertise that he will have skills training there at the community centre. I realise that Rome was not built in a day and I believe he is doing a fine job, because we have one at Boscobel, which is reasonably close, and we have them throughout the island, so I believe that my time will be coming next. So you can see from all around that St. Lucy is getting a fair share.

A few weeks ago I had to be talking with a Chairman of the Democratic Labour Party from St. Lucy. I do not believe that he is so brilliant as to tell me this, but he started to talk to me and he said "Brathwaite, all you are doing is building playing fields in the parish of St. Lucy" and he said too much sport makes Jack a dull boy. So I replied to him and told him too much work and no play also makes Jack a dull boy. I am very happy that we can have playing fields now where the boys and girls can go on afternoons, during the day sometimes when they are not working, and try to develop themselves. I am sure if we had more playing fields we would have less dope addicts, because there are many boys and girls who cannot find anything to do, so they find themselves in lawless company, but when a boy tries his best to study a game and study how he can reach the top, he will not have time to think about dope and those many bad things that the honourable Member for St. James was talking about.

Mr. Chairman, I would like also to let you all know that the great Charles Griffith, who was one of the best fast bowlers that Barbados has produced, was in the reign of the Democratic Labour Party, and it is a shame and disgust up to today to see the place where he learned to play cricket. I am calling on the Honourable Minister that it is time that we should go up there in Pie Corner, that good area, and build something, a monument, to Charlie Griffith, because all up there you will see rock, stone, bush.

I would like to let the Honourable Minister know this, and Members. The opening bastman of Maple is from St. Lucy, the Pickwick batsman is from St. Lucy. We have cricketers on all the outstanding teams in the parish of St. Michael from the parish of St. Lucy, but we do not have the necessary facilities, and I am appealing to him that we want to play a higher grade of cricket. When a boy or girl would like to improve themselves, they cannot be improved with the kind of facilities that we have in the parish of St. Lucy, so I am appealing that we have football courts, hard courts, all these kinds of facilities where our young people can have a chance to improve themselves. As we all know, this is not a big island, this is a small island. But we all pay tax and when we look around and see there are so many nice facilities in certain parts of the island and the other spots are left out, it is a poor scenery.
5.45 p.m.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, I would like to commend and thank the honourable Minister for the work he has been doing in the parish of St. Lucy, and I hope that he will not relax, but will continue to give us the necessary help that we stand so much in need of.

I thank you.

Mr. N. K. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I do not think I could have allowed the Honourable Prime Minister's remarks to go unanswered. It is obvious that he was not here in mind if he could have responded to what I said in the way he responded, because he ended up by saying precisely the same thing I was saying, that one of the problems facing the youngsters in Temple Yard is that they have no guidance, that if they had the guidance and teaching, they would not have conducted themselves in the way they conducted themselves. I do not think that we have any difference of opinion about that.

And he talked about viciousness! that is in his mind. He knows about viciousness. I do not know those things. That is in his mind. I am not going to repeat them.

The other thing I mentioned was the question of the youngsters on the beaches, and have I mentioned this to the Minister of Tourism already. This is a day and age when you have to discuss things with people. You cannot just go and decide that because you want it this way, it must be done this way. That is nonsensical, and, obviously, the Prime Minister is out of touch with reality as far as this society is concerned. That is why he conducted himself in that way. If he is of the upper class, I do not blame him, but I am saying that the time has come when you have to go and discuss things with the people.

Furthermore, let me say this. They are talking about moving people from off the beach. At the time when they asked the police to move people into the kiosks, they had no kiosks for the people to go into. They asked the police to put them in kiosks, and they had none. I do not understand what he is talking about.

What I am saying is this, that the young people of this country must feel somewhat frustrated where, on the one hand, if they use their initiative and go and sell, they can be arrested and locked up, but people can bring South African goods into this country, they are caught by police and Customs, and then they can be told that they have co-operated, so do not bother about it anymore. What are they to think?

The honourable Member who just sat down, I would like to tell him that if he is talking about cricket, we have the faculty of cricket down in St. James. We teach cricket in St. James. We do not have to talk about Pickwick. We talk about the West Indies team, and the Barbados team. We produced them out of a hat in St. James. But we do not have to boast about that.

The point I want to stress upon you is that the building of playing fields is just not enough. You must have people to control the activities of the playing fields. I have said this constantly, and I will continue to say it, because having the playing fields will only encourage them to go out there and smoke dope if there is nobody out there to control them. Go to any playing field which is properly organised and when you go on a playing field which is not properly organised you will see what goes on. First of all, it is filthy — a playing field which is not organised. There are cane peelings all over the place. There are fellows swearing and trying to break each other's feet.

Asides.

Mr. N. K. SIMMONS: A playing field is not all you want. You must have the trained personnel there as well to control the youngsters. When you grow up, for example, there is always a father figure there to control, even if he or she does not understand the game. At least they could control behaviour. Today, it is not so, and what the Government has to do, rather than putting down all of these 2 x 2 playing fields, as I call them, is to put proper facilities in the constituencies. You should be gearing towards.....

Asides.

Mr. N. K. SIMMONS: You do not understand.

Mr. R. E. BRATHWAITE:Mr. Chairman, on a point of explanation. I would like to let the honourable member know that we have bad behaviour at Kensington, men swearing. We have it in England, in Australia, all over the world you have bad behaved men, and at the Stadium, all around. Yesterday we had three men hurt, and things like that, so that is no big thing.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order.

Mr. N. K. SIMMONS: So, Mr. Chairman, you must not try to control it? Nonsensical!

I do not want to respond to the Minister's asides because, poor fellow, he does not know any better, and that is the same thing I am talking about. As the Minister for Youth and Labour, he does not know how to conduct himself in a way that the youngsters of this country can be proud of him and try to follow his example. It is unfortunate.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let us not be personal, please.

Hon. V. L. JOHNSON (St. Michael West Central): Mr. Chairman, Sir, listening to this debate, I was at a loss to determine whether or not we were discussing community development, or whether we were on the topic of trade, or whether we were on the business of tourism, because it has wandered back and forth, I believe, in an effort on the part of the honourable Member for St. James South (Mr. N. K. Simmons) to stretch out the time.

The only point of substance that I regard he has made during his last intervention is when he suggested that there is continuing need for supervision at the various community centres around Barbados, and, I believe, that that observation must certainly have come from the realisation that, indeed, the Minister responsible for Labour and Community Development is already aware of that fact. He starts off with that assumption in mind, and if the honourable Member for St. James South is interested in seeing a classic example of what a model community development project is supposed to look like and how it is supposed to function, I invite him to come down to Belfield Park in St. Michael West Central. We have a father figure in Mr. Blackett who has been the mentor to many generations of Barbadian sportsmen and youngsters generally. The honourable Member for St. James South may be interested to know that whether I go down there or not, I have for the last four years been re-elected as President of the Belfield Sports Club. So if he says I do not go, it is a massive tribute he is paying me because, in absentia, I still continue to get elected, according to him.

Asides.

Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, this Government has been demonstrating a broad and elaborate understanding of the needs of the youth in Barbados. I believe that when you are in Opposition, the tendency towards encouraging the politics of cultural tribalism occupies the attention of the Members. When you are in Opposition, that seems to be the bent. One has always to be saying that there is a classic model of social deprivation prevailing in one community versus the next, one class of persons versus the next, and we come in here and pay lip service to the cult of Rastafarianism in the hope that by loosely appealing to that group, we can attract votes. But it must be recognized that every group, every culture, every sub-culture in a community must demonstrate its capacity to live generally in consort with the prevailing ethics and norms of the community to which they belong, and it is the height of irresponsibility, political and moral irresponsibility, for people to come in here and seek to court the political fringes by trying to say that the Government is involved in some exercise of depriving the Rastas of their legitimate rights.

5.55 p.m.

Rastas, like every other group in this community, have a duty to abide by the laws of Barbados, to subscribe generally to the norms to which we subscribe, and if among themselves they practice some sub-culture, religious they tell me it is.....

Aside.

Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: Because you have come in here talking about Temple Yard. When the Rastas were ensconced in Broad Street up between Cave Shepherd.....

Aside.

Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: The honourable Member for St. Michael North (Mr. P. M. Greaves) can possibly instruct me in law, nothing else. You must not suppose that, because you have a speech defect, that is the norm. I call it whatever I like.

They were in Broad Street up between Cave Shepherd, — do you like that? You are more comfortable with that language — and we moved them from there and gave them a facility down in Temple Yard in order for them to develop the skills in various kinds of craft, and they have developed to the point where they are now having a thriving industry, shoe-making and other forms of craft. But some of them, no matter how long or how hard we work with them, are going always to do things which betray not only the norms of the larger community, but I suspect the norms of the Rastafarian cult itself, because genuine commitment to the Rastafarian culture suggests that its adherents practise a form of religion, and if they practise a form of religion, it must have canons and rules.

The honourable Member for St. Michael West (Mr. B. M. Taitt) tells me that that means smoking pot. I never said that. He is using sign language to suggest that the religion is smoking pot. I am not describing that particular practice. I do not know if it is one of the legitimate doctrines of the cult, but I believe that they have a code of ethics to which they subscribe, and as long as that code is not at variance with the larger community, I believe they can be free to do whatever they feel like doing. But, Sir, the Barbados Labour Party has taken a genuinely holistic view of the need for community development and we have not sought, nor have we practised, any discrimination with respect to that genuine understanding of our duty in respect of the youth of Barbados.

The honourable Member for St. Michael South East (Hon. DeL. O. Bradshaw), one of the most diligent Ministers in respect of community development, never mind he has not finished Belfield Park yet, has an enviable record. He has been busier in this particular subject than any other Minister before him in terms of the sheer volume of work he has done in that area as well as the general broadening of the concept of community development to include not just buildings, but a policy that involves a genuine attempt to train, direct and to guide youth who, in many respects in our community nowadays, lack guidance, and that lack of guidance in many measures comes from the general deterioration of the Barbadian family. We have honourable Members who go around and help in the general population effort without at the same time recognising the duty of parental guidance, and that has been part and parcel of the problem that our community in Barbados has been faced with.

Now the honourable Member talks about beaches. Not too many months ago he was running around here in Barbados seeking to create the impression that the youngsters down on the beaches in St. James were being hard put upon by this Government. He got a bunch of lawless people.....

Aside.

Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: If they are lawless, they are lawless, and I do not make any apology for saying so, and anybody who encourages them in that lawlessness is as lawless as they are.

What we need in Barbados are some politicians with a little more spine who are able to stand up to the youth and tell them they are wrong in a particular and seek to guide them in the right direction, but we have too many slamanders with only a notochord for a spine, and as a consequence, they cannot stand up on all fours — they do not have any vertebral column. I am describing the honourable Member for St. Michal West and the honourable Member for St. James South. You have a duty to tell all of those deviants that they have a duty to behave themselves and that in this country of Barbados, the rest of the larger community does not owe any duty to bend and scrape to their every whim and fancy. We have to put standards back into society, and you have to start with the youth, and the conduct of a youth camp every year down at Trents for the last several years has not been enough, I suspect, to inform the honourable Member for St. James South of his duty.

(*Aside:* Mr. N. K. SIMMONS: I can't do it alone.)

Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: You can't do it alone? You have been at it long enough that by now you should have been able to pass on something. If you were successful in what you were attempting to do, you should have been able to pass on to a new cadre.

Aside.

Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: You tried and you failed. The honourable Member said he tried, but he has not

succeeded. After all these years, he admits in here that he is a failure. And he has the nerve now to come in this House tonight to castigate the Government for succeeding at what he has failed to do by appealing to some wild gang of people who do not seem inclined towards behaving themselves as they ought to behave.

I have been down there in that Temple Yard, and I believe that the Honourable Prime Minister was very generous in his description of the conduct that goes on down there sometimes. I do not think, by any means at all that it is all of them down there, but you always have a minority of outspoken, vocal rebellious people who go and mess up the whole society, the whole pot, so to speak, because of their lack of commitment to any standard at all. They must be allowed to do as they like, and we have got honourable Members, like the one for St. James South, who will encourage them in that recklessness and then describe themselves as anti-worker. What kind of community are you building? A community of lawless, indifferent, lackadaisical.....

What are you looking at me for?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman, I will have some more to say.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS (St. Thomas): Mr. Chairman, I want to make a few comments on this Head. I have listened to the debate and I figure a significant aspect of this Ministry surely is the assessment of the functioning of the three Boards that I can identify within this Ministry which is to provide for young people. I think of the Child Care Board, the National Sports Council and the National Training Board. I have not heard from any members of the Opposition any allegation that any of these Boards has performed badly. Surely, this is a time for us to review the performance of the Ministry and look forward to what is to come.

6.05 p.m.

I wish to look at this matter in a very, very positive way. I will start first with the Child Care Board, and I must, first of all, compliment the Boad itself for the presentation of this Annual Report, April 1984 to March, 1985. We got it this afternoon. Of course, I had seen it before. I think that it is a model type of report for all statutory boards. I believe the Oil Company has a similar type of presentation. But, really, I would like to see more of the statutory boards reporting in this kind of format, in this kind of style, and, more importantly, giving this kind of detailed information.

(*Aside:* Mr. B. M. TAITT: North American training. Look at the composition of the staff.)

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am told that the staff is North American trained, Sir. Whatever.

(*Aside:* Mr. B. M. TAITT: Short, concise and to the point.)

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I think honourable Members will agree that it is really a good effort and I think that it is an example for others to follow.

Now when one looks at the content of the Child Care Board's Report, one is struck by the figures in relation to sexual abuse of children in any form, which moved in 1983—84 from 40 to 78 in 1984—85, and in respect of children who were visited with extreme physical violence, the number is even more startling — it increased from 138 to 225. I am just dealing with those two at page 38 of the report, "Classification of New Cases".

I wish to support the comment of the honourable Member for Christ Church West (Hon. H. deB. FORDE), that the society as a whole must now come to grips in a determined way with the real problem of child abuse. I wish to announce that in the next five year term of the Labour Party — and I can say it, I wrote it already in the manifesto since December — there will be a new Act for the protection of children, a new and comprehensive bit of legislation, because current legislation is outdated, some going back to 1908, I believe, and it is time that as we modernize our physical facilities for the care and protection of children, and as we spend more and more money, so, too, must legislation keep pace with the general movement in society. At the same time, I wish to let honourable Members know that in the law reform package to come will be new legislation dealing with sexual offences.

To my certain knowledge, there are retired men in this country who should know better as a result of their past experiences, past training and past positions of responsibility who — I am not calling anybody's name — there are men in this country — the Child Care Board has reports, the Ministry of Education has reports — have been persistently sexually abusing young children of 12 and 13. I have not seen them end up before the courts. There may be very good reasons, but I wish to let Members know that this is not a matter to be swept under the carpet. This is not a matter to be covered up — men who have retired, past 65, living with, in the Barbadian sense, girls of 12 and 13. Something has to be done about it, and something will be done so long as I have a say.

(*Aside:* Mr. B. M. TAITT: When?)

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, the Child Care Board spends a lot of money nowadays, and if, perhaps,

there is one criticism that one can make of the Child Care Board, it is that — I do not know if this has to do with the North American training of the personnel — sometimes one gets the impression that the perspective which the Child Care Board has for Barbados as a small developing society with limited resources may be a little too advanced, and perhaps they are trying to run before they walk. But that is not necessarily a bad thing, to set goals, targets and have broad objectives, even though they might be a little far-fetched and unattainable in our society; at least there are still goals to which we can aspire. That, perhaps, is the only criticism that one can make of the Child Care Board, that they are probably reaching too far too quickly, and I would counsel them that they look at the current plant which they are operating and upgrade, modernize and expand the current plant rather than try to jump too far ahead with grandiose plans which have a cost element that perhaps we are not ready to assume at this point of our history.

In this regard, Sir, I know that it is Government's intention to do more than has been done at Bagatelle and I just wish to give the assurance, as I have had it from the Minister, that when we know the final alignment of the road that is to come from Mile and a Quarter to Warrens, which may threaten some of the existing property in the Bagatelle area, a new Child Care Centre will be provided in St. Thomas. But for the moment, I am assured that what is there at Bagatelle will continue for the time being until the final plans for the road are known.

Sir, I turn to the National Sports Council, which is the second Board of significance for which the Minister of Labour has responsibility. I do not believe that anybody in Barbados, anybody in the Opposition, can deny that there have been great strides made in the provision of sporting infrastructure for the young people of this country over the last ten years.

(*Aside:* Mr. B. M. TAITT: Except in certain areas.)

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am told, "Except in certain areas." Obviously, the commentator who said, "Except in certain areas" would appreciate that in ten years every area cannot get. But whether there has been an over-emphasis in St. Lucy — I mean, under the Labour Party they had 8 and none under the Democratic Labour Party — it was only a redressing of the balance — I think that, generally, sport has thrived and developed under the aegis of the National Sports Council, which was the kind of executive vehicle for the propulsion of sport and its development in Barbados. It is not for me to tell you how many playing fields and pavilions have been built, and how many sportsmen have been taken on at the National Sports Council — that is for the Minister — but I believe that if we are honest with ourselves, we would all accept that we have tried, especially the present Minister, who has been particularly active in the area of sports. We have tried to provide the young people in every parish, if not in every constituency, with facilities in the hope that they would themselves use the facilities for the enhancement of their own abilities and talents, and in the hope that from that, in the future, those talents and abilities will be expressed in the national interest at a high level.

6.15 p.m.

I had the pleasure to serve on that Board. It was really the one Board that I was happiest at, the National Sports Council. The most pleasant years of my public service as a chairman of any Board was spent at the National Sports Council, and again, as with the staff at the Child Care Board, I can say to the public of Barbados that they have a dedicated director and staff at the National Sports Council committed to the development of sports in Barbados. We are trying to develop — I wrote a development plan for Sport in the 1983 — 1988 Plans and the aim there was to reach regional supremacy in 13 identified sports by 1988. Obviously, we must search for excellence.

I appreciate what the honourable Member for St. James South (Mr. N. K. Simmons) has said in speeches before and parts of his speech today. But there will be problems created because we are small, probably problems created because we are poor, even though some of us pretend and masquerade as westerners, or rich Arabs I suppose will be better comparison. But, essentially, we are a poor, developing country, and what is achievable and what can be compared as existing in developed countries in North America, England, and so on does not necessarily apply to Barbados. I know that I will hear a criticism — what about Cuba and what about the progress of sports in Cuba? A different type of society — regimented. People are dictated to by the rulers — not so in Barbados. So we have to live with the social constraints and the economic constraints whilst at the same time striving to attain excellence.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: One minute.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: One minute, Sir. I am going to wind up.

The third Board, Sir is the National Training Board. Again the honourable Member for St. James South was saying that what we should have done is that we should have built skills training centres at properly developed plants across the island, three or four, or how many were necessary first, and then start to train the young people. Well, that is his view, that view surely would admit of greater longevity in terms of unemployment. While

the youths were waiting for these lovely skills training centres to be built and well-equipped, four or five around the island, they would be out there starving. They would not be getting money – I know we are talking numbers now – they would have not been getting any instruction and the criticism could have been reversed. I really believe that if we had built the skills training centres first and left the youth unemployed and starving, I would have heard from that side today, 'Yes, but what is the good of a building when a man has not got a dollar in his pocket?' I would have heard that today. So we cannot win.

I am satisfied, Sir, that 1220 young people in the Skills Training, Work Experience Programme, and Apprenticeship, as of yesterday or today, is a remarkable and laudable achievement, and I wish to complement the honourable Member for St. Michael South East on a job well done as Minister responsible for those three Boards.

Sir, I am grateful. I am not coming again. I am finished.

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

Mr. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, I want to deal specifically with Subhead 5 of Head 39, Labour Department. Under this Head I wish to make a plea for the Government to take a more active and decisive role in under pinning the rights of workers, their rights to organize freely, to bargain collectively, and our constitutional rights of the freedom of association.

Asides.

Mr. M. A. KING: I take it that we are dealing with the Head related to Labour.

I am talking of what I conceive to be a lack of muscle, so to speak, in Government's whole attitude to the rights of workers in these areas. From time to time we hear, for instance, in relation to private industry, that there are some companies, firms, and businesses which come to Barbados which have an attitude to the rights of workers to organize freely and to bargain collectively which is not entirely consistent with our own way of thinking. There are some North American companies which have an attitude to trade unions, and to the participation of their workforce in trade unions, which is somewhat alien to our own concept of the rights of workers in Barbados. And, in my view, the Government has to take a very decisive and firm position in dealing with these companies, whether they come by invitation or otherwise, whether they see investment opportunities in Barbados, to make it abundantly clear to them that, as far as workers in Barbados are concerned, they have a right, and a constitutional right, to be able to join a trade union of their choice, and that no hindrance whatsoever should be in the way of workers to organize and bargain collectively. So that when efforts are made by companies to either dismiss workers or in other ways to interfere with their employment because they belong to trade unions – and they are not going to come out boldly and say that you are being dismissed because you belong to a trade union or because you dare to join a trade union, because to do so would be contrary to the existing and the established laws of the land – we should be coming down on them.

Under the labour laws in this country are such that if workers are dismissed, there is no legal requirement at this time for any worker to be given a reason for dismissal. So that it is open for an employer to dismiss a worker without giving any reason, and in some cases, if necessary, to pay compensation, which will be the equivalent of severance payment. But a large number of the problems arise in relation to working people who may not have been very long in employment. Let us say, for argument's sake, that the workers we are talking about have been employed by the company for less than two years. To dismiss them and talk about their having a right to access to the courts to pay compensation for wrongful dismissal gets them nowhere, because in that case the compensation which is awarded is practically worthless. In that case, what is going to happen is that you will win a victory, so to speak, in an action for wrongful dismissal, because the courts will hold that the worker had been wrongfully dismissed, but, in the final analysis, the dismissal is still effective, the worker has been dismissed and no effective sanction has been made against the attitude – I call it the attitude – of the employer.
6.25 p.m.

Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: On a point of order, Sir. I seem to be understanding the Member to be saying that the courts of Barbados, having regard to the fact that a successful submission for wrongful dismissal had been led, are negligent or deficient in awarding judgments. If that is the case, then he is misleading this Honourable Chamber.

Mr. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, I think the honourable Member should take heed of the biblical injunction 'I do not exercise myself in great matters which are too high for me.' I have said absolutely nothing about deficiency of the courts, I have said that the courts apply the law as it stands. I am saying that the law, in support of the rights of workers, is deficient, and if you do not understand that you have not understood what I have been saying.

(Aside: Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: You have not said anything!)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order! Order, please!

Mr. M. A. KING: The courts cannot make the law. This institution is part of the law making process of this country.

Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman, on another point of order. The honourable Member is misleading, because if the court holds that somebody is wrongfully dismissed – and there is a famous case in Barbados with which I am very familiar – the judge has held that the law of severance applies, so if he has been working for 15 years and gets dismissed, he gets four weeks' pay for every 1 year of service, which is 15 months, in damages. I do not know what else he is talking.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable member is not calling the judgment of the courts into question. There is no point of order there.

Mr. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, the honourable Member for St. Michael West Central has clearly not understood what I said, because what he has just said is that if the court finds that a worker has been wrongfully dismissed, the court is entitled to award damages which have been equivalent to severance payment. I have said that, but I went on to say that that is small compensation for a person who has been wrongfully dismissed, when the person really wants to be secure in employment. That is what I have been saying, and the court has no authority to order an employer to take a worker back to work.

(Aside: Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: It should not have.)

Mr. M. A. KING: You say it should not have? I agree with you.

(Aside: Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: If a man goes and does some nonsense, you want the courts to order you to take him back?)

Mr. M. A. KING: You do not understand what I am saying. Mr. Chairman, what has brought this whole question up is when I was making the point in relation to an employer who dismisses a worker without giving reason, and where at the basis of the dismissal there is probably the reason that the worker really belongs to a trade union. That is what I am talking about. And let me tell you, if a worker is employed for less than two years he does not get severance pay, so do not raise that.

(Aside: Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: The DLP passed the law.)

Mr. M. A. KING: So what?

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please, please. This is not the manner in which to conduct debates in Parliament.

Mr. M. A. KING: You are indulging in negative argument that because something has been done over the years, let us say it is wrong, that you should persist in it? Are you saying that you should persist in wrong?

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman: The honourable Member knows that the Unfair Dismissal Bill was prepared and he would have seen it, but he knows that the union that he represents is still to make further comments to the Ministry, so he should not get up here and seek to give the impression that nothing has been done to upgrade the law. That is dishonest.

Mr. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, I object to the honourable Member for St. Michael South East calling me dishonest.

(Aside: Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: It is the truth!)

Mr. M. A. KING: If anybody is dishonest it is you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order! Order! Order! Order! Let us give up the personalities. Let us not be personal.

Mr. M. A. KING: You are talking foolishness!

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please, address the Chair. Are you saying the Chair is talking foolishness? Address the Chair and let us get ahead with the debate.

Mr. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, I would like to get ahead with the debate, but I am having persistent, ignorant interruptions from the honourable Member for St. Michael South East and the honourable Member for St. Michael West Central.

(Aside: Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Ignorant but truthful!)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order! Order! Order!

Mr. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, the point I was making when I was interrupted was that if a worker has been employed, let us say, for one year in an industry, and an employer wanted to dismiss that worker because the employer has an anti-union bias, and decides that he is going to dismiss that worker, what I am saying is, and this cannot be disputed, that the present law of Barbados as it stands does not require the employer to

give the worker any reason for his dismissal. So that all an employer has to do, if he is properly advised, is to dismiss the worker without giving him any reason, and in that case he is not liable to pay the worker any severance pay, because the right to severance does not arise, because he has been only working for one year; and if he is a weekly paid employee, at most give him one week's notice and that is an end of the matter. All I am saying is that some adjustments need to be made in the law which would give the worker who has been dismissed in such circumstances a right to some compensation beyond what the existing law would allow. That is simple.

Do not tell me about unfair dismissal legislation which has been prepared by this Government, because unfair dismissal legislation has been prepared and it has been circulated for the longest possible time. It has been in the manifestoes of both political parties in Barbados for at least the last two elections. After nine years of your Government, if you are saying it is necessary, it is still not on the Statute Books. So are you saying that you are not passing unfair dismissal legislation because you have not got comments from the Barbados Workers Union or from the National Union of Public Workers or from the Barbados Union of Teachers? Is this how you run a Government, because you did not have comments from Workers Organizations? If you want to pass legislation on any issue, you would do it irrespective of whether anybody comments or not, so do not give me any ridiculous argument in that regard. 6.35 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Two minutes more.

Mr. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, after all those interruptions you are going to tell me, "Two minutes more?"

Mr. Chairman, I do not intend to impute you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please. Go ahead.

Mr. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, I was dealing with what I suggest should be Government's approach to underpinning the rights of workers in this regard. I talked about the industries which come into Barbados. I could talk also, Mr. Chairman, of the statutory corporations, like the Central Bank, for instance, where you can have difficulties between the administration of the bank and the unions which would represent the workforce in the bank, and positions being taken that persons at certain levels of the bank, or in other institutions, for that matter, should not properly belong to workers unions. Whether a person is a supervisor or an ordinary worker should not make a difference as to whether that person has a right to join a trade union or not. So that it is a nonsensical argument to talk about supervisory staff of a bank not being persons who should properly belong to a trade union and that you are not going to recognize persons at the supervisory level in institutions who would want to join trade unions.

I am saying that in relation to statutory corporations, which are largely supported financially be Government, Government should made its policy well known, and underscore it, and let their influence be decisive, and not to any extent interfere with the rights of workers at all levels in the institutions, particularly the statutory corporations, to organise and to bargain collectively.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is the Honourable Minister winding up?

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: No. I am just speaking.

Mr. Chairman, after listening to the honourable Member, I am at a loss to understand why he is an adviser to a trade union. I say that against the background that we operate against, a concept of tripartism, and for anyone to suggest that a Government should pursue a labour policy irrespective of the views of the other two parties is trespassing on a very dangerous course. We have to sit down. Dialogue must continue and we must reach a compromise on all these matters. No Government should pursue legislation in the interest of workers alone. It must take into consideration the employers as well, because they must all work in harmony.

The other point is the honourable Member did say, and he is true on this point, that there is no existing legislation which requires the employer to give a worker a reason for his dismissal. That point has been taken by my Government, and it was to this end that we set up a committee to look at the present law to see how best we can consolidate the laws on severance and unfair dismissals, and he would know, as a legal person, the common law that is established as far as compensating a dismissed worker is concerned. In an effort to consolidate this legislation, and the whole question of labour legislation, Government came up with the Unfair Dismissal Bill, and not only that, but the Equal Opportunities Bill, two of them, two important pieces of labour legislation, and it addressed itself to the particular point that was mentioned by the honourable Member. One of the things about legislation which impinges on the employer as well as the worker is that each side wants to score a victory and, in many cases, you very seldom find a compromise. But the Government, in its wisdom, has pursued a course of listening and trying to exhaust the machinery which is well established in industrial relations, that is, dialogue, and that will be the policy pursued by this Government, and, surely, as long as I am Minister responsible for Labour.

It is a very dangerous precedent if a Government ignores the wishes of both partners to industrial relations, so I just want to warn the honourable Member. Let your party, when it comes into power, pursue legislation which takes into consideration only the wishes and the interests of the workers. Ignore the wishes of the employer and then you will see how dangerous it will be for the country. We have to think in terms of the industrial stability of the country which must be a very salient factor in determining legislation for both worker and employer.

But, Mr. Chairman, I have seen the attempt to twist the argument away from Government's programmes, and I am going to get back to them. We have a lot of community programmes. We have a lot to talk about. We are proud of our records and we are going to talk about them. That is what the Estimates are all about, because we have to let the people know what we have done and what we intend to do during the next financial year.

Asides.

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: You do not question my labour policy. If I had my way, you know I would deal with you, but we are friends.

In this year's Estimates, provision is made for additional facilities, because Government wishes to pursue a policy of attracting people to our shores. We feel that sport and tourism should be closely linked so that we could attract visitors to Barbados, and as a result of that, we have tried to accelerate the building of various facilities that could accommodate sports.

We have seen the development of basketball, netball and football to a very large extent. You have never seen that sort of spectator support even in Barbados. You now have it, and that shows that the policy of Government is paying dividends. In an effort to satisfy the 28% or so of persons under the age of 30 in Barbados, we feel that their needs must be met, and in the past two years, in particular, honourable Members may recall playing fields at Durhams in St. Lucy, Connell Town in St. Lucy, Parkinson in St. Michael, Gibbons, Christ Church; Bridgefield, St. Thomas; Bayleys in St. Philip. These are community facilities, Mr. Chairman – Content in St. Thomas; Indian Ground in St. Peter; Lowthers in Christ Church.....

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I wish to draw to Your Honour's attention the well known rule in this Chamber that honourable Members in making their presentations are not permitted to refer to previous debates and to repeat points made in those debates.

6.45 p.m.

The Honourable Prime Minister, Sir, just a couple of weeks ago, read out the entire list which the honourable Member is about to read out, and not only did he read it, but he made a speech in almost the same terms. I do not think that we need, you certainly, to be subjected to a repetition of that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Chair would not know whether the list that the Prime Minister read is the complete list.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, you wish to know if he has anything for St. George.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Maybe.

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Playing fields at Wildey and Wotton were upgraded. At Dash Valley, we had a pavilion. At. Orange Hill, we also built a pavilion as at Holy Innocents and at Wildey.

In the next few weeks, certainly at the end of this month, we will have pavilions completed and opened at Gibbons in Christ Church, and Content in St. Thomas. At Eden Lodge, a community centre will be completed and opened, and at Elks Pasture, work started a few weeks ago. At Waterford, a ground-breaking ceremony took place last week on Friday. At Bush Hall, a community centre is in the process of being constructed, hopefully to be completed by the end of April, and at New Orleans, 8th Avenue, a community centre will be opened. It is completed and will shortly be opened. At Jackson in St. Michael, there will also be a community centre opened there very shortly. At Holy Innocents, a pavilion will shortly be completed and opened.

There are plans during the course of this financial year to build a pavilion.....

Aside.

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: I am going to give you all of them, so if you keep quiet, you will hear them.

There will be a pavilion at Lowthers in Christ Church. We will also resurface the hard court at Silver Sands. In Drax Hall in St. George, the National Sports Council has already invited tenders to do the levelling of the Drax Hall playing field. At Lears in St. Michael, the National Sports Council has already invited tenders for the levelling of that playing field. At Waterford there will be a hard court provided. At St. Christopher we have resurfacing. At Dash Valley, there will be a hard court. There will be a play park at Belfield. You see, this is nothing to do with the Bayville Community Centre and the hard court at Bay Land and Lyders Park.

We also intend to floodlight some of the hard courts. We are going to floodlight all of them so that you can play basketball and netball at night. You would not have to go to the "Y" or the National Stadium to play basketball and netball. We are going to make sure that in the communities we bring the facilities there. It is part of our manifesto; don't let us surprise you. We are going to fulfil them.

In addition to that, don't forget we have resurfaced the National Stadium and refurbished it, and further refurbishing will take place at the National Stadium. We have erected brand new lights at the Stadium, and we have already erected brand new lights at the Netball Stadium, and further work will be done there.

It is Government's intention in St. George, at Belair, to provide a playing field, and at Lemon Arbor in St. John, a playing field also will be provided for the people there. So on and on we will go. Let me say to you that on the Harbour where you have that monument, land was taken away and was used by the owners. It is proposed to put a brand new hard court there. The indoor gymnasium will be cited at Passage Road in addition to a brand new skills training centre to be built out of the World Bank loan.

Now you see what honourable Members on the other side do not understand is that when your Government was in office, you went to St. John, Gall Hill, and built hard courts for lawn tennis and the people in St. John could not play lawn tennis. You used to see the "M" cars from out of the parish coming up. That is because the ex-Prime Minister represented the constituency. Over in Gully Hill where Hamilton used to play cricket and football where there was a club house, your Government, the Democratic Labour Party Government, made sure that the ground was not used. In fact, they dug up the ground and put down two lawn tennis courts, and up to this day the people in Carrington Village are annoyed with your Government. Now you are calling on this Government to provide facilities.

Let me tell you what is going to happen. I have visited this site. I know that you cannot put a football or cricket pitch or wicket or anything so; it is too small. If you extend westward, you are going to go in the canal. It is impossible. To the south eastern side of the same area you have a house recently constructed; it is too narrow. But what is proposed there? It is proposed to put a community centre at the Gully Hill pasture so as to accommodate indoor sport as well as a community centre cum pavilion and a skills training centre. Now that is how the Government is planning; comprehensive planning for the young people of this country. So we do not want you to tell us about community development or sporting development.

The honourable Member must understand that we are now attracting the 10K, an international event. Yatching, look and see the sportsmen from abroad how they are flocking to Barbados. Barbados is emerging rapidly as a sports haven in the Caribbean, and what is even more important is that the young people are participating. The sort of vandalism that you talked about in here earlier is not really evident in Barbados. There may be one or two little rumblings at football matches because spectators are made to encroach on the field because, in most cases, the grounds are not enclosed. Do not let us forget what happened in Europe and why Britain was banned – it was because of bad behaviour – and what happened at Bradford because of the fire disaster there. Crowds are getting out of hand abroad, but we have managed in Barbados to contain the crowds. That says something for the youth of Barbados.

I cannot sit in here or anywhere and hear any criticisms against the young people of this country without defending them, because I am satisfied that there has been a dramatic change. Maybe the young people behave that way, negatively, to your Government, because of your attitude. You made provision for only $50 000 to build community centres. That is what the Democratic Labour Party provided in 1976, $50 000, and $125 000 for sports, and that included the purchasing of equipment. No wonder the young people threw you out in 1976. Let me say this to you. Don't talk about the youth; you have no good track record. You go around and see the number of people out there participating in sport. I will say this to you: they knew who have been at their side and who helped them. Not you. You have no good record, so you should not even get up in here and talk about youth or community development.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, the honourable Member diverted the debate away from a fundamental in this country concerning the attitude of Government to labour. The Minister responsible for Labour has a responsibility to the community to enunciate the Government's policy as clearly and in ringing terms so that what my colleague, the honourable Member for Christ Church West Central (Mr. M. A. King), said, should be in clear terms to all and sundry. The honourable Member, the Minister, took it upon himself to deliberately miss an opportunity to articulate the Government's position on a very important matter, very related to whether we are going to have continued industrial development in this country.

6.55 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, when any industry is coming into Barbados, one of the requirements of the Industrial Development Corporation is that that industry must sign

a certificate recognizing and acknowledging that it will abide by the constitutional provisions of Barbados, the Fundamental Rights Sections of the Constitution, Section 11 of the Barbados Constitution, which provides for freedom of association in this country. It includes, therefore, Sir, the right to freely associate with a labour union or any other similar association. There are companies in this country that came to Barbados since the Barbados Labour Party came into office that were baulking at signing such an undertaking, and it would have been desirable for the Minister of Labour to assure the community that the Barbados Labour Party has not deviated from that policy which is so fundamental to this community. Instead, the Minister determined that he would not respond at all, and, therefore, I am rising to reinforce the necessity for the Government to send a clear signal to any manufacturer in Barbados, no matter what his stripe, no matter what his colour, no matter what his nationality, no matter the size of his operation and the numbers which he employs in this country, that no foreigner will be allowed to come into Barbados and trample on the rights of Barbadians as perceived by Barbadians.

In that context, he needs to send a very clear signal as well to the statutory corporations, especially the statutory corporations in Barbados, which are using the taxpayers' money and which have a responsibility to the country as a whole and the Government in particular. If the Central Bank says that it will not recognize the right of economists to join a trade union, the Government is saying so. When the Central Bank speaks – the Central Bank is in a unique position, even if the Central Bank has misunderstood its position or its role – the Government has a responsibility to send a signal that can be heard not only by the Central Bank, but by all of us.

We need to be assured, and one would have thought that the Minister responsible for Labour would have taken the opportunity of the Estimates to stand in this Honourable Chamber and let it be known. I expect the Prime Minister to fill in that void. I am looking forward to the Prime Minister letting the country hear that the Central Bank or any other agency in Barbados, especially one spending taxpayers' money or responsible for taxpayers' policies, will not be able to interfere with the fundamental rights and freedoms of Barbadians, whatever their misguided concepts may be. A Central Bank of Barbados is not a Central Bank of Britain, and if in Britain, where it is not a statutory corporation, they decide that they are not going to let their senior advisers become members of a trade union, we in developing countries cannot follow lock, stock and barrel every policy that is enunciated by every.....

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

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Take it easy.)

Mr. B. M. TAITT:.....we cannot allow us in Barbados to appear to be following every policy that comes out of every developed country's mouth merely because we have a Central Bank and they have one too. It is nonsense! I expect to hear from the Minister – indeed, I expect to hear from the Prime Minister – a clear and definitive statement on the matter. I shall not say anything else until I hear that.

I take the opportunity of these 15 minutes, however, Sir, to refer to CHAPTER IV of the Report of the Child Care Board, "THE INCREASE AND EXPANSION OF THE CHILD CARE BOARD'S PROGRAMME". I wish to say that I have no quarrel with the Child Care Board *per se,* but when the Minister was articulating the policy for the 28% of those persons under 30 in Barbados, he seemed not to have included, or not to have recognised, that not only must you provide sporting facilities for those young people and other similar facilities, but that you have to provide the environment within which all of the young ones, especially the very young, can grow to their full potential. If one looks at CHAPTER IV of this Report – and I have to agree with the Attorney General that there is not a thing wrong with the quality of this report – one will see that since 1981 the Child Care Board's new cases has increased by 261%: "These new cases are in addition to the Child Care Board's Officers' work load of supervision of the following programmes:" Now let me repeat that, Sir. They are saying that since 1981 the Child Care Board's new cases have increased by 261.22% and they say that "These new cases are in addition to the Child Care Board's Officers' Work load of supervision of the following programmes:" and then they list the programmes, Sir:

"Day Care Children	–	1,169
Residential Care Children	–	254
Staff	–	350
Parents as Clients	–	3,100
Private Day Care Children	–	609
Private Day Care Centres and Applications on Roll	–	69

Now, Sir, it may be the practice of every statutory corporation or any entity while writing its report to add a little colour to the information which it submits to make its work seem much more important than it may be and to make its work seem to be greater than it may be. Let us grant that as a phenomenon of reports written especially by governmental agencies. Be that as it may, Sir, if this information submitted by the Child Care Board is nearly correct, one has to ask the Minister how in the name of God he would expect that the quality of care which is provided for children which fall within the ambit of the responsibility of this Board can be maintained at the consistently high level that was recorded before 1981, unless he provides the necessary resources to the Child

Care Board in such a way as to guarantee the delivery of that quality.

Sir, I draw to you attention why there has been such an increase. Prior to the amalgamation of the Child Care Board, there used to be a number of voluntary organizations functioning within Barbados that assisted by relieving the Child Care Board of some of the anxieties related to this kind of work. There was, for example, a Child Care Committee which was made up of a number of distinguished citizens whose names I shall not call but with whom Mr. Chairman, you would be as intimately familiar as I am. These persons used to, through voluntary activity, provide a systematic care for a large number of the children who fall within the need of that kind of assistance. With the amalgamation of the Child Care Board, there was a demise of that Child Care Committee and all of the work and the staff of the Child Care Committee was supposed to be absorbed into the Child Care Board. It so happens that the present chairperson of the Child Care Board was also chairperson of that particular committee, and, therefore, the Minister can feel free to discuss with the present chairperson of the Child Care Board the matters which I am raising on the floor of this House.
7.05 p.m.

It is well known to all those persons who have taken an interest in the matter that the resources made available to the Child Care Board in the context of their new ambit of responsibility have not matched the amount of work which would follow as a result of the decision to disban the Child Care Board Committee, which was a volunteer service, and to include all of its responsibility within the ambit of the Child Care Board, which is a statutory Corporation. The result has been that while, as the honourable Member for Christ Church West was able to say, the Child Care Board continues to do its job in a commendable way, there are a number of children who are not able to be beneficiaries of the kind of enlightened programme which we should have in this country at this time. In the last quarter of the 20th century, we in Barbados cannot afford to have any of what is in essence the best resources in this country suffering because, we through our mechanisms or inadvertently, refuse to allow these small ones to benefit from our programmes.

When one looks at the Estimates, one has to remember, Sir, that the honourable Member for Christ Church West was being very diplomatic when he said that these Estimates would have to be supplemented. The Minister will remember he said that. Well, he is the legal advisor of the Board. He is also a member of the Barbados Labour Party hierarchy and, therefore, would not wish to criticise the Barbados Labour Party Administration in the manner in which I might want to do, and that is why his euphemism was that you will have to supplement these Estimates within a short time. But the truth is that what you are providing appears to be totally inadequate to carry out the programme in the manner and at the level and with the quality which all of us would agree is desirable, and the clear message which is coming from the Child Care Board itself can be found at Chapter 4, and it says this in block letters "NOTE WELL – Intake of new cases". "Note well" is written in such a way that if the Prime Minister examined it in any detail he will see that the committee is sending a clear message. The committee does not wish to put the Government in the position where it can be said that the committee is criticising the Government. But from a careful examination of this report you will see that the committee is sending a plea to the Government saying, "Give us more resources so that we can get on with the business of child care."

Child care is not only a number of "unfortunate children" put into institutions, foster homes or what have you. It is a question of identifying the varying and continuing frailties which result from one or another misfortunate in the society. They are still children in Barbados – and I really would prefer if this would not make the headline so that no one will say I was seeking headline, I am saying it in the confines of this particular discussion – who are going to sleep hungry because no one knows that they are going to sleep hungry.

(Aside: Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: How do you know they are going to sleep hungry?)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I know of some and, presumably, you know of some. You do not know of any? Well, I am a better representative than you and therefore I am bound to know about the ones in my constituency and you would not know about yours. I could not know about yours.

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Do you know of some, too? Well, all right. If I had anything to do with them, please apologize for me.

Laughter

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I know him well.

The point is, Sir, that we need to examine in a little more detail what the resource needs are for a proper delivery of child care in Barbados. And I am saying that what we had also was a hot and sweaty decision to discontinue a particular programme while we were not quite ready to have it absorbed by the Child Care Board.

Now, Sir, lest anyone should accuse me of misleading the House, let me declare an interest, in that I had a particular relationship with someone who was involved

with the Child Care Committee; hence, my knowledge of the subject is partly due to my intimate relationship with that person. So I have declared my interest. I am saying, however, that, for example.....

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I beg your pardon. Apparently – I am not taking any chances. The next thing you will get up and say is that I had an interest and did not declare it.

The point I am making, Mr. Chairman, is this. What we have now is the Child Care Board's information that comes to the Child Care Board. What we need in Barbados, and what the Democratic Labour Party will have to supply, is that information which we seek out. We need to go into the highways and by-ways of Barbados and discover, and there are a lot of discoverable cases out there, areas of child abuse. We need to discover areas of child neglect. We need to discover, in other words, what, in fact, is the best resource force to take us into the 21st century.

Mr. Chairman, I say for the record, for example, that in a constituency in the country that will remain nameless for the time being, there are men who beat 10 year-old children with cat wire. There are men who beat nine year-old children with horse skins for stealing a bit of sugar. There are persons working in institutions who ill-treat young children for all kinds and manner of reasons. There are persons working for the public organizations who mistreat young children and young adults in this community. We need to seek them out. The Attorney General said that he knows of some and he is going to deal with them. But in this community, for a very long time, Sir, there has been a conspiracy of silence with regard to the maltreatment of young people with regard to the sexual abuse of young people, a conspiracy of silence of persons in this society who should know better.

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Call Mrs. Reader.)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Oh! Not Mrs. Reader. The Chairman of the Board is one of the people in Barbados who would like to root out this conspiracy of silence. But I am sure if we ask everybody to write down a name, close hand and put it in a hat of persons they have heard things about sufficiently often in particular positions where it is disturbing, we would have a fairly large number of names. I am not getting involved at this level.

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: You have not accused me of child abuse yet. They have accused me of a number of things, but I have not yet heard of child abuse.

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I wish I could say the same thing about everyone of the people I know.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I am not going down that road. I will not let them take me. They have someone they wish me to expose but I am not going to do it. I am not going to let you cause me to discuss your colleague or friend, or whoever it is. I am not getting involved in that.

Mr. Chairman, I think that I have made the point and I hope the Minister will take comments in the spirit in which they have been offered. I think that what we have to do is what the Member for Christ Church West suggested in that way he has. He said that we are going to have to supplement the vote. We are saying that you have not provided enough resources in the context of the mammoth job which we have to do. And I am saying, Sir, that, contrary to the belief of a sector of this community that such monies spent are non-productive, it is, in fact, some of the best investment we can make, because what kind of resource we have in the 21st century will be determined by what kind of policy we follow. I know that the Minister has said that the Democratic Labour Party will form the Government in the next two or three months. You heard him when he said when we come to power there are some things we will have to do, and I accept that. We are going to do these things, but I think, as he goes home, he will understand that child care was one of those areas where perhaps he could have sacrificed a pavilion for a little more resource.

I end, Sir, by saying that after a considerable amount of agitation, including plans to lie down in front of bulldozers if they would have brought bulldozers to put housing at the bottom of Passage Road, I feel vindicated tonight when I heard the Minister announce that, at long last, the money which has been given to the Government for the construction of an indoor auditorium will be spent in exactly the way we recommended some seven or eight years ago. You will recall the Democratic Labour Party acquired a property at the bottom of Passage Road for precisely those reasons. Senator Dennis Hunte articulated and worked out the arrangement so that we could have that area as a recreational area for the catchment. I have pioneered it, I have absolutely no difficulty in acknowledging the credit for having fought the Government tooth and nail to have that area turned into a recreational area.

7.15 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I am glad to hear the Minister saying that he has taken the steps to have the auditorium built. We will complete it.

Thank you.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I am only going to reply to two points, Sir. The honourable Member keeps talking about fundamental rights. I accept that the Constitution of Barbados sets out very clearly the right to freedom of association, and the Government has made it clear to all and sundry – as a matter of fact, it is part of the forms that one has to fill out for industrial incentive legislation – that you accept the Constitution of Barbados in so far as it provides for freedom of association. The honourable Member is not able to find any case in which anyone has been given fiscal incentives to come to Barbados and has not complied with that form.

The position is very clear. I do not know, though, of any case in any part of the Commonwealth, or indeed in any part of the world, where such a constitutional provision has been held by judicial decision to mean that the "right" used in those words casts a corresponding duty on the part of anyone to accept a particular trade union as representative of the particular people. I have not heard of it yet, I do not know of it. I will be very glad if the honourable Members on that side can enlighten me in my abundant research in this area.

My understanding is that the Central Bank's position is very clear. They are not saying that anyone cannot join a union, what they are saying is that the same union that represents one category of worker cannot at the same time represent people who have to supervise that particular category of worker.

Aside.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Well, you say, "why not." Let them take the Central Bank to court and let the court determine that an employer is obliged to recognise a union, the same union for one category of worker and in particular the category that has to supervise that category. Let them go to court, let us have the debate in society. I would like to know whether the Barbados Workers Union represents their own employees. You answer that question.

So that we are here in an area where people are talking about matters and making general statements about the Central Bank refusing to allow the economists and other categories of employees to be represented by a Union. That is not true. The Central Bank has not said that, the Central Bank has said quite clearly that as I understand it, the same union that represents one category of worker cannot represent the other category which is charged with the responsibility by the nature of their duties to supervise and to discipline or be participants in the disciplinary process of those people, and that is very clear. No mann can serve two masters.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: If the honourable Member will give way, I do not think that we want this discussion to get deviated into areas on which there is no difficulty. There is no difficulty at all with supervisory personnel and non-supervisory personnel and recognition problems, but what the Central Bank has said, or what has been published by the Central Bank, is that advisers of policy – that is what they said, they said nothing about supervision – they said advisers of policy, and they so regard economists as advisers – cannot join the trade union. That is the position that has been published. We would like to be advised that we are wrong, but that is what has been published. If we are wrong, let it be said.

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until 2 p.m. on Thursday, March, 20 1986.

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

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

7.25 p.m.

ON RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: The House is in session.

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

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

HEAD 39 – MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – $12 337 377

Head 39 – Ministry of Labour and Community Development was called.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, I beg to move that Head 39 stand part.

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

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

Mr. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are a few matters that I would like to invite the honourable Member to comment on. The first one concerns a development in the sugar industry, but which falls under his particular Ministry, and it is due to the fact that the sugar industry has been going through a fairly rough time within recent years and has had to mechanize. The industry has now reached a stage where the traditional labour in the industry, women who are registered agricultural workers, has more or less been removed, and I will point out what is happening and where the difficulty is.

Prior to 1984 or up to two crop seasons ago, the women in the sugar industry, who are forced into the industry due to the shortage of most of them to get employment elsewhere and the necessity to earn a living for themselves and for their family, worked mostly in the area of piling the sugar canes after they have been cut or pushed down by machines. Now that has been moved out. So you have a situation where the registered agricultural workers have now been told by the plantations that the only employment for them as women in the industry is cutting canes – they can do nothing else – since all the rest has been mechanized. Now the difficulty comes in here where some women have been forced to, and if you pass in the sugar fields now you will see that about 50% of the people who are cutting canes in sugar fields are women, which is regrettable, but they are making an honest dollar and they have to do it. But there are some women who cannot do it and find themselves in a situation where they have not been offered any alternative employment. So at the height of the sugar industry, the women, who are registered workers, when they went to the plantations this year have been told that if they cannot cut canes, there is no other work for them.

There are lots of women; some of them, of necessity, have gone and have been trying their best in cutting the canes but others who cannot do it are now not working. I want the Minister to consider whether or not, because of this peculiar development in the industry, these people can be considered for unemployment benefits during this particular season. I know it is a very awkward situation, but it is also a very difficult one. They are not saying to them that there is no work, but what they have said to them is that the only work that is available to them is the cutting of the sugar canes. That is an unfortunate development in the sugar industry and I invite the Minister and his Ministry's attention on this particular one to see if there is a possibility of giving them unemployment benefits during the season.

The second area I want some clarification on from the Minister is whether or not any plans are afoot for a subvention to the BYC. I am going through the Estimates very quickly, but I do not see any provision inside here for any subvention to the Barbados Youth Council. I know there has been a lot of controversy surrounding the Barbados Youth Council, but my knowledge is that it has now re-grouped and it is trying its very best to do the job that it has been originally set up to do, and I would invite the Minister to give his best consideration to this particular institution in the interest of trying to give the umbrella organization of the youth groups in Barbados whatever assistance we can give, by a subvention to the BYC.

The last thing I would like to invite the Minister to comment on is whether or not the problems of the time lag in the paying of savings for the people who go off on immigration or short-term to Canada and America has now been solved and they are getting their savings fairly quickly when they return to Barbados.

These are the few areas I would like to invite the Minister's comment on under this Head.

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW (St. Michael South East): Sir, I wish to respond to the honourable Member for St. Philip North on the question of the women in the sugar industry. I am aware, and the Government is aware, that in relation to the work of piling and loading, which used to be done by women in the sugar industry during the crop, there is now a trend to replace that by the loading equipment. But we have also observed that quite a few women have opted to cut canes and they are involved in the cutting of canes.

Now we should look at it against the background.....

(Aside: Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Women have been cutting canes for years.)

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: We have to look at the whole question not only of women in the sugar industry, but Government is looking at ways and means where more women could find work in Barbados. We are exploring every possible avenue. Emphasis will be placed on this particular area because we have recognized that more and more women are in search of work and this redounds to the credit of the Barbadian women. And just as we have observed that there has been loss of jobs not only by women but men because of the mechanization process, we are looking at, as I said, ways whereby we could correct this situation and put women back to work and find more job opportunities for women.

I would also like to point out to the honourable Member that there is a union representing these women, and I would just like to see any recommendations, or let the union take up certain positions, on that matter and other matters relating to the sugar industry. Those are things for discussion.

You asked whether there was any money reserved or in this year's allocation for the BYC. My answer to that is, yes, but let me point out that I did meet with the BYC that was having a lot of problems. Some of the officers were engaged openly in politics, aligning themselves with Opposition politics, and not only being critical of Government but making sure that they were waving a flag for the Opposition Party, and we felt that that was not the correct direction in which the BYC should be heading.

I must say that sometime last year I met with the BYC and we had a very useful meeting, and out of that meeting it was decided that the BYC would re-examine their position and their role in society. I have seen some attempts to correct the problems which they had. I did point out to them that Government would be willing to make a subvention, or to have them involved in the national policy, because we recognize that a vibrant Barbados Youth Council could assist the Ministry and the Government in discharging certain functions as far as promoting the development of young people.

I did invite the BYC to submit to me a programme or the costing of the programme, but the BYC did not return any submission to the Ministry. As a matter of fact, it was only early this week, on Tuesday morning, that I was presented with a paper setting out what will be the needs in terms of costs of the BYC; only Tuesday of this week. I have not had time to go through the proposals, but I am going to pay very close attention to them. I have to make sure that it does not impinge on the role of the Community Development Division. The BYC must not feel that it is the body which will control all community activities or groups in Barbados. The Government, through the Community Development Division, has a duty and an obligation to see that all community groups play the roles which Government expects them to play, and we see the role of the BYC as complimenting some of the efforts of Government.

There has been some $500 000, which I know and Government is aware, which might not be sufficient to meet the programmes of BYC. But until we have examined their programmes and the cost of them, we cannot really do anything. But not a sum of money was put there, despite the fact that the BYC did not submit anything to the Ministry. That shows that the Government does not have any negative attitude towards the BYC. But I would say that I have seen some attempts to improve the BYC and its aims and objectives.

Now touching on the question of savings for farm labour workers those who engage in seasonal work in Canada, we felt that the system that was used over the years caused too long a delay. Sometimes workers returned to Barbados six months, and sometimes a year, and were unable to get their money. I must say there is no worker who has to wait that long now. The longest the worker has to wait is somewhere around four months, and this is not for all the money, because money is paid in instalments. As you know, the employer deducts from the wages of a worker a sum of money each and every week, then it is sent on to Toronto, and then that money is deposited in Barbados, but sometimes a worker returns to Barbados only to find that the last six payments have not reached the liaison office in Canada. It happens sometimes that the employer, even when you complete your assignment, has not been able to send in all the papers to enable the accountant to make up the final payments as early as possible. But every effort has been made to have the payments remitted to the worker as soon as possible, and we have not been having the sort of complaints over the past year as in the past. I am satisfied that every effort has been made, and I am sure those who observe the programme have not been having those complaints.

2.10 p.m.

A couple of weeks ago I happened to hear a member from the Democratic Labour Party saying at a public meeting that the workers are being unfaired, that this Government is taking advantage of the workers. I will tell you what he said, that when the money is deducted in Canada in Canadian currency, that when the worker comes to Barbados he is paid that amount. For example, if Can. $1 000 was deducted, when he comes to Barbados he is paid Bds. $1 000. That is nothing but far from the truth. When people are seeking elected office they should be a little more honest in their approach. The fact is that whatever the exchange rate of the Canadian dollar is when the worker comes to Barbados, he is paid that money, and you find, say that if the Canadian dollar is worth $1.40 in Barbados and he saves Can. $1 000, then he is paid Bds. $1 400. I just want to correct that, beacause you hear this thing all the time on platforms.

Let me say this. So successful is the programme that lots of people are trying to get on. Nobody is robbing them, and the system of payment is a system that was used from the inception of the programme. That is exactly what it is.

For the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central (Dr. R. C. Haynes), when you tell people that they should not pay the deposit up front, you must not forget that when people were recruited to go on the London Transport, not only did they have to put money up front, but they were asked to put a surety, people had to put their land papers down or back them at the bank before someone could be emigrated to London to go on London Transport, either on the trains or on the buses. I know that. You had to sign up, someone had to stand bond for you.

What has happened with the Canadian programme is that a lot of people who went on the programme used to run off the programme. They would go and return

home within a week or two, and that was causing some concern. We were beginning to get the feedback from the employers that Barbadian workers were not fulfilling their obligations, they were breaking the contract, breaching as they call it, and the farmers were indicating they were prepared to take Jamaican and other farm workers. So in an effort to keep the programme alive, and in an effort to assist Barbadians who want to work and to go overseas, a decision was taken by the Government to make workers make a down payment before they leave to go abroad.

Let me say this, because there are some times when you do not have the opportunity to explain everything. It is $25. As you know, if you leave here there is a tax you pay on a ticket, and all that the Government requires from those workers is a $25. If they had to go ordinarily, or buy a ticker ordinarily, they would have to pay a lot more than that. Sometimes it is $70 or less, but the Government has fixed the ticket tax at $25, and what we have seen this year is that the Canadian Government has introduced a new measure which requires farm workers – all farm workers, not Barbadians alone – all workers who go to Canada on the Farm Labour Programme to pay Can. $50. That works out to be about Bds. $72. They say it must be paid in Barbados before the person goes. This is a processing fee and it has to be paid to the Chancery here in Barbados before the worker departs for Canada. So that has nothing to do with the Government, absolutely nothing to do with the Government, and therefore this year a worker going to Canada pays just about $100 as an advance which goes towards his passage. That is all it is. When people talk about this and try to seek to make it into a political issue, I wish they would ask for information and give it to the public, because all they are seeking to do is to confuse people and to show that people are totally ignorant as to what is going on.

I want to touch, Mr. Chairman, on a matter which was raised in here yesterday. The impression was given that the Government should be made responsible for the non-recognition of a trade union as it relates to the Central Bank and the Barbados National Bank. The National Bank had a problem with NUPW. It was a question that the National Bank said that the NUPW did not have the required 51% which is required to give them recognition, and they asked, because there was a dispute, that the Labour Department establish whether this is so. I directed that a survey be carried out to determine whether this is so. The survey showed that some 51% of the workers are members of the NUPW.

Let me say this. I have no power in law to force any employer or union to accept anything. No Minister of Labour has that power. The point is that I have a duty to point out to both sides what are acceptable industrial relations standards. That is my duty and I have done that.

The NUPW felt that they were wronged by the National Bank and they wrote the International Labour Organisation complaining. They said the same thing that was said in here yestersday, that because it is a statutory corporation of the Government, it was not adhering to an ILO Convention. I invited them, and this Government gave the NUPW an opportunity to go in a delegation to Geneva, to the headquarters, so that they could put their case. Let me say to you, they have not put any case, because when they go there will recognise that the position taken was not the correct position.

Everything will be done to make sure that both workers and the employers have their rights, and we are going to stick by what we term as international standards as far as industrial relations are concerned. I hope there will not be any more quarrelling about this or that people will not seek to say any longer that the Government is silent on this matter. Government takes a very strong position as an employer. If the Government of itself takes a stand as far as employees are concerned, we expect other private employers to follow suit. That is our position.

The question that the sum of $12 337 377 under Head 39 – Ministry of Labour and Community Development – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 85 – CAPITAL – MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Hon. A. TRUSS (St. Michael Central): Mr. Chairman, in moving this Head I think it would be appropriate for me to bring to the attention of this Honourable House, certainly to the attention of Members on the other side, a few points in relation to tourism and the environment. I, Sir, would like to adopt the high road, and I would urge honourable Members on the other side to do the same thing. Tourism is the largest foreign exchange earner in Barbados and one of the largest employers of Barbadians, and, therefore, it is considered to be one of the most important industries in the island. I would appeal to the Opposition; if they would like me to deal with any serious matters which they would like to raise, I would be more than happy to do this.
2.20 p.m.

In my introductory remarks, I would like first to give a brief history, based on the experience of the Ministry of Tourism and Environment, of the development of tourism in this country.

It is my considered opinion that, until recently, Barbados' growth in tourism – to a lesser extent agriculture, but tourism and manufacturing certainly – was demand-led, and strong external demand and protective traditional markets stimulated the economy

of Barbados. I said this was particularly true in the case of tourism because in the post-war years, Barbados became one of the first Eastern Caribbean islands to be recognized as an international tourist destination.

One of the major problems with which we have been faced in the most recent past is the changing exchange rates in some of our major destinations. For example, we have had to face devaluations, depreciations in Europe and Canada, two of our major areas that supply tourists to Barbados. On the other hand, Mexico and Jamaica have had serious devaluations, and they are our competitors in this area, and they have helped to aggravate the situation by the devaluations of their currencies. When the European currencies weakened against the United States dollar, to which Barbados' currency is attached, obviously, to travel from Europe to Barbados became expensive. By the same token, when the Canadian dollar was weakened as a result of the strength of the American dollar, people were faced with the same difficulties in Canada. To add insult to injury, as it were, by the devaluation, as I mentioned before, in Mexico and Jamaica, it made those destinations – they are just two that I am using as examples – much more competitive in the tourist market.

I think what our job should be, at least, is to try to define policies within the structure of tourism to identify our market segments, and again try to regain whatever portions we might have lost as a result of devaluation and depreciation, or whatever else that international economies might, from time to time, throw upon us. Therefore, the challenge of my Ministry, through its executing agencies, is to adopt policies and action plans that would bring about the necessary structural adjustments for our long term growth, and these policies, in my view, Mr. Chairman, should be adopted from a supply-led point of view rather than a demand-led point of view. I think that we should leave the pace in the demand-led to go into the phase of supply-led, simply because the world economic conditions have so dictated them.

In the earlier days, in the 1960s and the 1970s, when international tourism was going strong, whatever Barbados put on the market with regard to facilities, were quickly taken up by the tour operators in Europe and in North America. It required a minimum amount of investment, because the Barbados Development Bank was there, and it required even more so a minimum amount of expertise in the hotel industry to become involved in the hotel industry. When things became difficult, as we saw in 1980, after the high of 1979, and between 1980 and 1981 when tourist visitors dropped by almost 18%, for the first time in a decade or two, the industry recognized that certain things had to be changed. The Board of Tourism and the Ministry of Tourism recognized as well that we could not continue by just building facilities and expect they would be filled, and not necessarily targeting specific market areas in which you can spend your money and try to identify a particular type of tourist that you would want to bring to Barbados.

During the 1979s, this is the 1971 figure, just to show you the phases which we have been through in tourism – I am not making a political point, I am making a historical point – we had over 188 000 visitors to our shores. By 1974, that amount had grown to 230 000. By 1976, it slightly dropped, to 224 000; so it levelled between 224 000 and 230 000 between the years of 1974, 1975 and 1976. We gained the high point in 1979, 390 000, and last year, I believe, the exact number 359 135. But the significant point, Mr. Chairman is that although we are down in terms of our absolute numbers, we are up in terms of our tourist receipts. Last year we earned $596 million as against $568 million the year before, even though we are slightly down, I think it is by 2.3%, in absolute numbers.

Asides.

Hon. A. TRUSS: As I was saying, Mr. Chairman, because the structure of tourism was demand-led, as a result of the 1980 – 1981 figures dropping, like I said, almost 18%, it hurt the tourist industry for the first time and threw us in a turmoil. What really happened on the ground at the level of the tourist operator, the hotel operator, the apartment operator, was that for the first time in 10, 15, or 20 years, the debt arrears had accumulated to the point where they were unable to pay. Consequently, properties went into receivership, some bankruptcies were announced and so on. By 1984, tourism bounced back somewhat. We saw an improvement, and last year was basically another good year for tourism in Barbados.

Because of the nature of the growth historically, Mr. Chairman, as I pointed out, I think it is true to say that, sooner or later, one would have expected that it was inevitable that problems would have developed in the tourist industry because of the demand-led tourism. We have done some studies in the industry ourselves at the Ministry and through the Board of Tourism, and through some private enterprises as well, because it is now interesting to try to find out whether or not we are getting value for money in relation to the areas in which we spend the taxpayers money in Barbados. We have discovered that some of the problems in the industry are industry-wide while some of the problems can be localised. For example, from a survey which we have done, we discovered that the very large hotels are adequately managed, have proper systems of stock control, proper front desk operations, proper accounting systems, good financial control, good cost control systems and so on, but we have also found that in many of the small hotels and the medium-sized hotels, none of these things existed.

Problems, apart from cost control, were far deeper. We discovered that there is under-capitalisation and inadequate financial reserves as far as the small properties and middle properties were concerned. There was a lack of timely and uniform record keeping, there was inexperience and lack of technical expertise in both the financial and operational management of the properties and there was a weak marketing and promotional capability.
2.30 p.m.

Finally, Sir, what we discovered was that there was a great need to refurbish hotels in Barbados that were built between 1965 and 1975. The problem, Sir, of financial management is extremely critical in the tourist industry today. Many hotel operators unfortunately do not even know the true cost of their operation. It is regrettable, but it is the truth. In my view, Sir, the Board of Tourism, and also the Ministry of Tourism, will have to initiate within the coming years a series of management audits which would have to be done on a group of small hotels and medium size hotels and use them as case studies at seminars to educate smaller and middle size hotel operators and owners.

In terms of accounting and financial control we will have to teach them how to institute these measures, how to upgrade their enterprises, how to standardise these accounting and financial procedures. It may be necessary, Sir, in my view, for the Ministry to look at the possibility of establishing a secondment programme with overseas hotels in order to train Barbadian hotel operators so that we can develop a corps of Barbadian-trained hotel operators.

On the Government side, Sir, we constantly review the impact of taxation on the tourist industry. I said that we consider it to be one of the most important areas of our economy. It would therefore be remiss of us as a Government not to review from time to time the impact of taxation on the tourist industry.

The Ministry of Tourism and the Environment is presently looking at the Board of Tourism with a view to finding out whether or not its strategies in relation to its promotional efforts and marketing efforts are targeted in the right direction. We have recently received a report by Coopers and Lybrand on the structure of the Board of Tourism, and many of the recommendations made in that study undertaken by my predecessor when he was in office have been implemented and are still being implemented. We have recently completed another marketing audit by a European consultant, through CTRC, funded by the EEC, and the Ministry of Tourism and the Environment is looking at the development of a Five Year Development Plan in order to determine the type of physical facilities that are available in Barbados.

We have also targeted, as one of our major areas of concern for the next year, the formation of a convention bureau to attract convention and incentive business, because since the Taxation Treaty has been signed between Barbados and the United States of America, it is now possible for Americans to come to Barbados on a vacation and write off that vacation on their taxes. So that is incentive business which we are focusing on as a particular segment of our Ministry's efforts, through the Board of Tourism, or perhaps it may be a separate entity, depending on what we finally come up with in the Ministry. What I am saying, Sir, is that the convention bureau would be either a part of the Board of Tourism, very much in the same way as the hotel and registration classification is a part of it by parliamentary Resolution, or we will consider setting up a separate operation for the convention bureau so that they can deal with convention and incentive business as separate and distinct from visitor arrivals, because they are two completely different things.

As for the Board of Tourism, Sir, they are preparing a Five Year Physical Development Plan so that we will know from one year to the next what will happen. The way the plan will work is that when year 1 of the plan is finished, you make your adjustments right through to the end of the year, and then year 6 would become year 5, year 2 would become year 1 and so on.

The Board of Tourism is also looking at the recommendation of a code of standards for the industry and an operational manual for the way in which it carries out its functions in Barbados and its overseas offices. The code of standards, Sir, will identify the ancillary services of the tourist trade and try to establish codes of standards in the different areas that are related to tourism, very much in the same way as the Board of Tourism is presently looking at the registration and classification of hotels.

I know my time in Committee is limited, Sir, and I will give way, because I will speak again on tourism matters. I have given a brief synopsis to this House and to the honourable Members on the other side in terms of what we in the Ministry of Tourism and the Environment and the Board of Tourism are doing to ensure that tourism remains a major force to be reckoned with in the economy of Barbados.

My latest statistics which I would like to share with Members on the other side have to do with January, 1986. Between January, February and March this year, indicators are for the cruise line business as well as visitor arrivals, and the statistics are kept separately, that we will have overall in the cruise line arrivals a 15 per cent increase per month for January/ February and up to March 15 for this year over the same

period last year, and in terms of visitor arrivals we have had some 37 834 people in January as compared with 17 442 cruise ship passengers, a total of some 55 276 passengers. The major increases in January came from the United Kingdom, up 13 per cent, and the United States of America, up 8.3 per cent.

You will notice that the United Kingdom is up as against the steady decline that we have been recording over the last year, and that shows the price sensitivity of the market segment in the U.K. that we are dealing with. The pound last year at this time was down to $US 1.07 to the pound. Today it is up to almost $US 1.45; so that shows you the difference. When it was down to $US 1.07, I do not think there was anything that anyone could do in terms of marketing strategy that would bring a European visitor or an English visitor to Barbados, as the exchange on their pound was $BDS 2.14 to the pound, as against the traditional $3 or $3.25 BDS to their pound. Now that the pound is stronger, we have seen a resurgence of that particular market segment. This is the nature of business that we are dealing with, Mr. Chairman.

I think what I should point out to Members on the other side is that I, from time to time, have become concerned with the Board of Tourism in relation to how it spends the money which is allocated to it by Parliament. Any statutory corporation of any Government – that Government, this Government, it does not really make a difference, and again I am not making a political point – has the tendency from time to time to spend more of its resources on empire building, and more and more of its money goes towards the administrative section of the corporation rather than to the main function of what the corporation is there to do. The rule of thumb in private enterprise is that for a company to be considered to be a good private enterprise firm, its administrative expenses should never exceed 40 percent of its total budget or total overall expenditure. I have been monitoring the Board of Tourism, and I am very pleased to say that in 1984–85, the administrative expenses were 37.9 per cent as against 60.9 per cent for its marketing expenses. In 1985–86, administratively the Board spent 38.6 per cent as against 60.5 per cent for its marketing. So I think the Board of Tourism basically is on target with any private sector company in relation to getting its priorities in order.

2.40 p.m.

To reflect briefly, Sir, on the winter season, which is at present topical, I will repeat what I said earlier: 1986 basically was a very good winter season. In January, the industry recorded an average occupancy of 71.9%. In February, the level of the occupancy rose to 81.6%, reflecting an improvement in the industry overall, and in March, we have had one of the best Marches that we have had for many years; the average occupancy being 75.2%. So I hope that the first quarter of 1986, the way that it is going, is indicative of the fact that 1986 will again be a good year when we compare with the first quarter of last year, if we can make that sort of assessment. If we look at the figures, we see that, in, for example, January 1984, we had 65% occupancy; in 1985, you had 76% and in 1986, you had 75.8%. In February, 1984 we had 79%; February 1985, we had 83%, February 1986, we had 81.6%. March 1984 we had 68%, March 1985 we had 73% and March 1986 we had 75.2%. We can only predict what will happen based on what has happened in the past and based on the type of bookings that we have already in the system, and these are reported to the Ministry and to the Board of Tourism by the Hotel Association.

As you all know, Mr. Chairman, last February the Ministry of Tourism was taken out of the Civil Aviation Division and the Ministry of the Environment, which was in the Ministry of Health, was taken out of that Ministry, and for the first time the Ministry of Tourism and the Environment was formed, just over a year now. It is important for me to reflect the areas of concern that we have to deal with at the Ministry of the Environment. At the Ministry of the Environment, Sir, we deal with building development control, the management of solid waste, the protection of ground water that is, basically, water quality control, sea water pollution, sewage treatment and its disposal, the treatment and disposal of industrial waste, occupational health and safety as far as environmental control in the workplace is concerned, and oil spills. We are very concerned, Sir, with the removal of derelict houses and derelict vehicles, with refuse disposal, with recreational facilities, parks and beaches, we have a coastal conservation project, we are concerned with sand mining, terrestrial and marine as well, and we are concerned with coral reef and sea systems, with scenic area protection.

As far as environmental planning is concerned, we would like to think that at some stage, if not in the not too distant future, we would be able to contribute to environmental impact assessment. Critical areas of concern that can be deemed as special areas are noise pollution and air pollution. We are very concerned about the education of the public in relation to environmental problems, the mangrove systems that are left in Barbados, pesticides, hazardous waste, with growth impact assessments of the environment, the endangered species and critical habitats, marine reserve and coastal zone management. These are the areas, Sir, of our concern within the Ministry for the Environment.

It is a popular misconception in this country, Mr. Chairman, that a person can apply to the Chief Town Planner and, if the Chief Town Planner gives his permission, the person can build. Simultaneous with an application that goes into the Town Planning Office,

one must come to the Ministry of the Environment, to the Environmental Engineering Division of our Ministry. We have to look at building development controls. Over 2 000 applications a year come in to our Ministry for consideration. We have to vet the designs to ensure that in any building there is suitable and adequate space; if it is a factory that conditions are suitable for working, that several features are considered, including ventilation of the rooms and the size of the rooms. We have to make sure, for example, that bathrooms do not open on to kitchens and so on and so forth. We have to look at waste disposal systems.

This is an area that I would like to clear up with the public of Barbados, Mr. Chairman, that every application that goes to the Ministry of Housing and Lands for consideration by the Chief Town Planner, a copy of such application has to come to the Environmental Engineering Division of my Ministry for our say as well. The Chief Town Planner can only make decisions in relation to building in respect of the land use. For example, if he deems the land to be good for agricultural use, industrial use or residential use, he may be able to give permission in relation to building in respect of these areas. But when it comes now to the waste disposal systems and the monitoring of whether the sewage disposal will affect the water quality of Barbados, this is where my Ministry comes in. So there are two separate things. You need clearance from both the Town Planner and the Environmental Engineering Division of the Ministry of the Environment.

Right now, Sir, there is a very serious problem in Barbados in relation to housing development which is spreading to Zone 1 areas. In Zone 1, protected areas, no housing developments are allowed to take place. But what has happened as a result of indiscriminate building of houses without getting permission from the Chief Town Planner is that houses are being built in A-1 water zones, and you run the risk, Sir, of polluting the water supply in the A-1 water Zones, so we have to be extremely careful.

Last year, my Ministry considered and approved 1 746 residential applications, 219 commercial applications and 9 industrial applications. We expect that high standards of environmental health will be maintained and that all developers must comply with regulations laid down by my Ministry.

In relation to management of soil waste, a considerable quantity of solid sewage-derived material is still being produced by households in the greater Bridgetown area. This material cannot be treated by the Bridgetown Sewage Treatment Plant, and the Sanitation Service Authority has taken upon itself to look after one of its land fills, which is outside Zone 1 and Zone 2 water protected areas. The Cabinet also, Mr. Chairman, has been asked to give approval to an incinerator to be constructed and to operate with the aim of extracting energy from solid waste. Solid waste, in this instance, means garbage from households and residual materials that are collected from factories and so on.

In relation, Sir, to the protection of the ground water from pollution, one of the major areas of concern in my Ministry is that we recognize that all water for domestic and industrial use is pumped from underground reserves that are stored in aquifers, and the water is relatively free of contaminants, so we are told, by experts who come from overseas. We are told that Barbados' water is among the purest water in the world. The main threats to our continued supply of good water are sewage pollution from houses, from industrial waste as a result of chemicals, and from the seepage of pesticides used in agriculture.

Moving on from our water supply, what concerns us next is the marine pollution which we get as a result of the fact that what is not absorbed in the land, sooner or later, finds its way into the sea.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: One minute more.

Hon. A. TRUSS: I will stop at this point, Sir, and I will be prepared to respond to whatever questions the Opposition may have to ask.

Thank you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: A seconder.

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

2.50 p.m.

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

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: Having listened to the Honourable Minister of Tourism today, I suddenly realized, knowing that he had to come to Parliament at sometime to deal with tourism, that eventually he would have come back down to earth. Throughout the year just passed, the Honourable Minister of Tourism was predicting every three months that we would have the biggest tourist arrivals, the largest earnings from tourism, and he kept going on every three months and at the end of each three months it was proven that all of the predictions given by the Minister were wrong.

The Minister just stated that last year was a good year for tourism, but in saying that, Mr. Chairman, those of us over here who were listening realized that he only mentioned the first three months – January, February,

and March. I am not going to quote these, Mr. Chairman, I am just showing you – these are people who are writing on tourism: "Tourism hope is dashed". You go further: "Industry takes a Beating". This is tourism, and I will go on, Mr. Chairman.

Asides.

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: I am not reading from them.

(Aside: Mr. B. M. TAITT: He is not reading from them.)

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: I am just referring to them – okay.

Early last year, Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Minister predicted that there would be 400 000 visitors to Barbados and that the gross earnings would surpass $500 million. After about three months he adjusted his prediction. A few months later he said that he expected 380 000 visitors. A few months later he adjusted his figures again!

(Aside: Mr. B. M. TAITT: Oh, dear!)

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: And throughout the year his figures were being adjusted – and adjusted downward!

You see what is happening in Barbados today, Mr. Chairman, is that since 1981 we have become a mediocre society. Today we are glorying in mediocrity, because whereas if you can have a decrease in tourism of thousands of visitors and then you get an increase the next month of 1 000 people and can shout from the house top that tourism is on the rise and there will be a boom in the tourist industry, forgetting that the tourist industry has been in a slump for sometime and it is going to take a lot of action and less rhetoric to put tourism where it should be – that could only be mediocrity.

I continue, Mr. Chairman. The thing about all the predictions being made in Barbados and the eventual outcome – what is strange about it is this – is that whilst our tourist industry is on the decline and the amount of tourists coming into Barbados is decreasing, the other Caribbean countries are showing increases. The absolute amount may be less, but all of them are increasing their numbers. In fact, in Antigua – I have the figures here, I am only giving you an example, one example – for the first nine months of last year they had an extra 4500 visitors from Europe and an extra 1 000 visitors from the United Kingdom. Barbados, on the other hand, for those nine months lost 7 000 visitors from the United States. So we are talking a lot and nothing is happening. In fact, I will tell you this, that the only other Ministry in Barbados in which you have so much talking and nothing is happening is in agriculture. But we will deal with him at the right time.

(Laughter.)

Hon. L. S. CRAIG (St. James North): Sir, I rise on a point of order: Out of 10 or 12 Ministries, he says the only other Ministry that is not productive is Agriculture. Two out of 12 is not a bad percentage, Sir.

Laughter.

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: I proceed, Mr. Chairman. Last year we had a speech by the Honourable Prime Minister. He said that he would be coming to Parliament for additional funds for tourism, to be used for targetted markets. He went on to say that his target markets would include the south west of the United States of America, the west of the United States, England and France. Now with the meagre resources that we have in Barbados, how can the policy that he enunciated be beneficial, since it is the complete opposite of target marketing? How can you have target marketing with our meagre resources in such a wide area?

I go further, Mr. Chairman. We in the Democratic Labour Party believe that it is better to spend money in the east or the east coast of the United States as opposed to the west coast. We believe it is poor investment to put your money in the west, and for many reasons. Those people in the west, like people living in Los Angeles and Seattle, have far greater travel time, more expensive and more restrictive airfares. Now when you go to the east coast, like New York and Boston, all the airlines service those areas. We believe that you should be putting your money where it is easier for tourists to travel to the Caribbean and do not go wasting money in other areas where the tourists find it a lot more expensive to travel and a lot more difficult to get aircrafts to bring them to the Caribbean.

(Aside: Mr. B. M. TAITT: Teach them!)

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: BWIA has just inaugurated a service to New York and Boston, so travelling from those areas is considerably simple.

Asides.

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: I turn now, Mr. Chairman, to the question of cruise ships to Barbados. The Minister, in his usual alarmist and propagandist sytle, talked last year around December about the big things in store for the cruise ship industry, and that one company had committed itself to making 50 calls during 1986. I want to say something about that about one company has

committed itself to 50 calls. No cruise ship industry or cruise ship owner or agent, or company is going to commit itself to 50 calls to any particular destination. You do not commit yourself to any destination. You go to a destination depending on the number of people you have on the ship and the number of people who want to cruise certain parts of the Caribbean, so no agent is going to commit himself to coming to Barbados. That is why, within two weeks after the Honourable Minister made that statement, the agents in Barbados were saying that it is not as the Minister said.

I go further. The local agents say the completely opposite. They say that several cruise lines are saying that their vessels will no longer come to Barbados, and whereas they had expected 183 visits here between December and April, it is now down to 100. They say that some of the ships which started out the season with Barbados as one of their destinations say they are no longer coming to Barbados.
3.00 p.m.

Hon. A. TRUSS: On a point of order: I really do not want to interrupt the honourable Member. If he is going to quote figures, Sir, he should quote proper figures. In relation to cruise ship arrivals, the exact figure is 112 222, which is 13.2% over 1984.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You can come back.

Hon. A. TRUSS: But wait a minute, Sir. On a point of order, Sir: He read from a document – I do not know what the document was – that tourist arrivals from the United States of America were down by 1500. In 1984 we had 140 000 Americans and in 1985 we had 150 000. It was up by 10 000, Sir!

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please. You will have a chance to reply.

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Chairman, I thank the Honourable Minister for the figures he gave, but that is not a point of order. We thank him for the information.

I am going to repeat what I said. The honourable Minister of Tourism predicted a bumper cruise ship season for Barbados and the agents in Barbados say that the truth is the complete opposite. They are trying to mislead people in Barbados. That is my personal view.

Hon. A. TRUSS: Sir, on a point of order: As Minister of Tourism and the Environment I have never made any statement anywhere predicting anything to do with cruise ship arrivals, because it has to do with the Ministry of International Transport.

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

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Chairman, I am going to repeat. The Minister of Tourism and his tourism officials, the Minister of Tourism predicted there will be about 183 calls to Barbados by cruise ships between December and April, and within two weeks the agents came back and said he was talking a load of nonsense, that the true figure is nearer to 100, and you cannot deny that. The Honourable Minister has to understand that ship owners might decide that they are not getting enough passengers to come to Barbados. You do not commit a ship to come to any place.

Aside.

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: The whole point is this, Mr. Chairman, coming to Barbados depends on if you have people to bring to Barbados, and the Minister knows that. But what has been happening in Barbados over the past four or five years is, as I said before, because we have become a mediocre society, Ministers of the Government believe that they can tell Barbados anything, they can say anything and people will believe what they are saying. When the facts are known, then you realise that what the Ministers have been saying has been totally misleading. This is the point I am trying to make.

The Oceanus which was to come here with eight calls – no longer coming! The Atlantis which was to come with 14 calls – cancelled! Are you still saying I am wrong? You have to understand, and the Minister does not understand, that there is a new type of traveller today. The traveller today is accustomed to low prices in the Mediterranean and he is highly price sensitive, and all the talk about the increase in the British pound as against the United States dollar is not going to make tourists come to Barbados. That, of itself, will not make tourists come to Barbados when there are other destinations offering the same quality or better quality product. We have to do something to encourage the people to come here as opposed to the other places and not just spew out rhetoric. That is what I am getting at. There has been too much talk and too little action.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: One minute more.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I am quite sure the Leader of the Opposition will agree that on one occasion right here in the House we had moved that a Member's time can be extended if it was the wish of the House, and I would like to move that the honourable Member for St. Philip South be granted one more hour outside the 15 minutes he had.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I second that!

Asides.

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

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, there is a motion before the House, which the Prime Minister seconded, that the honourable Member for St. Philip South be allowed to speak for one more hour.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Chair is not inclined to entertain the motion.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: You mean the Chair is not prepared to allow the Member to embarrass himself any longer, Sir!

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member may put it how he likes.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please! I will just give you about a minute to wind up, but that is about it.

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Chairman, I will rest at this point because I am coming back. I cannot say what I have to say in one minute.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN (Christ Church East Central): Sir, I think it is necessary for us to bring some measure of sanity to this debate after the last speaker. I would not like the public of Barbados to be left with the impression that some of the words and concepts he conveyed by his speech are reality. Cruise ships do commit themselves to a programme. As to whether they adhere to their commitments or not is a different matter, but cruise ships do commit themselves to a programme. All predictions, all statements.....

(Aside: Mr. B. M. TAITT: You gave up the portfolio. Why don't you let the Minister talk?)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: This is international trade, I am not dealing with tourism. The only reason why I am dealing with this is because the person principally concerned with the international trade, and cruise ships in particular, is not here at the present moment. He is making a telephone call which would provide additional information to demonstrate even more clearly the nonsensical statements that emanated from the mouth of the honourable Member for St. Philip South (Mr. H. A. Blackman).

In the meantime, these are the facts as certified by the Port Authority: January, February and March 15 – 51 986 people arrived; 21 271 in January, 19 004 in February and up to March 15, 11 711 – 51 986. Departing – 20 894 in January, 18 934 in February and 11 616 – 51 444. That compares with 1985 up to March 15: Arriving – 42 201; 17 099, 17 767 and 7 335; departing – 17 465, 17 579 and 7 299 – 42 344. By any stretch of the imagination, any prediction by anyone of an increase in visits by cruise ships passengers last year has in fact been realised, but the professors of gloom and doom among the steamships' agents, of whom there are many, after all the Democratic Labour Party has supporters there too, those who write statements in the newspaper not based on fact but based upon their own gloomy outlook have been proven wrong. That is all that has happened.

The truth of the matter is that Barbados is seeing, and has seen for the greater part of the winter season, namely from January 1 to March 15, a substantial increase in the number of cruise ship passengers who have, in fact, come. Anybody who lives around Barbados would know that this is so, and the Government says that this is partly as a result of the extraordinary effort that was made over the last three years by the Ministry of International Trade, by the Port Authority, by the Tourist Board and by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, to promote Barbados as an originating point and a desirable stopping point for cruise ships.

It is because of the faith that we have in the industry and its potential that we committed ourselves to the physical planning of the Carlisle Bay Scheme, and the Bridgetown Waterfront Development; so as to provide, not rhetoric, as the honourable Member says, but improved physical conditions around the areas where the cruise ship passengers will spend some of their time. That is what we are doing. It is not rhetoric. It has a high visibility quotient, and ask the Honourable Leader of the Opposition what is the meaning of that. You can go and see what is happening on the wharf. You can go and see what has happened with that area of land which was formerly Shed One, but is now converted into a cruise ship reception facility, into car parks for taxis, into booths for vendors. And when you come out of the Port, you are able to drive up the street, over the bridge, up to the Hilton, turn around, come back down, go and have a drink at the Waterfront Cafe. All of these things are there. It is not rhetoric. You can go and see the warehouses along the waterfront.

The honourable Member knows that it is a fact that he was not able to walk, up to a month ago, between where DaCostas Walk was and the market on the seaside. You would have fallen into the sea. You can walk on land now. That is not rhetoric. That is fact. That is there. You cannot take that away. It is an achievement.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, order.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Can you imagine what a vista that will be when the former backs of those warehouses become the front of shops? Can you imagine how that is

going to be when it is landscaped? Can you imagine how that is going to be when you see thousands and thousands of people, both Barbadians and others, mingling along that square? Can you imagine it, Sir? Something is wrong with your imagination, here!

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: These are things that are not in the realm of conjecture. These are things that have been realized.

(Aside: Mr. B. M . TAITT: Let us get on with the debate.)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Let us get on with the debate? You mean, let us get on with the education and edification of the honourable Member. I am not going to go on any further, because the honourable Member.....

Asides.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: That is a fact. I will give him the percentages. The total increase of passengers between January, February and March 15 is a 23.2% increase realized, not projected, over the same period for 1985. And lest there be any doubt, I am going to ask to make it a document of the House.

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Chairman, I am going to make this a document of the House. I am reading from.....

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

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: You have to give way for a moment on a point of order: The honourable Member would not only have to make that a document of the House, but the other newspaper clippings which he read from. The Standing Orders are quite clear. If you are going to read something, unless it is an official document or from a file, it has to be made a document of the House. This is a Standing Rule. I am not asking about this.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, if I may respond to the point. The honourable Member is just about to quote from something.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please, please.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I am talking about the papers he read from at first. I said they should be made a document of the House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: The newspaper clippings, those are what I am referring to. He did not give us the date, nothing. He read something and I am asking that they be made a document of the House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order. Please be seated. An honourable Member may not read from a newspaper.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Unless he makes it a document of the House.

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: This is the one I am quoting from. I am going to make this a document of the House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: An honourable Member may not, must not, and will not be allowed to read from a newspaper in here.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW (St. John): I am on a point of order dealing with the Standing Orders. There is a Standing Order which says that Members should not read newspapers during the course of a debate. I am guilty, because I was reading all yesterday, because I was bored.

There is another rule which says that when a Member is reading from a document, which can be a newspaper, and his speech is finished, he must make that document a document of the House.

I think there is a little confusion in our minds saying that you cannot read newspapers, which means that you cannot read newspapers when you are speaking. When you are not speaking, you should not read newspapers, but if you read from a newspaper, then the newspaper must be made a document of the House.

Am I right so far? You can advise me different?

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, if I may read Standing Order 28, with great respect to Your Honour:

> "A Member may not read his speech, but he may read extracts from books or papers other than newspapers in support of his argument, and may refresh his memory by reference to notes."

The honourable Member got up in here and read from a newspaper clipping just now, and he is even now starting out to read from another one. When he started off he said "In the Advocate of such and such a date," "the *Nation* presented this here," "This predicted this," and showed us a bunch of newspaper clippings. And now has the audacity to say that he did not read from them!

Dr. R. C. HAYNES (St. Michael South Central): Mr. Chairman, on a point of order: I think that I was in a pivotal position, if you would just hear me for one minute, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You want to....

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: One second.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Committee would not object to hearing the honourable Member.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: The honourable Member did not, at any time, read from a newspaper. He referred to his notes and referred to a newspaper. That is not reading from it. He never read from a newspaper.

Hon. V. L. JOHNSON (St. Michael West Central): Mr. Chairman, on a point of order: The honourable Member read all of the headings off those newspaper clippings that he has. Every single headline that he had on that newspaper bundle that he has there, he read from, and he has them hidden down underneath the table there now.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Sir, what is the problem with the Government members? Mr. Chairman, on a point of order:

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please, let us get along with the debate. I must warn honourable Members that they must not read from newspapers.
3.20 p.m.

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Chairman, I am going to continue without the newspapers, but I cannot understand what the Government is scared about. That is what bothers me. If the Government was on good grounds, I could quote from anything, they would be able to contradict what I am saying. But they cannot contradict what I am saying, that is what has them scared. I do not need the paper, Mr. Chairman.

On 13th December, 1985, the local agents for the cruise ships in Barbados said, and this was a week after it was stated about this whopping cruise ship business .....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: How many local agents?

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: I said on 13th December, 1985, a week after the nonsense .....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I thought you were giving the number of local agents.

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: No, no. The local agents in Barbados for the cruise ships said that what was said a week before by the Minister and Tourism officials, the position was the complete opposite. What they said was this.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order! Just a moment. The honourable Member has already stated that before. He said it before more than once. Repetition, when it becomes tedious, we cannot have.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order ....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have spoken. Is the point of order on what I have said?

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I am rising on a point of order for your guidance. I need your guidance. What you have stated is perfectly correct and I have no quarrel with the ruling. I just wish to know if an honourable Member makes a statement and someone, as eminent as the Prime Minister, gets up and refutes it by referring to other information, is the person not entitled in a subsequent intervention to clarify his position, which might necessitate repetition of the facts?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The chair will decide on that.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Very well.

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Chairman, all I am saying is that I made a statement today speaking about the number of cruise ships coming to Barbados. The Honourable Prime Minister, in trying to respond to me, started giving the number of visitors. At no time did I mention any number of visitors on cruise ships. How am I to know how many people are on a ship? I mentioned the number of cruise ships and he has not answered, and I am saying that on December 13, the local agents said what the Minister said was the complete opposite of the true position, and a lot of .....

Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman, ...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On what has the honourable Member risen?

Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: On a point of order: The honourable Member for St. John cannot be signalling across here at me. The honourable Member for St. Philip – I would have him inform the House – he says he is not interested in passengers, he is only interested in cruise ships – do the cruise ships bring cement or containers? What do they bring to Barbados?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order! You must understand that we have Hansard Reporters in here. This shouting does not help and interruptions by the Right Honourable Prime Minister does not help either. Please let us get on with the debate.

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: The point I am trying to make, Mr. Chairman, is that if the local agents for cruise ships say something – these people are involved with cruise ships daily – and the Minister of Tourism or the Honourable Prime Minister or any other person over there says the opposite to what the local agents say, I am convinced that I should more side with the agents who are involved in this business on a daily basis. Futhermore, I cannot believe anything the Barbados Labour Party Ministers say, so I have to believe the other people who are involved. These are the people who are involved in ships daily, and they say he was not speaking the whole truth. That is all I have to say about that.

Now I go further, Mr. Chairman. You will notice that despite all the ills in tourism, very seldom does the Ministry attach any of the blame for the ills of tourism to itself or to the hotel industry. What happens in Barbados today, Mr. Chairman, is that all the ills of tourism are put on the taxi-drivers. You hear them quarrelling with the taxi-drivers, saying they don't bathe and all sorts of things. Ministers over there have said that. You hear them saying the beach vendors are to be blamed. You hear them saying the ski boat owners are to be blamed. Never do they say the Ministry of Tourism is to be blamed or the hoteliers are to be blamed or anything like that, and the only persons they put the blame on are the working people of this country. That is what is happening.

You see, what is happening today is that you get a Minister who gets up and says that if a man – he used to use the word "harasses" – harasses a tourist on a beach, he should be locked up or he should be arrested. You have to understand something, that when you clothe a person in the garb of a policeman for a particular period, you are opening up all sorts of dangerous packs in Barbados. Policemen are there to do that job. You should not be telling security guards and that sort of person to arrest people after the first offence.

In Barbados today, if you are arrested for stealing, you may get off the first time. The second time you may get a couple of shillings or dollars put on you. But what they are saying in tourism is that once you get arrested a second time, they can put $500 on you or send you to prison. Those of us in Barbados who have been accustomed to harassment all over the streets believe, or it appears to us, that that sort of legislation that he has contemplated is discriminatory and racist. We believe that is what it is.

I go further. The Chairman of the Tourist Board did not go down the line agreeing with the Minister of Tourism.

Aside.

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: I said the legislation was racist.

The Chairman of the Tourist Board did not go right down the line agreeing with the Minister. If you recall, he was very diplomatic and he said that you leave it to the Magistrates. But listen, he then came back afterwards and said that if the magistrates did not understand the trend of the Government, they would have to be removed. That is the statement he made. So on the one hand he is saying leave it to the magistrates, and on the other hand he is saying that if the magistrates do not understand what the Government wants, they have to be removed. This is what is happening in Barbados today.

Another statement made by the Minister of Tourism – he is encouraging the hotel managers and owners to provide him with all the evidence to make it easier for him – I believe is what is causing so much trouble at Sam Lords Castle today, and I am telling you that what is happening at Sam Lords Castle today is that persons who have been using the walk-way down to the beach for the past 20, 30 and 40 years have suddenly found that they cannot go near there. The same thing is happening at Paradise Beach Club. I am firmly of the belief that this has happened because of that speech by the Minister of Tourism. The whole attitude in the country today is that the people who own hotels can bar off any amount of sea, any amount of beach, anything they want to bar off and nobody can pass because the Minister has given them permission to do that. That is the attitude in Barbados today because of the speech he made.

We have to understand certain things in this country. We have to understand that this country is for Barbadians first.
3.30 p.m.

(Aside: Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: State some policy.)

(Aside: Mr. W. O. FRANKLIN: That is policy.)

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: We are not against the tourists, we like the tourists to come here, but we cannot deprive our own Barbadian people of the rights that they have had for years. The Minister will have to be very careful with his statements, very, very careful.

I go further, Mr. Chairman. A couple years ago, about two or three years ago, there was an article written, I think it was, in the *New York Times* about Barbados being one of the most expensive tourist destinations in the world.

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: So? That is a good thing.)

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: You are a "so what" Prime Minister, so I am not talking to you now –

Laughter.

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: I want to know what the Government of Barbados has been doing for the past two or three years to make Barbados more competitive, or at least as competitive as the other destinations that the tourists want to go to. If they have said that it is one of the most expensive, the Government should be looking at ways and means of making Barbados more competitive. The Minister, when he is more stable, says that sort of statement every now and then; when he is not boasting about how many people are going to come, he says that we will have to become more competitive.

Hoteliers have been complaining for years about the high energy cost, the high electricity rate, the high water rate.

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

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: What is being done about these things? We do not want a piecemeal thing here and there only when the licks on you are too severe. We want you to do it as a matter of policy. We do not want it done just at election time either. We want it as a matter of policy, that if Barbados is too expensive a destination, we will do something to make Barbados more competitive.

(Aside: Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Tell us what you would do. That is what we want to hear. Stop pulling down.)

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Chairman, I go further. About two months ago, there was an increase of 30% on the importation of beef in this country.

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

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: All the hoteliers in Barbados have said that there is no doubt that that imposition will increase the cost of their service to tourists as well. That is what they are saying. But we are saying this.

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: You are getting more tourists.)

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: That is what I tell you about a mediocre society. That is why I am telling you about mediocrity. You get 1 000 more visitors over what you had last year, which was about 10% down, and you say you are getting more visitors. But that is the society that we are in today,....

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: And more money, too. They are spending more money, too.)

Laughter.

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN:.....led by the Prime Minister, that if you go down 20%, when you come back up by 1% you do not realize that you are still minus 19%. You understand?

Mr. Chairman, what we are saying is this, that if you put on that imposition on the hoteliers, how are the hotels in Barbados going to become more competitive than the other people? We believe there is another subtle reason behind the 30% tax on imported beef, and you will hear it if and when we get to discuss the Ministry of Agriculture. We know, as we have seen for years, how the Barbados Labour Party operates.

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

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: We know who in Barbados are the chief people in the beef industry. We know who are the main people in the beef industry.

(*Aside*: Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: Who?)

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: But we will get to that under Agriculture. I say no more for the time being, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: My eyes catch the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, first of all, I should like to congratulate the Shadow Minister of Tourism, the honourable Member for St. Philip South (Mr. H. A. Blackman), for having made a speech which really touched on the core of the problems facing tourism in Barbados. Particularly, Sir, he was able to target in on the misinformation which the Government puts out from time to time about progress made in that industry. From the perspective of someone who keeps a constant look at the financial status of the industry, it is quite clear that the verbage, whether by way of projections or by way of statements, as to tourist expenditures and so on in Barbados do not reflect in the financial structure or the financial stability of the industry, and therefore I am left to believe that the statements made by those who research the ongoing problems facing the tourist industry, to the effect that the financial structure has been severely undermined way back in 1982, 1983 and that so far, there has been no improvement, are correct, and I think they would accord with the observations of the honourable Member for St. Philip South.

If you are going to have an improved tourist industry in Barbados, it is going to reflect in a drop in the level of indebtedness of the tourist sector to the commercial banks and to the Barbados Development Bank, and it is going to reflect in healthier financial

positions of the people who own hotel properties in Barbados or who are involved in the ancillary industries. That is a basic fact. All the numbers you can quote, and I do not see a decrease in the borrowings from the commercial banks, a reduction in the borrowings from the BDB, an improvement in the debt equity ratio of the companies involved in tourism, I know you are fooling somebody else. You are not fooling me, because, finally, that is where it will reflect. And the fact is, that progressive decapitalization and undermining of the financial fabric of the tourist industry has been a continuous one since 1980 until today.

The second point I wish to make, Sir, is that the honourable Member for St. Philip South also adverted to the competitiveness of our tourist industry. We on this side, way back in 1980, called on the Government to look at those elements which have increased the cost of a holiday in Barbados, and many of them are Government related impositions. We have called on the Government again and again to look at the consequences of the industry when it reacts to its failures and starts a haphazard price reduction programme for the rooms which they offer. One of the problems in Barbados today that frustrates the smaller hotels is the fact that many of the larger hotels this winter have been selling rooms cheaper than you can get in a small hotel. There is one large hotel on the south coast where almost every room has been sold this winter at US$57 a day, and smaller hotels, 20-room hotels,are selling their rooms at $60 a day. It is not surprising that the guests, when they arrive the first night and go to a small hotel and then discover that they can go into a large luxury hotel for about the same price or a few dollars more, they leave, and you see the kind of problems generated there.

We have argued against the increase in costs largely due to Government impositions, and we called for an orderly reduction in those costs, especially, in room rates. This was not done.

Aside.

(*Aside:* Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Room rates.)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: When we said that the prices in Barbados were too high, the Honourable Prime Minister went to Toronto in Canada and told the Canadians, told the market in Canada, that nothing was wrong with the prices in Barbados. Of course, the following year, there was something like a 20% or 25% fall off in the number of visitors from Canada. I have you on record as saying that in Toronto when you were Minister of Tourism. and, as I said yesterday, every single Ministry that you touched since 1976 has been a failure. You mean well, I know, you mean well, but there is a difference between theory and action.

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Good I am going to show you some facts today.)

(Aside: Mr. B. M. TAITT: Do you mean Truss is a better Minister than he?)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: The third point, Sir, that I should like to make is this. Much is being said about the relationship between exchange rates.....

Hon. A. TRUSS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of privilege.

(Aside: Mr. B. M. TAITT: Point of what?)

Laughter.

Hon. A. TRUSS: I am not interrupting you.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I gave way on a point of elucidation.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member is on a point of elucidation. The honourable Member is prepared to give way.

Hon. A. TRUSS: I will not interrupt him.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Go ahead.

3.40 p.m.

Hon. A. TRUSS: Sir, I just wanted to make one correction to the comment mady by the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central in relation to the Prime Minister. I do not think it is fair to say that whichever Ministry he has touched has been a failure.

(Aside: Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: You do not have to defend anything.)

Hon. A. TRUSS: I am not defending anything. I really had asked earlier, Sir, for us to have this debate conducted on high ground. I am appealing to the honourable Member. Let us not deal with personalities. Let us deal with the issues that are involved.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I will accede to the request of the honourable Minister of Tourism. The reason why, Sir, he has been a failure, and I am talking about this Minister of Tourism, is because he was not put there, in the first instance, to promote tourism -- he was put there to promote gambling! He was put there to bring casino gambling to Barbados.

May I continue, Mr. Chairman?

Hon. A. TRUSS: I object to that, Mr. Chairman.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: What do you object to?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. Please take your seat! Please, please!

Hon. A. TRUSS: I object to that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Two honourable Members are on their feet.

Hon. A. TRUSS: It is uncalled for and untrue, and it is unbecoming of the honourable Member.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On a point of order? What has the honourable Member risen on?

Hon. A. TRUSS: On a point of order, Sir. It is he who run gambling machines in this country, not me.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: All right, please. Take your seat.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: If I may continue, Sir. It was Abraham. I am talking about the Abraham in the Bible, Sir, who took the consequences for Mr. A. It was Mr. Abraham. It is Abraham in the Bible, Sir.

If I may continue, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member, we are dealing with Tourism.

Hon. A. TRUSS: On a point of order, Sir: I asked for a ruling with respect to this. We are discussing tourism.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will get them back to the debate.

Hon. A. TRUSS: Mr. Chairman, with respect to the honourable Member, he is imputing improper motives when he said I was made Minister of Tourism because of gambling. I call for you to rule on that, Sir.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Improper motives to whom, Sir?

May I continue, Mr. Chairman?

There is one aspect of the cruise ship operation that I am talking about.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. Just a minute.

Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: On a point of order, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member for St. Michael South Central please take your seat. The honourable Member for St. Michael West Central .....

Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: On a point of order: I do not believe, Sir, that it is in accordance with the Rules of this Honourable Chamber for a Member to stand in his place and say of another Member that he accepted a position as a Cabinet Minister .....

Aside.

Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: But that is the imputation. You said he was appointed to Tourism to promote gambling and that is a reflection on a former honourable Member as it is a reflection on the present Member and, Sir, that is not parliamentary.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Chair does not see that that is any reflection on any honourable Member.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: If I may continue, Mr. Chairman, I want to get on to cruise ships and away from gambling.

I believe, Sir, that some provision.....

Hon. A. TRUSS: On a point of order, Sir.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, he was speaking for three minutes.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please! An honourable Member is entitled to stand and make a point of order.

Hon. A. TRUSS: I hope that you will not object, Sir, when I say it was he who rented his place to Michael Parks and had machines in the days when the Democratic Labour Party was in power and when machines were illegal in this country. I hope you would not object when I say that, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You cannot say.....

Now, now please! That is not a point of order in the first place.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I do not care what you say. You can say anthing as far as I am concerned, in here and outside. It makes no difference.

Sir, I have only been able to address this Chamber for three minutes.

(*Aside*: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Do you want to use my time?)

Laughter.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I understand, and I would like some clarification on this matter, that there is a need for a large restaurant facility for tourists

who come in on cruise ships to Barbados. I understand that there has been some talk as to whether this will be located somewhere within the harbour or just outside the harbour, or whether or not it might be located on one floor of the new Central Bank of Barbados. I am going to ask the Minister of Tourism whether he is aware of that proposal to establish a restaurant that is large enough to cope with the increased numbers of passengers arriving on cruise ships and whether consideration is being given to rent, lease, or otherwise utilise part of the floor of the new Central Bank building, or, if the Minister of Tourism does not know, whether or not the Prime Minister knows.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Okay, the Prime Minister asked me to direct the question to him. I am going to ask the Prime Minister. As a matter of fact, Sir, I am going to say, as a matter of fact, that it has been drawn to my attention that – I am being careful with my words – that consideration is being given for the use of a floor, or a part of a floor, of the new Central Bank building as a restaurant.

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I heard for medical officers, too.)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Well, I do not know. But it would appear, Sir, judging from the response of the Honourable Minister of Finance, that it seems to be correct.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let us get on with the debate now. Please!

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I wish also to associate myself with the concerns of the honourable Member for St. Philip South, the concerns of the Hotel Association, the concerns of many people involved in the ancillary hotel industry, about the ineffectiveness and incompetence of the Board of Tourism in its marketing strategy for Barbados. Many, many errors have been made over the years. A lot of money has gone down the drain and we are not seeing the results of their efforts. Too much money is being spent by many people in the Board of Tourism running around the place first class, spending their time still marketing Barbados by the old strategy of having cocktail parties around the world, rather than getting down to the serious business of marketing this country and gearing towards specific markets. I think that it is time – and I only reflect the views of the former Honourable Prime Minister, I think he was right – that we need to look very carefully at the activities of the Board of Tourism. Something is wrong. Their marketing strategy is wrong. We are not getting the results for the money that we are spending on the Board of Tourism.

Another point I wish to make is this, that we cannot continue to attribute our problems to the relative value of our currency in relation to other currencies. There is no doubt that tourists from the industrialized countries seem to have become somewhat sensitized to the temporary value they can get through devaluations, but that is usually a short-lived thing. The people who flocked to Mexico after devaluation are no longer going to Mexico, they are now stopping off in Florida. Those who flocked to Jamaica after devaluations no longer continue to flock to Jamaica. Make no mistake about this, because after a while, what happens is that the domestic costs of their holiday rise even higher than the initial attraction of the devaluation. So let us forget this whole business of relative values. Let us target more on the question of a reduction of air fares to Barbados. Let us target more on matching seats on aircrafts to available beds in Barbados. Let us target more to a rational aviation policy which would underpin our efforts in aviation.

Mr. Chairman, when you see the bright image and the wonderful proposals which the Democratic Labour Party will be bringing in a short period of time in this country to rescue the tourist industry, you will understand why I speak with such authority on these matters.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. L. L. SISNETT (St. Michael North East): Mr. Chairman, while I do not want to get into the nitty-gritty of tourism, I just want to correct a few of the falacies of the Shadow Minister, I believe, for Tourism on the opposite side. I am a little dissatisfied, and indeed at a loss, to see how a representative of the people could be so ignorant of the facts, and, in a Chamber such as this, let the country know and indeed the wider region know that the Democratic Labour Party's policies on tourism as emanating from him today are nil. Certainly they are nothing whatsoever. If I could suggest, I would like to suggest that rather than trying to spout out this misinformation, he should have a course in elocution and try to control himself better. He should take into account also the stenographers who are writing and that they will hardly ever hear everything with the loud way in which he conducts himself.

3.50p.m.

But to the matter before the House, Sir. He was referring to cruise liners and the amount of people that are alleged to have "committed" themselves to Barbados in the ensuing year. I would like to inform him first and foremost that every passenger liner must have a commitment before it can come into the area it says it is coming to, and Barbados is fully aware of the market that is open to the Caribbean and we have set ourselves up to capitalise on that potential market. We have been knocking on the operators in North America and certain parts of

Europe with a view of selling Barbados as an alternative to Mexico and the wider Caribbean, an alternative to some of the islands in Greece, an alternative certainly to some of the ports in Africa and Hawaii.

We have some of the most beautiful islands in the Caribbean. They are unheard of islands and they need to be marketed. Barbados is strategically located at the southern end of the Caribbean and offers itself ideally as the base from which people can place their vessels here and take advantage of these unheard of islands. That is what we have been selling over the past few years, and it has caught on. There are investors who are now coming to Barbados who are committed to new destinations because the existing ones have become blasé, and they are looking for new concepts. Barbados, with the sister islands here, has a lot to offer.

I would like to warn the Opposition again that they should be very discreet in trying to bring down the country. They should not, for instance, try to be associated with the ill feelings they have politically for the national good. This is our home and we must do everything to make Barbados a place where all of us can survive, can benefit from the spoils of this country.

The Opposition is doomed, at least in one area. Heywoods was termed the white elephant, it was doomed to failure. Now the white elephant has turned itself into green backs. It has become the most successfully run tourist project in any part of the Caribbean. I was there last week. It is growing, it is being marketed abroad by people who want to see Barbados on the market, and to hear these things from the Opposition in Barbados is not encouraging to the people who are planning, it is not fair to the money that Barbados is putting in the marketplace to sell a new project. We must control our political emotions.

Sixty thousand people will definitely be coming here next year, Mr. Chairman, in a new cruising venture which Barbados is privileged to have been awarded amidst the competition out there. Sixty thousand new people! Last year the total number of people which came to Barbados was just over 140 000, through the Port, and this is just one company that is bringing 50% almost of that total last year this year, and it is because of the work that is being done to promote cruising.

While the honourable Member for St. Philip South was there trying to tear down Barbados, trying to tear down the Minister responsible for Tourism, I received a call from overseas in which a president of a company has committed himself to 13 000 more passengers a year in a venture to be announced very shortly. And he is saying it is not paying off? He is saying it is not working? I would want him to take his portfolio as shadow Minister of Tourism more seriously and understand the facts.

Let me explain, Sir, and perhaps exonerate the Minister of Tourism from some of the accusations which have been levelled at him. The Prime Minister remains the Minister responsible for the Port under the Ministry of International Transport, and even though the Port and Airport are under his Ministry, they heavily impinge on the Ministry of Tourism, and it is not fair to the Minister of Tourism, who he made these accusations about, these number of cruise liners calling here. If any blame must be apportioned, it must be to the Prime Minister, but the Prime Minister has a good story, a good record – he has enunciated it here today – and it is one that we as Barbadians should feel justifiably proud.

Barbados is now becoming a central point to the Southern Caribbean as a base for cruise line operations in the Caribbean. The operators want to look for new vistas, new horizons, new ports for their passengers, and we feel that this chain of islands in the Southern Caribbean is ideally and strategically located to offer the facilitation that they need. What do they need? They need to spend a vacation not necessarily in one area, they need to get around and get about, and if you were to ask yourself, Mr. Chairman, no one Caribbean island can offer the kind of holiday today that the passenger is looking for, because if you come to Barbados, after three days everything seems to be at a standstill. You have gone on the boat cruise Jolly Roger, you have gone on a sight visit of Barbados, you have gone down town to do a little shopping, and on a ten day vacation what else is there to do? You have got to find other interests to satisfy the passenger and the cruise line operator to bring his people here, and this is exactly what we have been trying to do.

The 60 000 people that are coming this year, they are likely to be spending in excess of $10 million in Barbados, but Barbados must have the goods and services that these people would want to spend their money on. That is just one vessel, Sir, and there are at least seven other companies for the first time this year will be coming into Barbados. It is a phenomenal increase in the cruise line business, and the Opposition should be very wary in trying to criticise it, trying to condemn it. It is a pioneering venture that companies are investing in Barbados without much assistance in promotional dollars from this country. They are investing in the promotion of Barbados, just to hear the nonsense of the Opposition!

I am a very disappointed person this week, Sir, because the Estimates usually would give you a prelude to what the Opposition is thinking about for the Budget, and since this is an election year, one would think that they would have new programmes, new policies, new ideas. But we have sat here since Monday and we have not found anything new, only cold soup warmed over time and again. Is this the alternative to the Barbados Labour Party? Nothing at all, at all, at all! I do not know, Mr. Chairman, if they are really serious about even the

Opposition. They want to govern? The people of Barbados indeed will not accept you. There are more sensible, more responsible people all over this country.

Mr. Chairman, the Opposition has enunciated no policies within the past few days, they have enunciated no programmes, they have shown no alternatives, and I feel that if they want to go into an election which they are hoping will be some time before September 2 this year, they have got to get their act together. I am very concerned that the Leader of the Opposition, for instance, has made a contribution, but he has lost his sting, and will all respect to the gentleman, Sir, I think that.....

(Aside: Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: You want me to sting more than yesterday?)

Mr. L. L. SISNETT: He is flying but he is not stinging.
4.00 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that the cruise line business has reached the point where we can all be justly proud in saying that Barbados has made its name in the marketplace. We will go from strength to strength in this area, and there is nothing to be ashamed of with regards to what the Minister of International Transport is doing. The operators are interested in new ventures. They think Barbados is ideally located for the ventures they have in mind, and we are prepared to meet the challenges. We will meet them head on, and I urge the Opposition not to be critical of the Ministry of Tourism, as they were critical of Heywoods. Heywoods has turned around to the good of Barbados. Three hundred Barbadians are employed in a very beautiful part of Barbados which you termed a white elephant. I wish for more white elephants out of cruising.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Just before the honourable Member speaks, I believe in debating against the background of facts. As the Minister of Finance, the next fact I want to place on the table is the amount of Hotel and Restaurant Sales Tax that has been collected this year up to March 19, *vis-a-vis* last year. The rates have not changed, still 8%; $13.6 million April 1, 1984 to March 19, 1985. April 1, 1985 to March 19, 1986, this poor industry that is in such a bad state has realized $16.9 million, a difference of $3.1 million, and I have not added the $3.1 million to the $13 and multiplied it by the $100. So that when the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central talks and pontificates about the revenue and expenditure situation, as far as the Ministry of Finance is concerned, I have the facts and figures in relation to the Government sector.

I also know for a fact that there has been a considerable reduction in the amount owed to the Government agencies for Land Tax and other statutory obligations. In short, what I am saying is that the hoteliers have paid and honoured their statutory obligations better this year than last year, and last year was better than the year before.

I do not have access to the information of all of the banks. The honourable Member obviously has access to the information about the delinquency of the tourism and ancillary services' loans to the banks. He has that information. I do not, but I do have access to one bank. I have not asked for their position. I will get it before the end of the debate.

The second fact. I am only dealing with the facts. The Honourable Minister of Tourism is going to deal with his other statements. The adviser on tourism in the Democratic Labour Party is a person who had the distinction of owning three hotels in Barbados; two burnt down at a time when, I am sure, some of the strictures in relation to financial conditions that the honourable Member speaks of, applied; not during our time.

Thirdly, quite assuredly, having decided that he had reached the age where he was not able actively to run an hotel, and having an establishment that could not take any level of managerial remuneration without the expenditure of considerable sums of money, he converted it into a tourism service establishment. As a real estate proprietor, I admire him. He had an asset and he converted it to the most remunerative use, but his reputation as a successful hotelier cannot bear any factual examination, not his, because all of the experience has demonstrated quite clearly that as a proprietor-owner, success did not attend his efforts, and I am not talking about the previous effort as a restaurant proprietor of Chez Jean Pierre.

That is all. The rest, the Honourable Minister of Tourism is going to handle; the marketing and all of that.

Barbados tourism industry has been exhaustively analysed by Coopers and Lybrand, by the CTRC, by consultants all around the world. I am proud of one fact, that during the time I was Minister of Tourism, the Tourist Board staff was Barbadianised, not politicised, and that talent – do not interfere with me, because if you interfere with me on this, I will be able to expose many things – do not interfere with me – which had been exposed to education as a result of the combined efforts of the Democratic Labour Party and the Barbados Labour Party were allowed, against the greatest resistance by Barbadian expatriate hoteliers, to come to the fore – I know what I am talking about – and part of the jealousy that has arisen in tourism in Barbados is because of the fact that people who hitherto exercised an element of influence in Barbados, disproportionate to their own

ability, no longer were allowed to do that. As a result, a systematic campaign was built up to discredit the efforts of the Tourist Board by this narrow, selfish and, in my opinion, to a large extent, not competent – not all, some were very competent – group.
4.10 p.m.

From the day that firm decision had to be taken which is confirmed in the study from Coopers and Lybrand, that a situation was reached that the Tourist Board was being used not for the purpose of the promotion of Barbados' tourist industry, but for the advancement of a segment of the tourist industry's interest....

(Aside: Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Like Heywoods?)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN:.....Not Heywoods. Heywoods was not even in existence.....from that day, thank God, I am pleased to say that steps have been taken to ensure that all aspects of the Barbadian tourist industry are marketed, bearing in mind, of course, that Barbados has an image, something we ought to be proud of.

As an elitist, the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central ought to know that there is some meaning to the words "cheap things no good." Barbados is a unique destination in some respects, and I am sure that I have repeatedly said, and I would still say again, that we have a range of accommodation from the highest level to the most economically priced to suit the pockets of any range. I am proud of the fact that we have accommodation ranging from $US 15 in winter to US$300 a day. So when the gentleman from St. Philip, the honourable Member for St. Philip South, gets up here and talks about Barbados pricing itself out of existence, I want him to know that our examination has shown that what is important is value for money, and that if you go to a $15 hotel, you will get $15 hotel standards; if you go to a $300 hotel, you expect to get the value of the services to suit that amount of money. I believe that that message is through, but I will leave that for the Minister of Tourism.

The point of the matter, and I am going to deal with the point the honourable Member made, is that experience has shown that there is a price sensitivity in relation to Europe and Latin America. The figures are there. When the pound is above US$1.40, business reaches a certain level. When the Venezuelan Bolivar was four to the US dollar, we got a certain number of visitors from Venezuela. When it dropped to 11 to the US dollar, it had a relationship. The same thing has happened to Trinidad. We will see what will happen now. But the point of the matter is that we know as a result of our experience now, that there are certain hotels which cater to a class of people who either because they have an unlimited amount of money or because they have investments in all of the various currency zones, their decisions are not taken with the same degree of price sensitiveness as others. That is the market that obviously is most desirable to cultivate, and that is the market for good that I would hope that Barbados will be able to hold on to. We have, of course, another segment of the industry which is peculiarly exposed to the price sensitiveness of certain visitors from certain countries.

On the question of air fares, there is nobody in the world who would like to see us get a better break with air fares than me. We have been fighting consistently with some success to narrow the relationship between fares from Europe to North America and Europe to the Caribbean. We have battled that for ten years now. We were able, through the open door policy of a liberal charter regime, to keep in check scheduled airlines when IATA used to promote a great differential between the Caribbean and North America. When I first became Minister of Tourism and Aviation, it used to pay people from London to go to Miami and then come down here, but that has gradually changed as the differential between London and Miami and London and the Caribbean has been narrowed, and, theoretically, on a mileage basis, the Caribbean ought to be cheaper. They tell me it takes less time to fly from London to the Caribbean than from London to Miami. We have narrowed the gap. Air fares are very much fixed by two factors: how much competition there is, how many seats there are in the marketplace, therefore, and the demand for those seats.

The friends and relatives traffic across the Atlantic during the summer is very, very great, and it is estimated still, that there is the equivalent of three or four Jumbo Jets flying empty at peak times when you take the amount of seats available and you take the percentage of occupancy of the seats across the North Atlantic. We are in the reverse situation, because at that peak time we suffer from a shortage of seats, and our experience ought to have told us, too, that when the business is not there, like when the European currency went down, the only body who has an interest in continuing to provide a minimum amount of seats to keep your tourism going is the Government of the country. Check what happened with Air Jamaica; check what happened with Icelandic Air and Air Bahamas. Check all of them and you will find out and you will see that all the charters disappear in periods of tightness, and in periods of great demand and in good markets, they all reappear. But, thank God, Barbados has been rewarded and is constantly being congratulated over the wisdom of their policy when Laker went bankrupt of not doing like what others did in the Caribbean, that is, to leave it out and say that we will concentrate everything in the United States.

Now if it is one thing that the Government of Barbados can be proud of, it is the fact that the decisions and the hunch decisions that we took have now been

proven to be the correct decisions, because now the currencies have been reversed, and since September last year and the Group 5 meeting, as the Honourable Minister of Tourism quite rightly said, we have seen an upsurge in demand from Europe lock, stock and barrel. Everybody wants to come back in on the route and now is the time for the great decision to be taken, and that will be taken.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to respond.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Just a minute.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that you do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until 4.45 p.m.

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

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

ON RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed.

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

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

The honourable Member for St. Michael South Central.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I was rather amazed to see the Minister of Finance and Prime Minister of this country give, as the only index of a resurgence in prosperity of the tourist industry, the amount of taxes collected from the Hotel and Restaurant Sales Tax. Of course, Sir, he chose comparative peak periods, and the information he has given simply says that tourists spent more money subject to the Hotel and Restaurant Sales Tax so far in 1986 than in 1985 and 1984. That is all those statistics mean. So that when we see this big song and dance and performance, I have the figures in my hand. All they say is that the tourist expenditure subject to the Hotel Sales and Restaurant Tax has been larger in 1986 than in 1985 and in 1984 so far. He did not even take the trouble, as any good Minister of Finance would know, even to attempt a conversion from nominal figures into real terms for comparative purposes. But, of course, he would not understand that that is necessary if he is to really use figures of that kind and in that way. That is the first major error that he made.

The second error, Sir, is this: he does not realize that we on this side are fully aware that, certainly up until two weeks ago, the bookings for the summer season of this year were far worse than for 1985. So that if you are going to make any rational projection for this year, then you have to look at the bookings at this time for the summer of 1986.

Mr. L. L. SISNETT: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order and elucidation at the same time. I would like to make a correction to the point the honourable Member is making.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member has given way.

Mr. L. L. SISNETT: It is not correct to say that the bookings for 1986 are not as favourable.....

(Aside: Dr. D. C. HAYNES: So far.)

Mr. L. L. SISNETT:.....so far. You have got to watch the current trend in bookings, and the trend for the last two years has been a late one. The market is saying that people will take a vacation, but the trend, Sir, is a late trend. It is not correct to say that what you have on paper today is what will stand throughout the year.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, all I am saying, as a matter of fact, is that up to two weeks ago, I have been reliably informed by hoteliers in this country that the bookings for summer of 1986 are far worse than in 1985, and that if this trend continues, then they will have to consider closing down for the summer of this year, particularly the large hotels on the west coast. That is my information.

(Aside: Hon. L. S. CRAIG: That is a lie.)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: The third point, Sir, I should like to make is this: The Honourable Prime Minister really has the gall to come in here and give as an index of the performance of the hotel sector, the fact that they have satisfied their statutory requirements in terms of paying property taxes, et cetera, and therefore that means prosperity. What nonsense! The fact is this, Sir, that with the change in the law, debt to the Crown ranks ahead of first mortgages, those usually held by the Barbados Development Bank and ahead of the commercial banks. Therefore, if an operator wishes to continue a flow of credit, he has to satisfy the debt that has a legal ranking ahead of all the rest. I want to make the point clear that he not only has to pay that debt because it is an imposition on him, but, secondly, if he is going to stay in business and attract financing from the commercial banks in respect of his day-to-day operations, then he has to reduce that debt in order to attract further financing made available by the Honourable Prime Minister.

The fourth point, Sir. It is ridiculous to say that because there has been a drop at this time of the year in overdrafts at the commercial banks on outstanding liabilities and to the Barbados Development Bank that that means prosperity. The fact is, Sir that this is a seasonal phenomenon, that each year you will find that the outstanding credit to the hotel sector would fall during the winter season and would rise later in the year. The average level of indebtedness is what matters, and I am saying that he is in no position, when it is now March of this year, to talk about average lending from the banking sector and say that there has been an improvement. In fact, if it were not unparliamentary to say so, I would say that he is deliberately misleading the House and the public, or he does not know any better, because you have to look at the average increase or decrease over time, from point to point, in terms of outstanding indebtedness of the sector to the banking system as a whole to determine if there has been any change in the fundamental debt equity and, ultimately, the financial fabric of the hotel sector.

The fifth point I want to make, Sir, is this, that I believe that there is a good case for a reversal of the ranking of the debts, because in many respects, I think it is unconstitutional. I think that one of the problems facing the hotels where they cannot attract an adequate flow of finance from the commercial banks is because Crown debt in the form of property taxes rank ahead of everything else. That is a problem, it is a major problem. I wonder Sir, whether Government should not look at the legislation passed in here some time ago in order to give that priority ranking. It was done at a time when people who held first mortgages on property thought they had first mortgages. Now they find that they have other liabilities ranking ahead of them. This is the sort of legislation that has come before this House which the Honourable Attorney General condemned the other night on the floor of the House.

To continue, Sir, I believe that one of the problems facing the hotel industry happens to be the level of Government taxation and our Government related impositions. I do not talk of Income Tax or Corporation Tax. But what I am saying is that the whole principle of fiscal incentives in respect of the hotel industry has been circumvented by many Government impositions that bear no relation whatsoever either to profits in the industry or to an inherent factor in the hotel industry, namely, that it has to be a long term investment and it is not a one shot investment, and, therefore, it has to be constantly recapitalized almost on a triennial basis. And when you start introducing taxation which is not related to profits, when you ask people to come in on the basis of fiscal incentives, I think it is quite wrong. I think the Barbados Labour Party has done very much to undermine the financial fabric of the hotel industry through its fiscal policies.

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: There are still people who want to run hotels.)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: The sixth point I would like to make Sir, is I believe that there is a need for a substantial reduction in property taxes in relation to the hotel industry, a substantial reduction in the cost to the hotel industry, a substantial reduction in taxes not related to profits and a substantial reduction in the burden of indirect taxes, which push up the cost of the operations of the hotel sector. The Democratic Labour Party will address these matters when it is returned to office, and once again we will see a growing and expanding tourist industry which can respond to demand through offering better conditions to the tourists in Barbados, a better holiday at a lower cost. That is what we intend to do whilst maintaining the viability of the hotel sector.
4.55 p.m.

Now, Sir, you know there is one interesting thing about public finance. When the honourable Member for St. Thomas (Hon. D. A. C. Simmons) associated himself with an investment in the hotel industry which has a good reputation and it is doing very well – it is doing very well – he knows that when he made that investment, when he talks about whether it is viable or not, he has to look at the cost. He has to look at the income it is going to generate in relation to the expenses. In other words, he has to look at his profit and loss accounts. He has to look at the amortization of the loan and he also has to look at the rate of the capital, that is the cash that he put in there in order to determine whether it is a viable project or not. These three basic elements to any investment exist, but not in public financing.

I have heard an honourable Member get up in this House and say that Heywoods is not a white elephant, that it is making money, that is is doing this and doing that. I am saying that even in these Estimates, Sir,

Government this year, for the third year running, will be making a further subvention, through the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation, to pay for fittings and furnitures for Heywoods Holiday Project. Even this year!

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Don't come to me! It is in here. It is under Head 85, Subhead 7, and there is a note to it, Sir. If you want to tell me that Heywoods is a viable project, you have to tell me this: tell me what has been its operating profit or loss over the past two years. That is the first question. Tell me what contribution it has made to the amortization of its debt or whether the profits from its operations contribute anything to the amortization of its debt, or whether debt and amortization is included in its accounts. The thing you have to tell me is whether or not there is a rate of return on the capital put into Heywoods, or at least what you would attract in Government debentures, or in treasury bills or something like that, or savings in commercial banks in Barbados or by any commercial criteria. I am saying that Heywoods will always have to be subsidized by the taxpayers of this country because of the high initial capital investment, and I challenge anyone on that side who has ever made an investment in any business to say otherwise.

I have invested into the hotel industry and lost my shirt. That is a fact.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I lost my shirt in the hotel industry. That is a fact.

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: You lost your shirt in the hotel industry!)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Because I did not take those things into consideration at the beginning. Do you remember? That is a fact, Sir. As a matter of fact, Mr. Chairman, you almost lost your shirt, too. You were approached.

Laughter

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: If I may continue, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: It is safely on my back.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: If I may continue, Sir, the honourable Member for Christ Church East (Hon. Dr. R. L. Cheltenham) is about to lose his, too. The honourable Member for Christ Church East is about to lose his, too, because he has to face those harsh realities in the world out there. He is not protected by the taxpayers. He cannot resort to the pockets of the taxpayers of this country to bring in a profit and loss statement without considering return of investment, or without considering amortization of debt and say you make a profit. You cannot do that and you know that, and this is one of the fundamental problems in relation to this whole business of Government's involvement in commercial ventures. They would not stick to what they can manage, and they would not apply the standard of accounting procedures in order to see what happens in relation to Government's investments.

So now in year three we find ourselves having to make a further subvention. Early this year, Sir, we already voted a subsidy to Heywoods. Last year we voted a substantial subsidy to Heywoods, and the year before there was a subsidy. We have been subsidizing that from the taxpayers' pockets ever since it was opened, and now someone comes and tells me that is a viable operation. A viable operation if it is being subsidized by the taxpayers!

When I talk about white elephant, I am not talking of the colour of the buildings. I am talking as to whether or not that investment would give a reasonable rate on the equity deployed in it. That is the point. That is the point!

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: It does not matter whether it is in two years or 10. It is a question as to whether down the road you can see a return. I have lived in Barbados long enough. I understand the investment climate in Barbados. It is difficult in Barbados to get a return on a property of a capital investment of about $10 or $15 million in the hotel industry. Difficult! It is difficult! How on earth are you going to get one on $70 million in a hotel industry that is largely a resort centre? That kind of investment you will find in the middle of the large industrial towns throughout the world which enjoy a 90% or 95% occupancy throughout the year.

(*Aside:* Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: How much did you pay for Grand Bay?)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I am not talking about Grand Bay, man. They lost $2 million already. They are down the road for $2 million already.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: One minute more.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I nearly bought a business? Man, it is my duty to understand what is happening in the financial world in Barbados publicly, and privately in specific areas. How do you know $2 million has gone down the drain already, and you tell me I know every-

body's business? Well, you know, too. You know, too!

Laughter.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: One final point I want to make is in the area of this business of high visibility quotient. I am saying that the Barbados Labour Party entered into capital expenditure and commercial ventures with high visibility quotients for electoral purposes that has nothing to do with the needs of the country, and often projects that have no financial viability and that is the root of our financial problems. And I hope that the Honourable Prime Minister, who is inviting us today to look at the high visibility quotient of Government's projects, will start to look at the problems.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Chairman.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let us hear from the Minister of Tourism. He has caught my eye.

(*Aside* Mr. B. M. TAITT: This is the first time that I have been able to enter the debate, Sir.)

Hon. A. TRUSS: You draw a little too slowly. You will get a change.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Is the Minister going to bore everybody, Sir?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: My eye has caught the Minister of Tourism and the Environment.

Hon. A. TRUSS: Mr. Chairman, I do not think that I will put anybody to sleep, although I noticed, when the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central was speaking, that the honourable Member for St. John was sleeping.

Laughter.

Hon. A. TRUSS: I do not propose to put anybody to sleep. There are two things.....

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir: I would like your attention to the rule which says that an honourable Member cannot mislead the House, Sir. The honourable Member is saying that when the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central was speaking, the honourable Member for St. John was asleep, Sir. You can see that the Right Honourable Member is not in his chair, Sir. How can he be seeing.....

Hon. A. TRUSS: How would you know he is not sleeping? He was sleeping before. I am sure he is behind there sleeping again.

Sir, I do not want to talk about white elephants. I started off by saying initially that I would like to have a debate on Tourism and the Environment. It is quite clear at this point the Democratic Labour Party has nothing at all to offer on the environment. They have left it. Secondly, ...

I will give you a chance.

Asides.

Hon. A. TRUSS: Prove me wrong.

Secondly, they have not offered anything concrete in terms of proposals in relation to tourism. It is very easy, Mr. Chairman, to criticise. Now when you talk about the white elephant at Heywoods, I do not understand how it is that anyone on that side can talk about white elephants when they bought the North Point to ship cement before they built the cement plant. They built a crematorium, spent millions of dollars in taxpayers' money, and when the crematorium was finished they could not even fry a flying fish. They broke the Barbados Development Bank by buying Bath Plantation. They wasted the taxpayers money in International Seafoods and Golden Mile Limited. All of these are not white elephants, Sir! I do not want to talk about these things, Mr. Chairman! I do not want to get involved in the politics!

Mr. CHAIRMAN: They are all part of the environment, I gather.

Hon. A. TRUSS: Sir, they have everything to do with the environment. The political environment, that is what I am dealing with.

Asides.

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

5.05 p.m.

Hon. A. TRUSS: Mr. Chairman, let me say this. Honourable Members on that side, particularly the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, kept very quiet when the Democratic Labour Party was in power and they wasted the taxpayers' money in this country for 15 years. I want to know where he was then. If you want to deal with things of substance, I am quite prepared to deal with things of substance. If you want to deal with things of a political nature, I am even more prepared to accommodate you.

The honourable Member for St. Michael South Central spoke last, and I can just see the the headlines tomorrow. The honourable Member for St. Michael predicts the hotels will be closed. Pictures of doom and

gloom! For years he has been preaching devaluation and it has not come yet, Sir. For years he was preaching that we would fall into the hands of the IMF and it has not happened yet, Sir. Now he is telling us hotels will close. On what basis?

Aside.

Hon. A. TRUSS: Man, this is too high for you. You do not know what is going on.

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

Hon. A. TRUSS: Sir, he said that substantial reductions in taxes are necessary in the hotel industry. What will they do? I have not heard any comment in terms of what they will do, I have heard criticisms. If I have made a mistake in the public's interest, I would be the first to get up and say I have made a mistake, what you have said has merit and I am quite prepared to put my Ministry's full attention towards the suggestion which you made to turn the country around, but give me some positive input. What will they do? The honourable Member for St. Michael South Central said they will reduce unemployment. How? They will increase capital projects. Where is the money going to come from if they are going to reduce taxes? How? They are going to spend more money in tourism marketing, but at the same time they are going to give off all the amount of money that you want for people who have tourist products and industries and the ancillary services.

Now, Sir, we in Barbados are not stupid. They cannot tell us, on the one hand, they are going to spend more on tourism, in marketing.....

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir.

Hon. A. TRUSS: You have no point of order.

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

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order! Order, please.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On the subject, Sir, of expenditure by the Tourist Board and expenditure derived within the context of virement and so on, presumably from the revenue from the tourist industry, I said I agree with the former Prime Minister that a lot of the money was wasted. I never said that we will increase it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order. A fraudulent point of order!

Hon. A. TRUSS: Mr. Chairman, I would really like to know how this magician is going to run this country, when they get the time – in 2001, 2006 or any time thereafter. I do not believe they will get it in 1986. He has to explain to the people of Barbados how he is going to reduce unemployment, how he is going to increase spending on capital projects at the same time and reduce taxes; how he is going to increase spending in tourism activities and reduce taxes as well.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir: With deep respect, Sir, I draw to Your Honour's attention the rule with regard to speeches made in Committee. The honourable Member is a Minister and should know better than to be making broad statements and raising questions that are second reading speeches. Mr. Chairman, we are in Committee.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Continue, please. No point of order.

Hon. A. TRUSS: Sir, I will beg for your protection, you hear? They will not give me a chance to talk. The honourable Member for St. Michael South Central reflected on the Prime Minister and I just want to clarify this. I do not have to defend him, he is quite capable of doing that. The productive sectors in this country have expanded since 1976. GDP – that is the Gross Domestic Product, in case he does not know what it is, Sir – moved from $700 million in 1975 to $2.3 billion today. That is what we have done.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: But in tourism now.

Hon. A. TRUSS: In tourism, Sir, tourism expanded from $165 million in 1976 to over $596 million today; and in manufacturing, because these two areas are where the Prime Minister has control over, manufacturing expanded from $172.5 million in 1976 to over $500 million today.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I guess these are the comparative figures.

Hon. A. TRUSS: Of course, Sir.

(*Aside:* Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Tom tried so hard with him, eh?)

Hon. A. TRUSS: He tried real hard. I know Barrow failed with you, though. Tom tried with me, but Barrow failed with you.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order! Order, please.

Hon. A. TRUSS: For the record, while we are discussing tourism, this is important, because tourism has an impact on the economy, an impact on inflation, an impact on wages, an impact on the Gross Domestic Product, the per capita income and the savings of the people of Barbados. That is the relationship.

Between 1971 and 1976, when the Democratic Labour Party was in power, the accumulative inflation rate was 122% and the accumulative wages between the same period was 47%, so you had galloping inflation with very little increase in wages. When we came to power.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Environment.

Hon. A. TRUSS: I am dealing with tourism, Sir, because tourism has an effect on these things. It is the number one industry in Barbados. Between 1976 and 1981, the first period of the Barbados Labour Party, accumulative inflation was 42% and accumulative wages was 85%, almost two to one we beat the inflation as against when they were in power, and between 1981 and 1986, which is the current period, the accumulative inflation is 46% and accumulative wages is 67%. That is what we have done. If they want to talk, Sir, about what they have done and what we have done, we will talk about that. If they want to debate tourism, we will talk about that; per capita income, we can discuss that; savings, we can talk about that.

When the Democratic Labour Party was in power and you earned $25 a week, you paid taxes. Today, up to $145 a week you pay no taxes. Twenty thousand people have been taken off the tax scale by this Government, yet he is going to get up and say he is going to reduce taxes. Where was he in 1976 when an ordinary person earning $25 a week had to pay taxes? Where was he, Sir?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Maybe the Chairman had him in St. George, but let us get on with tourism.

Hon. A. TRUSS: He was in St. George and you have been dealing with him adequately, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Tourism and the Environment, please.

Hon. A. TRUSS: Mr. Chairman, with respect I accept your ruling, but tourism is the number one industry and has a major impact on the economy of Barbados. In 1976, the total savings of all Barbadians in this country was $40 million, as put out by the Economic Report written by the Democratic Labour Party. In 1985, it is $850 million; savings of Barbados, more money in the pockets of Barbadians. Things tough, Sir? I am getting to that, Sir. People can afford to pay the prices now because they have more savings.

I am quite prepared to deal with anything the Opposition has to raise. When the honourable Member for St. Philip South, the shadow Minister of Tourism, spoke, I felt sorry for him. He is inexperienced and he does not really understand how to translate statistics when he reads them. I will give you an example, Sir. I can make this a document of the House, the Statistical News issued by the CTRC, the Caribbean Tourism Research Centre. I will quote some of the figures for him.

He said Antigua and St. Lucia are up in their tourist arrivals and Barbados is down. He is not lying, Sir. According to this report Antigua is up 8.2% – wait a minute – and St. Lucia is up 7.8% but there is a difference in the calculation or the tabulation of the arrival of visitors. For example, Sir, neither St. Lucia nor Antigua discount the intransit passengers. so included in any information which they publish is the amount of people that pass through their airports. We do not do that. We have over one million visitors that pass through Grantley Adams Airport every year, Sir. We do not count those.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman: It is a matter of tradition in the Parliament of this country that all Members, and Ministers in particular should not make slanderous statements against other fellow Caribbean Governments. When he says that the Antiguan Government and the St. Lucian Government include intransit passengers in their arrival statistics, it is a serious thing to say that they are doing.

5.15 p.m.

Hon. A. TRUSS: Mr. Chairman, it is written here.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please carry on.

Hon. A. TRUSS: Look! It has a category from 1–7. Item 1 is new hotels which were opened during 1984. Item 2 is not including the Netherlands or the Antilles residents. Item 3 is air arrivals. Under the caption "Antigua and Bermuda," is No. 3, plus 8.2%. That means air arrivals. In St. Lucia, No. 3 – plus 7.8% during the whole period January – December.

I am not trying to be malicious. I am reading from a document laid by the Caribbean Tourism Research Centre. I can make it a document of this House. The point is that the Shadow Minister of Tourism, in reading this does not understand the tabulation of the figures listed here. He sees that Antigua is up 8%, St. Lucia is up 7% and Barbados is down 2.3%, so, therefore, we are losing traffic. He does not understand that we do not count the one million people that pass through Grantley Adams International Airport and they count the people that pass through the airports in St. Lucia and Antigua.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Two minutes.

(Certain remarks made by Hon. A. TRUSS were ordered expunged from the records by Mr. CHAIRMAN.)

Hon. A. TRUSS: I have two minutes, Sir, and I have a lot of things to deal with. Before I break new ground, I will come back.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I really regret that the Minister of Tourism is under so much stress that he has to allow himself to deviate from his task here in this Committee. I am sure that his Government would wish that his last intervention could have been removed entirely from the record, because, in due course, it will be demonstrated to be nothing short of nonsense. He certainly must know that if he is going to examine a comparative analysis, he must not examine it in a vacuum. He must examine it all together.

If Antigua, St. Lucia, Dominica or any other Government has a methodology for keeping its statistics, the fact that it has increased by 6% or 7% from one year or the other would not be invalidated because their methodology is different from somewhere else, because they are comparing what happened the year before with the present year, because they are comparing likes. If Barbados included the million that passed through the airport this year, and included them last year, and included them the year before, the statistics would not change in percentage terms, because it would still be down. So that the Minister ought to know that if he is going to quote statistical analysis, he should, at least, try to understand what he is analysing.

Now is the Minister stating, at the bottom of what he says, that Antigua and the others are worse off than they were the year before? Is he saying that? I do not think that even he would wish to say that, and the Minister must not become upset because information which comes out of Bermuda, Antigua, the Virgin Islands and those places, and St. Lucia, shows that there is an improvement in their tourism receipts, that there is an improvement in their tourism stock, that they are demonstrating growth, while we, in our tourism industry, are demonstrating stagnation. We must find out what is the cause of our problem and not look to the others and say that what they say is not valid.

The truth is that the Ministry of Tourism under this honourable Member, has shown a penchant for giving out information which is not necessarily backed up by results when one looks at the final figures. In fact, I think it would be unfair to say the Ministry of Tourism, because I do not know that the Minister takes advice from his Ministry. It is the Minister whom one sees out there telling the Press a number of things which he cannot verify.

The Minister made the most amazing statement recently. I belive he made the statement, because he was quoted in the Press as having made it, and if he says that he did not, I would withdraw what I am saying, but the quotation which was attributed to him said something like this: "It appears to me that we have to decide which market segment we are going after." This is what he was reported to have told CANA, and in an interview he added that he did not believe that Barbados should go after both the "up market" and the low income type tourism in some areas of the tourist market. He is reported as having told CANA that.

Sir, from the time the Barbados Labour Party itself had embryonic tourism back in the 1950s up until this Minister of Tourism, it was reasonable to assume that both sides had a policy which would attract tourists from the up-market, so-called, the medium market and the low income market. Now, this Minister, in an attempt to justify his position as Minister of Tourism and the Environment, as he likes to say, utters words to the Press, to CANA of all people, which makes a mockery, because it goes all over the world. If he had said it to *The Nation* and it was published here, the foolishness would have only been made available to a small number, but he has made it available to the whole world, and he said that we, in Barbados, with a small amount of money to invest in tourism must segment ourselves in the up-market.

Let me explain to the Minister what the problem is.

Do not get up and say you did not say it. Oh Lord, man!

Hon. A. TRUSS: You will give way.

What the honourable Member said, Mr. Chairman, is quite true except he left off a part. I told CANA – and he is right on that – that Barbados cannot go after the up-market and the down-market within the same market segment. That is very important.

I do not want him to go ahead and just waste his time on this point. We are catering both to the up-market and the down-market, because Barbados is so well stratified that on the west coast we have up-market facilities and on the south coast we have down-market facilities, but the point was, which I wanted you to listen to, that you cannot go after both market segments in the same market segment.

In other words, when in 1979 – I will give you an example – we brought 70 000 visitors from the United Kingdom, and the majority of them came from Manchester and Liverpool, the bulk of the very wealthy tourists dropped off. The information within that market segment indicated that they did not want to rub shoulders with

the people from Manchester and Liverpool. I did not make the rule. This is what we were discovering, so the point was we could not promote both the up-market and the down-market in one particular market.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I am sure you understood that. I am sure the honourable Members over there understood it. There is a deficiency I have, because I do not understand what he is trying to tell me. I really do not understand what he said. I do not think he understood it either!

The real problem is that you are using words and you do not know what they mean. You are using "segment" and "up-market" when you are discussing marketing. You cannot talk about "segment in the same segment", and that is the problem. Why do you not say what you wish to say? If you explain it, anybody will understand what you are talking about, but you keep using words that belong to the jargon of the discipline, and you are misusing them, because I think I know what you wish to say, and what you wish to say is not what CANA has reported, and you agree that what CANA has reported is what you said, which is foolishness.

Mr. Chairman, the truth is that CANA had him as saying that he and his Ministry would be aiming to attract the up-market type of business. If that is so, and he seems to agree that I am quoting him accurately, he needs, and the Government needs, to understand that the hotel industry in Barbados is made up of a small group of foreign-owned hotels that cater to the so-called up-market, and the rest of the industry is owned by people like those identified by the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, who are small investors trying to make a dollar out of the tourist industry and, therefore, they have an interest in the U.S. $50 or $60 a day tourist as opposed to the U.S. $500 or $1 000 a day tourist.

5.25 p.m.

Now, Mr. Chairman, let me declare an interest. I invested in a hotel about 12 to 15 years ago. I never got a dividend yet. I still have the share certificate, so I am still in, there is hope. But the point I am making is that when I was approached, I was living in North America at the time, I was approached by a person or group of persons who wanted to participate in the tourist industry, which is a good enough reason for us to have the industry, and I felt then, as I still feel now, that anyone who can afford it should assist in bringing the tourist plant up to a certain level, and when you invest, as you very well know, Sir, you may run the risk of not making a profit. Too many people in Barbados, as I have said before, seem to think that if a business fails, the person who was involved in the business in necessarily a criminal. You and I know that is not so, that it has to do with the market forces, and mistakes are made. Be that as it may, it is the duty of the Government to assist the small investor in tourism as much as possible, and in that respect it is the duty of the Ministry of Tourism to lead the way. It is the duty of the Ministry of Tourism to assist in ferreting out what are the reasons why tourism in Barbados seems to be failing while in the environment around us the other countries seem to be improving.

Now one of the basic reasons for that would be that many of them are still relatively virginal in their tourist plant, so that St. Lucia, for example, is at the stage where we may have been 15 years ago in relation to certain aspects of its tourism. The attitudes of our people with regard to tourism may have changed considerably arising out of factors which we do not necessarily know, but which the Ministry of Tourism ought to be spending its time investigating for us. When I say that the Minister is a failure, it is only that he does not understand what his job is. The Minister of Tourism should be in a position where he should be able to tell this House, and this Committee today, 'We have identified the following five problem areas and we are proposing the following five solutions to those problems.' Instead, he comes in here and trots out the same garbage that he trotted out last time and the time before with statistics which he picks up like if he does not know how to do anything else but read from one set of figures to the other set of figures. If he wants to hear statistics, we can give him, but we do not have that time in this Committee when we are discussing Tourism and the Environment.

Now, Sir, the honourable Member for St. Peter (Mr. O. S. Arthur), in his capacity as Acting Minister of Finance, told the Barbados Development Bank meeting that the Government will not give the Ministry of Tourism a single cent more until the Ministry verifies that it had spent all the money it got effectively. You will recall, Sir, that last year I joined with the people in Barbados, calling upon the Government to spend more money in the areas of promotion, and you will recall we had a supplementary which came in here and the Ministry was given more money for promotion. Now we have the honourable Member for St. Peter, the Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Finance, saying to the Barbados Development Bank meeting that they will not give the Ministry of Tourism a cent more until they have some indication as to how the last amount of money was spent.

Now the Minister has a responsibility to tell us in this Committee what happened with the increased amount of money we gave him. He has a responsibility to refute the very vicious statements that are being said about him, that he and somebody else went on a trip to a far off country and expended a large quantity of money. They must be vicious rumours, because the Minister could not have taken $40 000 to go to Israel to examine anything up there as part of tourism. What tourism are we going to

get from Israel? I do not like that rumour that is going around. In fact, it has been published in the papers, and I think he should get up and refute that. These are the kinds of things which the Minister must do in the context of what the honourable Member for St. Peter has said in relation to the spending of the money in the Ministry of Tourism.

Now if I charge him with being ineffective in that Ministry, he will say that I am being unfair, but the facts are there. We gave you more money; we have not seen any improvement in the tourism plant, we have not seen any improvement in the number of visitors, and we have not seen any improvement for the amount of money that is being spent. What we have is a lot of contention among the people in the industry. We have a lot of stress among the small members of the industry. We have a number of participants in the industry who need to be happy if tourism is going to be successful in Barbados. If the maids are not happy, if the bellhops are not happy, if the small operators are not happy, then tourism in Barbados cannot be successful, because, in the final analysis, tourism in Barbados is dependent on the people who provide the service, and the people who provide the service are not the investors – they provide the basis on which the service is provided – the people who provide the service are the people who work in the industry, and, therefore, we have a responsibility in terms of what kind of quality tourism we will supply to those whom we invite. We invite them to come here and spend a lot of their money, therefore they are not doing us any favour when they come, and we are not doing them any favour. We have a contractual arrangement with them, we tell them if they come to Barbados they are going to have a good time, they are going to have a lot of rest, they are going to be very much happier than when they left New York or wherever it was and they promise to pay us for that service. Now when that is not happening, we have to find out if it is our fault, and I am saying that in the Ministry of Tourism the indications seem to be that it is our fault. He has to tell us that it is not true, and I have heard nothing from him so far today in the context of his Ministry which suggests that anything I am saying about him or his Ministry is either (a) untrue or (b) irrelevant.

Mr. Chairman, they talk about cruise ships. I do not wish to get involved in the cruise ships argument that has been put so valiantly and so accurately by my colleague, but in the Port at the moment – Sir, the Honourable Prime Minister talked about improvements, a very simple matter – there was a time that persons who came out of the reception centre and were looking for a taxi would have some problems – they built a new improvement at the Port, the facilities are supposed to have been improved. Now these are matters which the Ministry of Tourism should be up on. What, in fact, has happened is that they now have everybody – the tour groups, the single individuals, whoever it is go through – going through one small area. It is perhaps to do with security, I do not know, but what has happened is this: those taxis and/or operators that deal with the coach people, those that carry large groups, they now take in everybody, groups individuals, the works, so that the individual taxi drivers are having tremendous difficulty making ends meet in the Port, even though the numbers going through the Port are not that insignificant as to cause them hard times. It is a small detail of organisation. It is the sort of thing which ought to be part and parcel of the work being done by a proper Ministry of Tourism.

Sir, none of us on this side wish to know that tourism is down, because every time tourism is down, it means the country is down, and a whole number of concomitant things follow from bad tourism. Tourism is our best earner, and, therefore, we have a vested interest in seeing a buoyant, vibrant tourist industry in Barbados. 5.35 p.m.

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

Mr. B. M. TAITT: When, therefore, Sir, we question the Government, and in particular the Minister, in relation to the quality of product which he and his Ministry are producing, all we are doing is looking after the interest of our entire community.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Is my time up, Sir?

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

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I am going to give him prescriptions in my next intervention.

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: You are going to give him prescriptions?)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Yes. I am going to give him solutions. I am going to offer him some solutions. But I want to say this in this last minute. The Minister must stop being so arrogant. He does not have the capacity to be arrogant. He must stop being so arrogant and put himself in a position where he can learn. He has a tendency to appear in here to be too arrogant.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Personal.

(Aside: Hon. L. S. CRAIG: He cannot learn from you.)

(Aside: Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Fire him!)

(Aside: Hon. L. S. CRAIG: And put Haynes in his place!)

Hon. V. L. JOHNSON (St. Michael West Central): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the honourable Member for St. Michael West is not likely to be in a position to educate anybody on this side, though I will confess that he demonstrated that he certainly has reserved sufficient capacity to educate the substantive Shadow Minister of Tourism.

Laughter.

Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: And I was urging him as I sat on this side to listen, because while he cannot teach us, the honourable Member for St. Michael West can teach him a lot about the subject for which he holds responsibility.

(Aside: Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: Your head is too hard.)

Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: Now, Sir, I have sat and listened. I did not really particularly intend to get involved in this debate because I felt there was no need. But certainly once I had listened to the emphasis of the speeches on that side, I must conclude that the honourable Members on that side regard numbers as indicative of the progress that tourism is making in Barbados. They have been talking about a drop in arrivals as if that, by itself, is some cardinal indicator of the way that the tourism product is performing.

The honourable Member for St. Philip South (Mr. H. A. Blackman) talked about the upturn in arrivals in Antigua and St. Lucia, I believe, without, in my view, taking into consideration the fact that there is a distinction that has to be drawn between the state of the tourist market and the growth of that particular product in Antigua and St. Lucia. In Barbados, it is reasonable to say that the tourism product is in its maturation stage. We have gone through the original birth, we have grown, and I sincerely believe that we are now, in pure marketing terms, at our maturation stage, and any further gains to be anticipated in tourism, in my submission, are not necessarily going to be experienced by the numbers that come to Barbados, but the quality of the arrivals.

(Aside: Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: It is Truss who talks numbers.)

Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: But the burden of your thesis has been that the tourism arrivals of Barbados have fallen and therefore the honourable Minister responsible for Tourism has failed, which is patent absurdity.

Now if honourable Members care to learn, tourism is a very fragile product. It depends largely upon the environmental considerations that are diminishing in their quality, and it is only to the extent that we can continue to offer tourists an enhanced product – meaning, of course, clean beaches, clean and well maintained hotels, good support services and our taxi industry, those things in restaurant business – that tourists will continue to come to Barbados. I submit that as long as we continue to put emphasis upon numbers, we continue to threaten the quality of the tourism product, because if you were to look around the world, for example, you would find that wherever numbers have been emphasized as opposed to receipts, we have had a diminution in the quality of the product. If you were to look at the southern part of the Eastern Seaboard in the United States, you would have a classic example of what I am talking about.

There was a time when Atlantic Highlands, Ashbury Park and Ocean City in the United States, in the southern Jersey region, were prime tourist cities, but because they continued to stock numbers of down market tourists into their plant, they jeopardized the product so that persons who were looking for something of quality to buy found other destinations and those cities which I have just alluded to all died and for them tourism became a thing of the past. All that you have left were rotting derelicts of prestigious hotels that had started to grow on the southern Jersey region. And I am pained when I hear people constantly emphasizing and harping at the need to continue to press numbers into Barbados, when we only have a certain number of square miles within which to press visitors; and the more visitors that crush into Barbados, the more pressure will be put on our beaches, the more pressure on our hotels, the more pressures on the other services in Barbados that we offer to our tourists, and, consequently, the ultimate threat of decay of the very industry we are seeking to preserve.

Prudence will dictate that we look to see in 1986 that even though the numbers were down in 1985 – you had 360 000 arrivals as opposed to 368 000 the year before – you had income in 1985 of $596 million as opposed to $568 million generated by 368 000 people. So, Sir, the per capita value of tourist arrivals in 1985 went up, and that, in my view, Sir, is a very good and important statistic. It tells me that for fewer visitors, we can get more dollars.

Now, Sir, I hear a lot of discussion about hotels in Barbados that are suffering because they are no longer able to maintain their competitive position at a time when the market is at maturation. When tourism was growing in Barbados, just about any person who had rooms vacant could expect to be a beneficiary of the arrivals that were coming, because we had more tourists than we had rooms available. But today, Sir, having gone through a long process of tourism development in this island, you are now reaching the stage where those hotels, originally small and sufficiently accessible to people who were coming here, are no longer able to continue to offer the quality of service which our tourists want. I believe the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central

may have alluded to it earlier when he said, in one intervention, that some of the larger hotels are marketing their rooms at a lower price. They are doing that because there is intense competition for the arrivals and, of necessity, one of the things that happened is that those hotels at the lower end of the market will begin to feel pressure, as he says, because people who do not necessarily have the resources to buy the up-market product will go and move from a C Class hotel into a B Class hotel if the rate at the B Class hotel is the same as what they were paying at the C Class. It is only reasonable.
5.45 p.m.

So the economic pressure comes on the low grade hotels and they are going to feel the pinch while occupancy rates at the higher end of the market will continue to be strong, as is the case indeed with Sandy Lane, Sam Lord's Castle and the other more important hotel properties in Barbados. So you have maximum occupancy at the high end of the market and you have spot occupancy at the lower end. That should tell you something about the stage to which we have come and it is foolishness to continue to feel that the answer to Barbados' tourism problems is to press more and more arrivals into our island.

Sir, I would like honourable Members, when they are addressing this matter, to bear in mind a number of other considerations, one of them being principally that this Government, as part of its developmental strategy for tourism, is committed towards investing money in the direction of attracting a particular class of tourist to Barbados. While we have an overabundance of rooms, the quality of rooms does not necessarily reflect what the market is looking for. If we continue to build hotels, I believe we are looking for disaster. That is why the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central lost his shirt. Now if he was smart enough ....

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir. I was a pioneer.

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

Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: If he was a shrewd investor, as he purports to be, he would have invested his money in a plant like Sam Lord's Castle.

Asides.

Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: No, no! A plantation is a bad investment; a very bad investment, and, if I am not careful, I will lose my shirt, too!

(Aside: Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: But you have the cows though.)

Laughter.

Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: But at least I am following the market. Canes are done, so I have gone into dairying, and I believe that is what we have to do – watch how the market is performing and follow it. And in Barbados the market is moving steadily towards top quality rooms and that is why I have great hopes for Heywoods, even if it does not get to the point where it can, as the honourable Member said, make provision out of its earnings for amortization of the debt. The reason being is that it will offer to Barbados a block of quality rooms, which is what we need in this island now as opposed to a superabundance of rooms at the other end, so that when the bottom falls out at the lower end, we would have at least made provision for the growth at the end of the market where that growth is taking place. I think that the honourable Member for St. Philip South, instead of coming in here and waving some little bits of dirty newspaper, would at least go and study those subjects, which will enable him to better understand the responsibilities which he is asked to bear, and I would like honourable Members to contemplate, Sir, if Barbados were to come to such a sad impasse as to have to depend upon the honourable Member for St. Philip South to guide the destiny of this great front runner in Barbados' economic development. Can you imagine Tourism in his hands?

Asides.

Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: It is in safe hands. Safe hands! It is in safe hands, boy! Safe, safe hands!

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order! Order! Order please!

Asides.

Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: You have just got to use your eyes. But there is none so blind as those who will not see. You know, you cannot get home tonight unless you ride on some of these super slick roads that I am building.

Laughter.

Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: I know that!

(Aside: Mr. H. BLACKMAN: I know of potholes!)

Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: No, no! No potholes! You cannot find a pothole in Barbados.

Asides.

Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: Have you been down Highway No. 1 lately?

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

Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: I am trying to guide this little neophyte and to see if I can prepare him for the task which he hopes to occupy in the next 20 years from now. By then, of course, he may have passed Economics up at the university.

Thank you, Sir.

Hon. A. TRUSS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are a few points I would like to deal with in relation to the points raised by the honourable Member for St. Philip South.

Asides.

Hon. A. TRUSS: I will listen to the garbage afterwards, when we start talking about the environment.

Sir, the honourable Member for St. Philip South raised the point about spending resources in other areas other than the East Coast of the United States of America. In my last presentation, I dealt with his issue about statistics. On this occasion I would like to deal with the point that he raised. He made a very specific point about he would not spend money in the east coast. Am I right?

Aside.

Hon. A. TRUSS: I beg your pardon. You would spend your money in the east coast. Thank you. That is right. This is the first thing that he has said that is positive in a sense, in that he has an idea about what he would do if he were in my shoes. Other than that he said nothing, so let me deal with that.

Travel in the United States of America, Mr. Chairman, have changed significantly due to the price war among airlines, that is the domestic carriers within the United States of America. This has resulted in the fact that now people are travelling from the east and moving west, and people are travelling from the west and moving east, with a great deal of frequency. The point is whereas the people from the east were cut off from the west and vice versa within the United States of America, as a result of the price war among the domestic carriers, it is very easy now to travel from east to west: US$99, US$110, and so on.

The west coast is the area in which we are targeting our expenditure in relation to promotion and marketing, and is the area which he specifically stated that if he were in my place he would not target that expenditure. I will show you the difference, Sir, between experience and inexperience. People in the south west and the west coast, first of all, have a higher disposable income than the people on the east coast and they spend more money in travel. This type of visitor is the type of visitor that we want to attract to Barbados, because they will spend more money in the island shopping, on tours, food and beverages and so on. So when we talk in terms of these things, as my colleague said before he sat down , we cannot deal with numbers alone, Mr. Chairman. We would like to reduce the quantity of tourists, if you were to ask my personal view, and so long as I have the subject under my command, I will attempt to do this. I make no apologies, because last year we reduced the quantity, and we increased the quality, and the people spent $28 million more last year than the year before.

The honourable Member for St. Michael West made the point that people who provide the service "are the people who really count in this country because so long as they want tourism, tourism is a viable industry." That is perhaps the most significant thing that he has said in this entire debate. That is why we in the Ministry of Tourism and the Environment are concerned with the quality of tourists that we bring to Barbados and not necessarily, as the honourable Member for St. Philip South is concerned, with the quantity.
5.55 p.m.

We are concerned about the socio-cultural impact of mass tourism on Barbados. We are concerned that 250 000 people living on 166 square miles cannot for ever be bombarded by 400 000 tourists, 500 000 tourists, and indeed 600 000 tourists in a year. So the point has to come at some stage in the development of tourism in Barbados, whether this Government is in power or another Government is in power, and we have to look at the socio-cultural impact of mass tourism.

The reason why the honourable Member for St. Michael West may say I am arrogant is because he is hurt. I have been called many things, but never arrogant. I started this debate on very high ground. I appealed to the Opposition to let us debate this issue on the very highest ground. The Good Book says that you must turn the other cheek. It also says an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. I reserve the right to apply whichever of those teachings, and on this occasion I decided on an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. I will not let them politicise a debate such as tourism and the Environment. It is too important, Sir, so if I have to depart every now and then and deal with the asides and the remarks and the stupidity of Members on the other side in relation to things that have no relationship at all to tourism and the environment, you must forgive me, Mr. Chairman, but there are certain things I cannot let go.

In California and Texas, we are going out west, those are people who have the disposable income, they can afford to come to Barbados and they will spend more money to get here.

What I do not understand, Mr. Chairman, is the contribution made by the honourable Member for St. Philip South. He said that I predicted that we would get $600 million. That was in February of 1985. We got

$596 million. The Minister of Tourism was out by $4 million. Are you going to kill me for that? The CTRC Report, Mr. Chairman, because there are tourism indicators which any Minister of Government has to go by, any Ministry of Government has to go by, depending on the relative subject.....

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of elucidation. I wonder if the honourable Member is aware that there have been substantial changes in the methodology in converting the factors which would lead to an assessment of the total earnings from tourism. There has been a significant change over the years, changes about three times in the past four or five years, when you convert from Government revenue and extrapolate into total expenditures.

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: That is not the criterion they use).

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I will talk to you about that later on.

Hon. A. TRUSS: I will give you an example, Sir. CTRC Report, and I am quoting, page 1:

> "The outlook for the first quarter of 1986 is for modest growth as compared with the same period in 1985, but enough to raise tourist arrivals in the region as a whole to a new high."

That is an indicator that things this year will be better than last year. I did not write it. It is my duty, therefore, to pass on to the public of Barbados this information when it is brought to my attention and to project, as best I can, with best intentions, what the Ministry thinks we will do in a particular area, how much money we will earn, because we have to let the Minister of Finance know, and how many tourists we expect to get, because at the ground level we must make sure that all the ancillary services are there, the back-up is there.

He talked about taxi drivers and beach vendors, that we seem to blame the working people for everything. That is a political point, it is not true, and it would never have arisen if this was not an election year.

He talked about the 30% we put on beef. It has to do with a CARICOM agreement between the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Finance, to which we, Barbados, is a signatory. The Heads of Government agreed – the Democratic Labour Party may have reneged had they agreed – and we implemented it. But, Sir, who are we protecting by the implementation of such an agreement? The poor man in the street who has the beef industry as well. So how on the one hand you can say the Barbados Labour Party is attacking the poor man, and on the other hand, you quarrel with us for putting on a surcharge of 30% to protect the poor man? That does not make sense to me, Sir.

He referred to the legislation which I proposed – he said that the legislation was racist, those were his words – and he said that the Chairman of the Board of Tourism disagreed with me. Let me make this point. I make no apology. I am quite proud that I belong to a Government where on the front page of a newspaper the Chairman of a statutory corporation can disagree profoundly with the Minister without being fired. It could not happen when they were in power. The last time when Senator John Connell and Senator Dennis Hunte ....

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

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

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I do not want to get in that, Sir.

Hon. A. TRUSS: Sir, the point I am making is this. I am proud that I belong to a party that runs a Government under which there is freedom of speech. When Senator John Connell and Senator Dennis Hunte of the Democratic Labour Party voted in the Senate against the position accepted by the DLP side, they were fired unceremoniously the very next day by the Right Honourable Member for St. John; fired for disagreeing with their party on a fundamental issue, an issue of conscience. Any member within my statutory corporation, any chairman, can publicly or privately disagree with any policy which I hope to implement, because, contrary to what the honourable Member for St. Michael West says, I am prepared to listen and to learn, if you have something constructive to say.

Let me deal with one more point. He talked about Paradise Beach and Sam Lord's, not Sam Lord's Castle. Let me deal with that, because I think it is important. Sam Lord's Castle? You must not try to politicise these things. The Government of this country is not all like the Government of the DLP, all roads do not lead to Barrow. Sir, he made mention of the fact that Sam Lord's Castle was cut off. Let me correct him. I have not received any information that Sam Lord's Castle has been cut off from the public in order to get to the beaches. I believe he means the Crane, because the sea at the Crane has washed out the access road to the beach. We are presently in the process of rebuilding it. We have a programme to rebuild that road which would give Barbadians access to the beach.

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: On a point of elucidation, Sir. Mr. Chairman; I said Sam Lord's and I stick by Sam Lord's. I have lived all my life in St. Philip and I know what I am speaking about. Crane has been isolated because the beach on Crane is no longer. It has been eroded. Nobody is enquiring about Crane beach, I am speaking about

Sam Lord's, and if you do not know what is going on at Sam Lord's do not get into this.

Hon. A. TRUSS: I accept that. I will check it out, I will have my Ministry officials check it out.

This Government has always stood by the decisions that Barbadians must always have access to the beaches. There are no private beaches in Barbados. The Democratic Labour Party had it so, we have it so and it will continue to be so.

I think he mentioned Paradise beach as well. We checked Paradise beach, Sir. The management of Paradise beach apparently built a structure without Town Planning permission.
6.05 p.m.

They built a boardwalk extension to a restaurant which extends below the high water mark. They have since been told by the Town Planner that they have been in violation of the Town Planning Rules – they did not apply – and they have since applied. Whatever happened, I cannot say, I am not the Town Planner. That has to go to the Ministry of Housing and Lands. But that accusation is correct, they did build something.

They also put some boulders which impede the access of the public to the beach. The Ministry has instructed them to move those boulders. If they do not move them, we will move them. I do not think we have a problem with that. This information came to hand yesterday or the day before. It is being handled by the Ministry.

Asides.

Hon. A. TRUSS: Let me deal, Mr. Chairman, with a couple of points that are important.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: In the last two minutes you have.

Hon. A. TRUSS: That is all that I have, Sir? I have a lot of things to say.

Sir, very quickly let me deal with the Port, because the Port was brought up. I think that we in Barbados are aware that the Port in Bridgetown was designed as a general bulk handling port, and little thought, if any at all, was given to the possibility that, as some stage in the future, cruise line operators would come to Barbados and we would have an industry of cruise line ships coming to Barbados. That is, perhaps, why, in many Caribbean ports, you will find that they did not have the infra-structural facilities to cater to cruise line operations.

The cruise line business is an expanding multi-million dollar business. Although there has been a drastic decline worldwide in a number of traditional export industries, even within CARICOM, the cruise line sector is one area that has the potential for development as a source of foreign exchange, income and employment for Barbadians.

Cruise line shipping has not been affected by the current recession, nor by the economic world slump. As a matter of fact, during 1984, according to the statistics that I have available, 7 760 000 tourists came to the Caribbean, and 3 720 000 were cruise line shipping passengers. So what is happening in the Caribbean, more particularly in Barbados, is that it is becoming an industry.

Major renovations of $2.5 million have been undertaken at the Port in order to transform Shed No. 1 into a functional arrival and departure lounge.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: One minute more.

Hon. A. TRUSS: The overall improvements, Mr. Chairman, include additional paved parking facilities, for over 150 coaches and taxis, improved administrative offices for Customs, Port, Health and Immigration, and additional duty free shops. There are over a dozen telephones there to help alleviate the congestion caused by passengers who want to make overseas calls. There is improvement to local craft and souvenir shops, and additional facilities for the Board of Tourism office there to deal with tourism information, as well as other amenities.

The Barbados Board of Tourism has a new major role to play; for while their main area of concentration in the past, historically, has been the promotion of general tourism, special attention is now needed for the promotion of cruise line operations that come to Barbados.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Hon. A TRUSS: I will come back.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order.

Mr. L. SISNETT: Mr. Chairman, carrying on from where the Minister has left off.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have two honourable Members on their feet. My eyes have caught the honourable Member for St. Philip South.

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Chairman, the honourable Member for St. Michael West Central, who is Minister of Transport and Works, began his speech by saying that he never intended to get into this debate, and those of us on this side still cannot understand why he got into it.

Certain remarks made at this stage by Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN were ordered by Mr. CHAIRMAN to be expunged from the record.

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: There are a lot of things that were said that do not square with the facts. You see, Mr. Chairman, when I was speaking on the first occasion in this debate, I particularly avoided the numbers, and, if you would recall, one of my attacks on the Honourable Minister of Tourism was because he was always mentioning numbers, the four hundred thousands that he expected this time and that time. If you will recall, the Honourable Prime Minister even tried to draw me into the numbers game when he mentioned how many tourists arrived on the three ships so far. I said, "I do not know because I do not know how many people are on the ships," so I am not in the numbers game.

Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: On a point of order.

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

Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: The honourable Member is seeking to mislead this Honourable Chamber. While he was decrying the emphasis on numbers, his purpose was to suggest that we had not achieved targets that he felt we should have achieved, but he was not putting it forward as a general principle that there is nothing inherently good about numbers, and he knows that, too. I know he is an honest man and I know he will desist from going down that line.

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Chairman, I will continue. The one point I was trying to make as far as numbers were concerned was that whereas in Barbados the number of tourists coming here tended to go down, those in Antigua and the other Caribbean countries tended to go up.

Now I am going to deal specifically with one statement made by the same Minister and repeated by the Minister of Tourism. The Minister of Transport said that there were 360 000 visitors in 1985, 368 000 in 1984 but whereas the earnings in 1984 were $568 million, the earnings in 1985 were $596 million. I do not know what the Honourable Minister was trying to prove there.

His argument is that there were 8 000 people less in 1985 and they have collected $28 million more. If we are stupid to follow that argument, that is like teaching little children in primary school – twenty eight million is 8 000, therefore 1 million is 8 000 over 28, therefore 100 million is 8 thousand over 28 by 100 and let me tell you what that would mean. He is saying, by that stupid argument, that if you had 28 571 tourists less, you would have received 100 million more. That is a stupid argument for elementary school children.

Does the honourable Member not understand that if there were 8 000 people less and you received so much money more, if you did not have those 8 000 people less, you might have received a lot more, maybe 20 million more. And, what is more, the reduction of the number of tourists coming to the island also affects employment in the tourist industry, and that is why you want the number of tourists increased. Any hotel in Barbados employs people to work in the hotel because of the number of tourists they expect to get. So if you are telling me that you had an 8 000 reduction in tourists and you do not realise that that reduction in tourists would mean that the unemployment in the tourist industry would increase, you are living in a dream world, you do not know what is going on. Your argument the whole day in here was a lot of rubbish and you don't understand. As I said before, we cannot learn anything from you. You have to learn to run the Ministry first.

6.15 p.m.

I go on, Mr. Chairman. He is saying that the people, and this is the Minister of Tourism, in the south west of the United States have a lot more money and that sort of thing than the people in the east. Let me say, Mr. Chairman, we have always been in the west and south west. My argument was that the sort of promotion that you are doing should be in the south west or in the east. We have always been in the south west as well, but the whole argument was, is it a better investment to put your money in the south west or in the east?

The Honourable Minister on Transport is saying that people can get from the south west to Kennedy Airport by express and all that sort of thing. Common sense would tell me that for people who live in New York, it must be easier for them to just get a taxi to Kennedy Airport than for someone coming from down in the south west, no matter what express they are coming on.

You see, we have to understand whether we are getting value for the money we are spending. There is no sense in going and promoting in the south west because the people in the south west have more money than those in the east. It does not mean that because they have more money they are going to come to Barbados, and that is the whole point we are trying to make. You are talking about tourists coming to Barbados and tourists coming from the south west. What percentage of the tourists we get in Barbados come from the south west, and what percentage come from the east coast? This is the whole argument, and we have not heard that answered in here today. We have heard a lot of decrying of what people say and trying to make people look stupid, but we have not heard anything coming from over there explaining to us if the investments they are making are any good, and this is the point that the honourable Member for St. Michael West was making. What is the value for the money we are spending? We have increased the money to the tourism sector and up to this present time the Minister has not told us what has been the increase in arrivals concomitant with the increase in the money we gave the tourist industry, and that is what we want to hear.

Thank you.

Mr. L. L. SISNETT: Mr. Chairman, I am appalled at the level of contribution from the Shadow Minister of the Opposition for Tourism. He simply does not understand anything whatsoever about the portfolio. He talks because he has an aperture at the lower end of his head and almost anything comes out at thy point in time. With regard to the contents of it, Sir, with regard to tourism, he does not know what he is talking about.

Some time in 1983 the United States Government gave the Government of Barbados route rights into certain points within the United States, and the Minister responsible for Tourism and Civil Aviation decided that certain parts of the south west would form those points which the United States Government accorded the Barbados Government, and this was the reasoning behind Barbados considering going into new areas within the United States market.

To say that we should concentrate our tourism only out of the east coast or the Eastern Seaboard of the United States has a little merit, perhaps, if you are thinking only of limited resources that you might have, you could say that, but if you want to consider new ventures and the possibility of putting too much into one basket, it would be a bad investment even to think that only the Eastern Seaboard of the United States augurs well for Barbados' tourism. By his argument he is saying that we should consider closing the gates and the route rights into western Europe, by the same token he is saying that we should not look at the Caribbean market, and by the same right he is saying that we should simply concentrate on the Eastern Seaboard of the United States.

I do not believe that Barbados' tourism should hinge so delicately on one opening within a main market. We must not sell ourselves short in this regard, Mr. Chairman. We must, like our competitors, venture out into finding more and lucrative gateways from which to bring people with a higher capacity to spend to Barbados, and the south west of the United States, like the west coast of the United States, is becoming, if not the fastest growing market for those with disposable income, an area that we should indeed be targeting our efforts at Atlanta, Houston, Galveston, Brownsville, Corpus Christi, all those ports in the south west are areas where you find people with extreme wealth looking for new horizons to spend their vacation. We have got to get in there along with our competitors at the same point in time to remain competitive, to remain viable, and that is the main reason the Barbados Government tried to capitalise on the air services agreement with the United States Government in 1983 to get into those markets.

But, Mr. Chairman, it is not easy for a Government such as ours that has so many commitments, running a very tight economy with limited capital. In order to capitalise on this, the very first requirement would be to have immediate access to an aircraft. The Barbados Government has been making overtures and trying its best to ensure that our tourism thrust is protected by looking for suitable aircraft. We are working on it, we have been working on it, and like most other things, the Government will eventually find an appropriate type of aircraft to support its tourism thrust.

Similarly on the west coast, the people there have much disposable income and they need to get into new horizons, they need new avenues for their recreation. They are traditional travellers to Hawaii and Mexico and they want to come into the Caribbean. They do not want the hassle, Mr. Chairman, of having to pass through New York or Miami, and we are also looking at capitalising on that. This Government will eventually succeed with the appropriate aircraft to bring those persons.

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: On a point of elucidation,....

Mr. L. L. SISNETT: I am not giving way. You talked enough nonsense already, man.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable Member does not give way.

Mr. L. L. SISNETT: If you have a policy, a programme or some alternative, we would listen, but we cannot put up with this nonsense coming from you all the time.

Mr. Chairman, the truth about tourism in Barbados is a simple one. It appears, in my personal view .....

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: On a point of order! the honourable Member is repeating a speech that I made here earlier today, the exact speech.

Mr. L. L. SISNETT: Mr. Chairman, God forbid I would repeat anything that he said.

Mr Chairman, we have come a long way from 1971 when the country saw 188 000 visitors to Barbados to last year, 359 000 visitors. However, it would seem to me, Mr. Chairman, that Barbados' tourism never really was organised. It happened!
6.25 p.m.

Under the Democratic Labour Party, there were a number of Barbadians who found themselves in the tourism business as managers only because they owned real estate, they made themselves self-appointed managers.....

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Yes. That is true. Like Richie.)

Mr. L. L. SISNETT: .... they hired a few Barbadians to cater to this new batch of people using aircraft coming into the Caribbean indifferently because it was inexpensive and food was not as expensive as it is today, and hence, along those lines, our tourism developed.

But it has changed from 1971 to 1986. There were many years in between that and lots of things have happened. Tourism has now become almost a science. People are very conscious of their money and they are looking for value for their money. But in between those years it would appear that very little thought was put into training, very little thought was put into management, very little thought was put into the ancillary services to supplement tourism, and it is unfair today for anyone, after the efforts of this Administration since 1976 to put things in order, to say that we have not tried and that things are not on a better footing. We have tried, indeed, Mr. Chairman, but it has become competitive. When you look around the Caribbean and see who is in tourism today, every one of our CARICOM countries is of the view that he has something to offer. And we believe that every country has something to offer, but none of them can stand on their own as an entity for tourism. They do not have the infrastructure. Barbados, again, must take the leading role.

As an example, Mr. Chairman, quite recently in California on a promotion tour of the Barbados Board of Tourism, the point I am making came home very clearly, because representatives from St. Kitts-Nevis were at that conference, representatives from Anguilla were also at the conference, representatives from Dominica and St. Vincent. Now what are they selling? Tourism. How are the guests, the people they were trying to lure to the Caribbean really going to get to St. Kitts, Nevis or Dominica? They have no aircraft, there are no services coming over the west coast, and so the Caribbean has got to see itself in another form. We have got to pool our resources and sell the common services of our indigenous countries that the would-be traveller is looking for.

Which country can stand by itself? Even Barbados cannot stand by itself today, because, as I have said earlier, there is not enough happening in this one country to entice people and hold their fancy over a period of time. What must we do, Sir? We must do exactly as the Barbados Labour Party Government started to do three years ago. We must develop concepts to attract people in the Caribbean. We must do exactly as the United States has been doing over these years. What have they been doing? They do not promote tourism. They promote Disney World, Kennedy Space Centre – concepts. This is what Barbados needs to do.

We started in a small meaningful way with the marathon three years ago.

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

Mr. L. L. SISNETT: It might be nonsense to you, but it is sense to the people who come here. We started with the marathon three years ago, in the month of December, to coincide with the Independence holiday. That has developed to the point where Barbadians are now winning in the marathon, Barbadians are participating in the marathon. It is a concept that brings people from all over the world to be part of the Barbados Independence holiday, to take part in the marathon, to share with Barbadians in that little event. It is a concept that must be continued.

We must further develop the concept of the Oistins Festival into getting people to come here to participate. Two years ago, there was the.....

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Do not leave out Holetown.)

Mr. L. L. SISNETT: .....boat race in which a number of people from the west coast of the United States and other areas within the United States participated.

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: The Holetown Festival, too.)

Mr. L. L. SISNETT: The Holetown Festival must be developed beyond the food stalls and all of that. We must use our creativity and bring out the best in our people and create attractions that are saleable, that can be marketed by our overseas offices in New York and London. Things such as Crop Over,.....

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

Mr. L. L. SISNETT: .....they are saleable entities which would promote tourism in Barbados.

It is not good for the Opposition to be knocking the efforts of the Government in its thrust to bring more people here. We have tried, with the limited resources at our disposal, to keep systems going to make things work. It is not good to be knocking Heywoods. It is not good to be knocking the Hilton Hotel, although there is a lot we can be critical of with the Hilton Hotel, the way it was built, the area in which it was built and so on. But why? It is a Barbados project and we mean to do well. If you continue to knock Heywoods, you continue to knock the resources which are being put to promote Heywoods overseas.

Later this year, Sir, the Government will open, in the Port of Bridgetown, its new Port facility, and that facility is costing the Government almost $3 million;

$2.5 million, but with the additional shopping that has been requested for the vendors at the Port and a new restaurant, it will cost very near $3 million. That facility is a direct result of complaints by the cruise line industry in New York to the Barbados Government and the Caribbean Governments that we as a people, our Governments, were not doing anything to promote the islands so that they can sell these islands in their packages. The complaints came directly to Barbados and we took the complaints very seriously. There were numerous problems and we looked into them and we found solutions to them.

At the Port, during all the years, there were two toilets for the workers there and all the passengers that came through. The Port was designed as a place for cargo. But you find hundreds of people passing through there in the course of a year and the facilities certainly were not there. But now, with this massive development, all the operators who have come to Barbados and have since seen that development are so pleased that, instead of asking us for contributions for advertising, they say that the Barbados Government's investment in the Port, in their view, is a worthwhile advertising contribution and they would not, of necessity, seek any financial assistance for the promotion of Barbados. Very shortly that facility will be opened. People who have passed through there since it has started have had praise for the development. We have been capitalizing on overseas calls. We never realized there was so much revenue to be earned on overseas calls. There are 12 facilities there for making calls overseas and, on an average day, when there is one vessel there, you just do not have space for the number of people who are queuing up to make calls overseas. And this is going to improve perhaps another 100%.

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. John: Deal with the gate.)

Mr. L. L. SISNETT: I understand that the Member for St. Michael West ...

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: ...said there is only one gate.)

Mr. L. L. SISNETT: ..... has made an accusation that there is only one gate and there is a back up. I am sorry if I am quoting you wrongly, but anyhow, let me just explain, for your information.

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: That the taxi drivers cannot get in.)

Mr. L. L. SISNETT: There is additional taxi parking .....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Two minutes to go.

Mr. L. L. SISNETT: .... Thank you, Mr. Chairman..... within the gate for 150 taxis. We are bringing them from outside, from the President Kennedy Boulevard, into the gate.

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Bringing them out of the sun.)

Mr. L. L. SISNETT: We are also creating a facility where they can have some form of recreation, maybe play dominoes, while they wait for the passengers to come off. There is ample parking for coaches. There are about seven bays in which these taxis will now queue up for the people's services. There is ramp wheelchair services for handicapped people, who can now too be pushed immediately to a car or into ....

Mr. B. M. TAITT: If you would give way for a minute.

Mr. L. L. SISNETT: Sure.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Let me explain, on a point of elucidation. That was not the area of discussion. It is that when the cruise passengers come off, there is a space through which everyone now has to go and where people collect their taxis. There used to be an area for those who were going on tours, or who were being collected as groups, and then there was another area where the taxi drivers, for whom you have the facilities, would be able to pick up their fares. Now, apparently because of the improvements you have made, the system which is being worked allows the group area to collect from the individuals as well, and as a result the taxi drivers are not able to get as many of the individuals as they used to, and it needs examination. That is the point I make.
6.35 p.m.

Mr. L. L. SISNETT: Your point is very well taken. Any new system has its teething problems. I do not believe it is one that is insurmountable. What you are talking about is the day when there were five vessels in the Port and we were not geared for that kind of experience in so short a time as the facility is not fully open. But we will be inviting all members of the Opposition on May 6th to come down and see for yourselves first hand the development that we are talking about. It is indeed an improvement in the area of tourism to facilitate cruise ships and passengers, which themselves have expressed total satisfaction at what the Government of Barbados has done.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman.....

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, I beg to move that Your Honour do now report progress to Your Honour the Speaker, and ask for leave to sit again.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: I second that, Sir.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I beg to move, Sir, that this sitting be suspended until 7.45 p.m. this evening.

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

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

ON RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed.

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

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman.....

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

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I certainly would like to make a final and relatively brief intervention in this debate at this point in time. I think the major lashes have been shared so far – verbal lashes that is. I think the Minister's performance has been exceedingly poor and very boring indeed to one and all, excluding the Chair, of course, and indeed, Sir, there has been very little said on the other side which would indicate that they have any vision of the future of Barbados' industrial sector.

Sir, it ill-behoves anyone on the other side to come in here and say that you should not talk about numbers in relation to development in the tourist industry. I distinctly recall that, as early as March 1977, the Barbados Labour Party laid claim to the fact that there was as increase in tourist arrivals in Barbados in the winter of 1976 because of the change in Government. If you check the Budget Speech of 1977, you will see that ridiculous statement in the Budget Speech. Every since then they have been measuring their performance in tourism by the number of arrivals. It went on to 1979, until the decline started in 1980, and since then we have had an overall decline in numbers over the years.

It also ill-behoves them to talk about quality tourism and the sociological impact of tourism in Barbados because they literally killed the highest quality type of tourism we had in Barbados. That was that kind of tourism that generated the estates in St. James, around Sandy Lane and the related areas. They killed it with the kind of impositions they have placed on people, property transfer tax, property taxes, the whole lot, which have completely made that type of investment relatively uneconomical for people. In other words, it is worthwhile now for someone to come and stay at Sandy Lane for three weeks and pay $300 or $400 U.S. a day rather than maintain a home in Sandy Lane, largely because of the kind of impositions you have placed on those people, including the property transfer tax.

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: This is the best year for houses in Barbados.)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Well, there may be an increase in rent as well. I know these people well, and the majority of them are now in Florida. You know them well, too. They do not come here any longer, or very few of them come.

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: A new group comes. They are the Arabs and the Greeks.)

Laughter.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: They do not come any longer. You have driven them away. So when you talk about quality tourism, you have done a lot to undermine quality tourism. You talk about mass tourism. You have based your programme and development in this country between 1977 and now on the development of mass tourism in Barbados. So when I hear the Honourable Minister of Transport get up here talking about quality tourism, I begin to wonder if they understand what has happened in terms of tourism in Barbados under the Barbados Labour Party.

They talk, Sir, about available space and the fact that the hotels at the lower range are likely to go out of business.

Asides

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: That is right. That is what the Honourable Minister said.

What they have forgotten is that it was that side that encouraged a lot of uneconomical ventures through indiscriminate lending from the Barbados Development Bank. You are now reaping the harvest which the huge losses and debts that cannot be serviced in the Barbados

Development Bank. They will not answer me. Yesterday there was no reply on the matter of the BNOC, nor a reply on the matter of the cement plant, and now you refuse to tell the public of Barbados whether you have ever given consideration to lending out one floor of the Central Bank as a restaurant. You refuse to answer and you say that you do not know about it.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I am saying on behalf of the Prime Minister that he does not know and let us see if we can get on with something. I have heard about all the impositions and all the taxes. I believe he is going to remove every tax, every single thing in this country, and then he is going to say abracadabra and the matter is going to come down and the whole country is going to work. Man, you are a complete nuisance, in truth!

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please, no point of order.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Those are the words of a consummate ....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order! Order! Order!

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, the Greeks used to distinguish between a person in public life and one in private life by the word "idiotes." Idiotes was in private life.

Certain remarks made at this stage by the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central were ordered by Mr. Chairman to be expunged from the record.
7.50 p.m.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: So if I call him an idiot, Sir, I am really referring to the Greek origin of the word, and he should be a permanent idiot. That is what will happen after the next elections. If I may continue, Sir.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You will have to withdraw that.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I am speaking Greek, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I do not care what you are speaking, the Chairman is saying that you must withdraw that.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: If I may continue, Sir, there can be no question that there is a lot of dissatisfaction among the taxi drivers in Barbados who feel that they are discriminated against. They are not getting a share of the tourist dollar, not only at the harbour but also at the airport, and they have repeatedly complained to me that there are large coaches that come up there and take away people from the airport who would normally travel in taxis. Every time I come into Barbados I get that complaint.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: We have had that argument this very day in this very debate no less than three times.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I was not here.

The other thing, Sir, is that I heard a plea made for this business of Barbados having access to an aircraft to go into the mid-west of America. Let me tell you something. We will not be supporting any further commercial venture by the Government which will become a permanent liability on the taxpayers of this country. If you want access to an aircraft, it would have to be on a basis where there will be a cut-off point at some time, whether it be by lease or otherwise, preferably, so that the matter could be terminated at any time. We are not going to enter into any arrangement that .... You could hardly get the agreement done in two months anyhow, so you are quite right.

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: You do not know that, Richie, so even if you win, you are not getting in. Let us win and you will see what will happen).

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: You recall what happened to you in 1971? I know who was responsible for you losing your seat, and it was not "Peanuts." You know too. Long live the king! The king is dead. Shall I move on, Mr. Chairman.

The honourable Member raised one particular fundamental point which he did not understand. This was the Honourable Minister of Transport. He talked about maturation in the investment profile of the tourist industry in Barbados. Now, there is a book by Heather Scargill that deals with this very question. I do not know if he understands what he is talking about. When you talk about maturation of the investment profile in the tourist industry, this would mean that there will be an internal selection within the plant as to what would survive and what would fall by the wayside.

Now, let it be clearly understood, if that is the policy of the Barbados Labour Party, what you are saying is this, that you will be throwing those marginal properties that have not been so far successful to the process of bankruptcy. What you are saying is that you are going to allow the normal market considerations to take over, that you are going to allow hotels that are marginal to go through the bankruptcy route, so that the second or third generation owners, through the bankruptcy route, would be persons who would inherit situations with an adequate ratio between equity and debt, so that it can not only survive but it can function within the cost structure related to the size of the plant and the various facilities available. If you are going to say that, I will be telling the people of Barbados that you have now admitted as a matter of policy the principle of maturation within the

capital structure of the tourist industry and that you are fooling them when you are talking about rescheduling of debts and so on to try to keep some of the smaller plants in Barbados alive; that you are fooling them when you are talking about making available to them pooled management services; that you are fooling them when you said you would make available to them pooled accountant services; that you are fooling them when you tell them you are going to make available to them pooled public services. Because that kind of policy could not be consistent with a statement from a Minister of Government that they would apply the marketing principle of maturation of the capital within the industry!

Look, we have seen this in operation. If you knew how the Disney World programme developed, all those hotels that you see doing very well around Disney Land, all are third generation owned, but in that kind of market economy that is what applies. That is the situation. It shows you the element of confusion that you have within the Barbados Labour Party. That is why you speak with forked tongues. One person says one thing on the front bench, another person says something else, and for the whole day the Minister of Tourism saying nothing on tourism. Absolutely nothing on tourism for the entire day!

One or two other points, Sir. Wherever you go outside of Barbados and you talk to people, they consider the amount that they have to pay for a driver's licence in Barbados iniquitous. As a matter of fact, they think that they are being fleeced. A man comes into Barbados, say, on a business trip and wants a car for a few hours and has to pay $30 or something like that for a driver's licence. That is iniquitous. It is far too high and something needs to be done about it. I have heard complaints not only from tourists, but particularly from business people coming into Barbados for a day or two. It is an irritant and people feel that they are being cheated, because they can go to any other developed country and get a self-driven car at minimal price or a chance to pay the cost of a driver's licence, and you should not be charging any more than the cost of administering the service. You should not seek to be fleecing people in that way.

The other problem you have is the problem at the airport. The problem at the airport is a question of getting baggage off the aircraft.

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: That is a joke).

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: How do you mean it is a joke? Because when you come in here you do not have to go and stand up inside there and wait an hour to try to get your bags off the aircraft, and if two or three aircraft come in at the same time you see some bags come off one aircraft, then they go to offload another aircraft and then take a few bags off another aircraft, and you can stand up in there for two or three hours waiting on your baggage. There is something wrong with the arrangement in getting baggage off the aircraft at the airport. I believe you may have handed the contract to one person. When the airlines used to handle that themselves it used to be done better.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I must rise on a point of order, Sir: The honourable Member is now saying something, that the Government has handed the contract to one person. That is not correct. There is no monopoly in ground handling at the airport. The responsibility for moving baggage from the airline to the baggage handling machine is the responsibility of the airlines, to be negotiated by them with absolute freedom and no restriction on the part of the Government. Absolutely none!

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Okay, fair enough. Even if the Government is not directly involved, we know how you all operate, never mind.

The point I am trying to make is that the present system does not work effectively. I have carried out my own investigations during the hours that I have to spend there waiting to collect my baggage, and what I discovered, basically, is that there is usually not enough manpower and not enough equipment available to get the baggage off the aircraft. This is bad. If people had to wait because their baggage was being investigated for drugs or something like this, if that was part of the policy up there and that incurred delays, fine, but if the delays are being incurred because the persons who have the contract to do the job would not supply the manpower, or supply the equipment to get the luggage off the aircraft, then I think Government has a responsibility. Government has a responsibility, because it is their duty to make sure that people can get through that airport as quickly as possible, as is consistent with the security of the country and the protection of Government's revenues. That is my own philosophy.
8.00 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: One minute more.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, as I wind up, I say that we have done our best on this side to try to bring this debate to the highest levels during the day. The Minister responsible for Tourism has a clear disability in terms not only of expressing himself, but of bringing a mind to bear on the debate. He has contributed nothing, and clearly has no concept of what the current problems of tourism are. He has no vision of the future. Indeed, Sir, I will agree with the Honourable Prime Minister of this country that the sooner he is removed from the Ministry of Tourism, the better.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM (Christ Church East): Mr. Chairman, in this debate we have had, thus far, high points of charge and counter-charge. We have had our high points of good-natured fun. And, to a large extent, we have concentrated on a range of small points relating to whether the access to the beach at the Crane or the beach at the Paradise is restricted or not, whether the period of time taken to get your baggage after you have come off a plane is long, unreasonably long, or otherwise.

Mr. Chairman, I share the view that we spend too much time waiting for our baggage at Grantley Adams International Airport, and I have made my views known on that to those who are responsible – not Government – for handling the baggage. The point must be made, however, not by way of excuse, but by way of illustrating where we stand in relation to other busy airports, that you wait much longer, on average, at Miami and at Kennedy, and many others. That is not, however, to say that we ought not to strive to do much better.

On the whole, however, I think we must try to get some appreciation before this debate is concluded as to the macro-forces that are operating in tourism generally in the western world, and which are impacting on tourism in Barbados, and we need not go, by way of starting point, before the 1979/80, which was the high point of tourism in Barbados. And it was not surprising that that was the high point, because the world had, for the most part, recovered from the first oil crisis, and the recession which followed, and there was then an expansion of international trade such as we have not had since the 1960s and early 1970s. So that we in Barbados then enjoyed our best year and it was characterized by a good winter and a reasonable summer.

Since 1979 – 1980, we have been having winters that ranged from moderate to fairly good, but we have not had any summers to speak of at all, and tourism in Barbados cannot be viable based on a good winter alone. The plants in Barbados are too expensive to operate. Their repayment cost to the bank is too high for them to operate on the basis of good winters alone. It follows, therefore, that one of the major problems in Barbados' tourism today is the problem of getting summer occupancy levels up by at least 20% or more. Without that, most of the hotels cannot be viable, and herein lies the wisdom of going after the market not only in the Eastern Seaboard of the United States – Vermont, Maine and Massachusetts – but also in the Sun Belt of the United States of America. So the point that has been made so vigorously, and so mistakenly, by my friend, the honourable Member for St. Philip South (Mr. H. A. Blackman), has got to be put in proper context.

It is not a question of whether you should be advertising in the east or advertising in the Sun Belt, in the mid-west and south west. We need both markets. The Eastern Seaboard market is a good market but it is also an overworked market, because, remember, one of the features of modern-day tourism is the fierce competition, and Barbados alone is not fighting for that market in the Eastern Seaboard, plus that Eastern Seaboard market is essentially a winter one. The Sun Belt market is the market that runs away from the excessive heat over 100 degrees in the shade in the summer months, and we want the summer trade, so, to that extent, it is important for us to pursue that mid-west Sun Belt market, as it is called.

Another feature of tourism in recent times that we have to understand and it has nothing to do so much with the deliberate policy of this Administration, as has been alleged by the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central (Dr. R. C. Haynes), is the vast nature of tourism. Tourism now is not only for the elite, the rich, and the nouvean rich. Tourism has emerged in the last 15 to 20 years as a mass phenomenon. The girl who works at the lowest end of the income ladder, she also travels, even though she does it on a pay later basis. The result is that tourism, and this is the implication of that particular point, has become the most price sensitive industry there is around. We have suffered from that in this country because in 1979–80, we were benefitting not only from the expansion of international trade, and from the growth of the travel industry, but we were also benefitting from the fact that the European currencies were high in relation to the American dollar. It therefore paid the Europeans, it was attractive to them, to come to the Caribbean, Barbados being one of the premier destinations in the Caribbean. As soon as there was a reversal in terms of currency and exchange rates, the Americans went during the summer to European capitals, particularly London, and the Europeans sought their holidays in the Mediterranean and elsewhere in Europe, but not in the Caribbean. It is only now that we are seeing an appreciation in the value of the European currencies *vis-a-vis* the US dollar that you are beginning to see a return to certain levels from Europe here in the West Indies, and in Barbados in particular. So that we have to understand the price sensitivity of the industry.

8.10 p.m.

There are further illustrations. As soon as the Mexicans devalued a few years ago, and you will remember that Canada was the No. 1 market that we had until it was overtaken by the United States market, the Canadians went to Mexico for about three years in a row, until they could not stand the poor environmental conditions existing there, and then they started to come back, which

was consistent, too, with the return to prosperity in their own economy.

There is another reason why we must seek to diversify our market, because one of the other features about modern-day tourism which you have got to understand is the fact that there is a diminution of repeat business. The modern traveller will not go to the same destination 20 times in a row as used to happen in the past. The young men and the women who are travelling today around the world want to use tourism as an opportunity to travel throughout the world. They will come to Barbados once, at most twice, but they will want to go to the Mediterranean, they will want to go to the south of France, they will want to go to several other parts of the world, so that is another feature of modern-day tourism that you have got to understand. It means therefore, that we must be in constant and restless search for new markets, and herein, too, lies the wisdom of our trying to develop business out of the south, south-west and the middle states of the United States of America.

So that a lot of the factors that are affecting tourism in Barbados today have got nothing to do with the Barbados Labour Party Administration, very little or nothing to do with what we are doing by way of policy. We are beneficiaries, and in many respects the victims, too, of forces at work outside our borders. But there are certain challenges that now confront us as a result of those factors at work, some of which I have identified, and the first one is marketing.

There is a major marketing challenge that faces us here in Barbados. In the past we have tended to rely on the tour operators to market Barbados and get us our volume of business. Apart from the severe competition in the marketplace to which I have already alluded, there is now an urgent case for us to shift our marketing strategy so as to meet directly the consumer in a way that the Jamaicans, who are spending many more millions than we are much of it given to them by the United States of America – are doing. There is an urgent case for us to follow their practice, and the practice of several other countries now, and try and meet the potential customer as an individual rather than stick to the oldfashioned technique of relying on the tour operators to deliver the business.

Along with marketing, clearly we must do something with our product here, which, in some respects, is still a deficient product, and one of the main areas where we have got to make corrections is in the area of attitude. Sometimes I still wonder whether some of the very people who rely on tourism for their living, employees in the tourist industry and managers and owners, have the right attitude in relation to the visitor. That does not mean that we have got to be subservient. We can maintain our dignity in giving a service while at the same time being courteous and devoted to the ends of the industry, and I am not sure that that is as much appreciated in the industry, particularly among employees, as it ought to be. And so there is need for a major educational campaign, major educational thrust, in ensuring that the right attitudes are cultivated in the tourist industry.

In addition, Mr. Chairman, several of the plants have got to be refurbished. In this respect the Government is as guilty as many other owners out there, because the Hilton Hotel is today after 20 years – it was built in 1966 – a tired looking and exhausted plant. That needs an injection of capital to refurbish it and to give it a new look.

The other major challenge I want to address at the moment is the need for us to increase the seats available for those who want to come to Barbados. That is a major problem, and here I think the Government needs to be proud of the fact that it has perserved with Caribbean Airways, because now that we are getting an upturn in the business out of Europe, we would have been without a vehicle for bringing the tourists here had not we preserved with Caribbean Airways. I think that any cost benefit analysis which is done will reveal that we have gained far more from Caribbean Airways than we have lost, and, to that extent, it was wise that we should pursue and persevere, as indeed we did over the years with Caribbean Airways. Clearly, however, the Government must seek more and more in the future to have arrangements whereby they do not have to put up any money, if at all possible, in relation to these airlines and the seating capacity, because that is very expensive business indeed, and we have got to seek to use some of the space capacity available in the airline business and get some more planes coming to Barbados from different parts of the world, the United States of America, different points out of Europe, without ourselves as a Government having to put up money.

We have to appreciate, Mr. Chairman, and I know that my time is running out, that there are forces at work affecting Barbados' tourist plant which are outside our control, but there are forces, too, which, for the most part, we can harness to our advantage and it is my considered view that the Government has done a great deal to help all sectors of the tourist plant and the tourism industry to keep alive in very difficult circumstances. The regime of incentives which we have provided is such that there are few places with comparable means that would have done as much.

I take issue with the view which was expressed here earlier, that we cannot, without affecting the tolerance of the Barbadian, go up to half a million or 600 000 visitors

a year in this country. It seems to me that we can enjoy 90 percent occupancy in winter for the 16 000 beds or so that we have, and if we could push our summer months up to 60 per cent, we could realise the half a million visitors a year in Barbados without at the same time causing any offence to the way of life which we enjoy in this country, and all the elbow room which we still enjoy in a small 2 x 4 country. I think the Government's target as identified in its three year development plan 1985—88 of 600 000 visits is realistic; and I think it is the ideal towards which we must strive. I do not support the view that there should be at this point a decrease by way of any deliberate policy in tourist numbers, because that would be to send some of the existing tourist plants to the wall, it would mean that some of them would have no hope whatsoever of ever getting an occupancy level that would allow them to repay the bank and to maintain any viability whatsoever.
8.20 p.m.

The final point which I wish to make relates to the nature of the tourist product which we have here in Barbados. It is a diversified product, and I do not think that that point is sufficiently emphasized in the market place. There are still too many people, particularly in the United Kingdom and in some other parts of Europe, who are saying that tourism in Barbados is too expensive. The truth is that some part of the product is expensive, both in terms of accommodation and eating houses, but there is also a part of the product that is available for those who have a medium size pocket, and those who have a very small pocket can still come here and enjoy a holiday. But the diversified nature of the tourist product is not being sufficiently emphasized in the marketplace.

I think that the Government, as a whole, has got to take a more active role in seeing that there is refinement in the strategy which we have been pursuing in the past. The industry is particularly dynamic and we have got to make sure that at all times we are responding to the forces out there, and, in so far as we can turn them to our advantage, harness them to our advantage, we succeed in so doing.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is.....The honourable Member for St. Philip North.

Mr. W. O. FRANKLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, so far we have dealt fairly widely with one section of the Minister's portfolio, namely, Tourism, and I would like to turn my attention to the second part of his portfolio, the Environment, and express my views on a few areas.

The first thing I want to say, Mr. Chairman, is that there needs to be an ongoing educational programme about the use and care of our environment, and in this particular season that we are in, I want to start my debate by making an appeal on both sides. We are going into election and I am appealing on both sides for us to stop the pollution that we have been seeing in the past, of the massive marking up and painting up of the countryside wherever you go.

(*Aside:* Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Tell Rock do not paint up Holy Innocents.)

Mr. W. O. FRANKLIN: I want to speak to both sides and I want to start with the particular Ministry. Can you imagine the Chairman of the National Conservation Commission has started this year by having the whole of St. Philip South painted up all over St. Philip South.

(*Aside:* Mr. M. A. KING: Shame!)

Mr. W. O. FRANKLIN: The Chairman of the National Conservation Commission.

(*Aside:* Mr. B. M. TAITT: The Minister should fire him.)

Mr. W. O. FRANKLIN: "Try Linton", all over St. Philip South. Now I am very serious. It is one of the ugliest sights you can see through this countryside. I am seeing even in St. John "Vote Linton" — from 1976! St. Thomas was a particularly bad one.

(*Aside:* Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You all won that one.)

Mr. W. O. FRANKLIN: But I say now, and I am very serious, please let us start by asking our people, whoever is responsible, to stop it. Let us start by cleaning up the environment by stopping the ugly sign of painting all over the countryside with vote this person and vote the next person. We have other ways of projecting our individual selves in the countryside. So let us start by setting an example in that particular area. I appeal to the Minister to speak to the Chairman of the National Conservation Commission to set an example as one of the people responsible for the environment in this particular area.

Speaking on this subject, Mr. Chairman, there has been a lot of matters in the Press about a proposed formula one race track at Bushy Park in St. Philip. I am caught in this one, because there has been a lot of dialogue in the parish, particularly in and around the Bushy Park area, on this proposed race track. I want the Minister to update this House on what is the position with the race track. My knowledge of the proposals stems purely from what I have been reading in the newspapers, and a case has been put that it would expose Barbados to over 700 000 people by satellite in the televising of the formula

one racing, et cetera. Part of the people in and around the area are very concerned. As a matter of fact, I know there is an active lobby that has been mounted against the race track, but I must confess the majority of the people in and around the area are of the opinion that it might generate some employment, and they are of the other view.

My concern in this particular one is if the Minister's Department of the Environment is particularly staffed with the expertise that they can do a study of existing formula one race tracks and see what damage they have done to the environment in those areas, because the proposed site happens to be in an area where, downwind of the site, there are many residential sections of St. Philip. You have the Padmore area, you have the densely populated Church Village area, there is Marchfield, there is Six Roads, and those vehicles moving at high speeds could easily generate the amount of gases in the atmosphere that could prove very dangerous section for the people in that particular area of St. Philip. And much as I would like any endeavour that would generate employment to succeed, I want to be assured by the Minister that his Environmental Department has given serious consideration to the possible harm to the environment and can assure us that, if it is true that there is to be a formula one race track in that part of St. Philip, there will be no harm as a result of the formula one racing in that area. I am very concerned about this and would welcome the Minister's assurance that his department has given the necessary consideration to this particular one.

I am also seeking the Minister's assurance that proper care is being taken in the disposal of industrial waste of a dangerous kind existing in Barbados at the moment. The reason why I am concerned about this is that every now and again you see a lot of the marine life in the Graeme Hall Swamp dying off. I have been told by someone who keeps abreast — I would not name the industrial plant, for obvious reasons — that there is a direct connection between the marine life in Graeme Hall Swamp dying and the disposal method of one of our industrial plants in Barbados. If you check....
8.30 p.m.

Aside.

Mr. W. O. FRANKLIN: I would not name it at this particular time.

If you check the geological structure in that particular area, going from the location of that plant to the Graeme Hall Swamp, you will see that there is a very fairly sharp crack in the coral there, and it is quite easy, by a matter of filtration, for any industrial waste to reach the Graeme Hall Swamp, and I want to have the assurance of the Minister that his Environmental Department has been looking at that very carefully.

In this same light, I want to tell the Minister that I am pleased to report that there seems to be the end of any dumping by the septic tanks at the back of Cowell Street is now a thing of the past, and it is my understanding that our sewerage plant is coping with most of this septic tank disposal. But it is also my understanding that the plant was not designed to carry the present quantity that it is now having to accommodate on a weekly basis, and it is very likely that if something is not done, the plant could suffer and you could have a major breakdown of that plant.

I am also told that one of the chief offenders in this respect is, strangely enough, the National Housing Estates. It is because the number of sewage wells to houses is not enough and, as a result, the septic tanks are filling up very rapidly and have to be pumped very, very frequently. This is responsible for about 50% of the disposal that the sewerage plant is now taking care of, and I would entreat the Minister, in connection with his colleague from the Ministry of Housing, to take the necessary corrective action now to make sure that that load is taken off the sewerage plant before we have a major breakdown resulting in some problems in the Bridgetown area.

Another area I want the Minister to bring me up to date on is the matter of oil spills, particularly in the Bath and Bathsheba areas. I go to Bath fairly often, and I see that there have been spills in and around the beach, and they are causing it to be very unpleasant. I know it is a very difficult thing for you to trace any of these tankers that empty their tanks out, but I want to be assured that the Ministry is now geared with the technology to make sure that any spill that we have can be treated speedily to make sure that we do not have any problems of such in Barbados.

Mr. Chairman, I want to look at the work of the National Conservation Commission. I have seen nothing in this year's Estimates about the proposed National Park along the northern range, from the St. Peter area going right up to St. Philip. I see no provision made in here for any work to be done in that area. I noticed provision for Foster's Funland and an improvement of Foster's Hill for recreational purposes, and I would seek to find out from the Minister if plans are still afoot to have that area developed as a National Park and, if so, how soon these plans are to come on stream.

Now in the area of beach erosion, I am of the knowledge that a study has been going on, and I notice that there is a proposal to start some work in and around the Rockley Beach. The Crane Beach is very, very badly eroded.

(*Aside:* Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: It has just started.)

Mr. W. O. FRANKLIN: No, it has not just started. It has been eroded for quite a while. The road to the Crane is very badly eroded. You cannot get down there, there is a drop now of about 12 feet. I specify the Crane because, from my little knowledge of tidal movements, I would have thought that any renewal work to be started on the beaches of Barbados would start from that point and work its way down the south coast and into the St. James area. So I wonder why the work should be starting in and around Rockley, if there are technical reasons for it, or if it is due to the fact that it is heavily used by people. My belief is that if you do not correct your erosion problems further up stream from Rockley, despite the fact that you have done work at Rockley it could be hard put to withstand the continual tidal movement coming that way and you might find yourself with a bit of a problem again.

I want to end up my small contribution on the Sanitation Department and a few areas of discontent. The first thing is that I cannot understand why up to now, in the year 1986, we still have to have scavengers working in Barbados during the regular working hours, particularly during the peak traffic hours on mornings between 7.30 a.m. and 9.00 a.m.

(*Aside:* Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: It does not happen anymore.)

Mr. W. O. FRANKLIN: It does not happen anymore? Well, this morning there was a line of traffic from nearly pass Chapel Gap with a garbage truck going down by the telephone company. This morning, at 7.30 a.m.! It happens every morning on Highway 5. So if it is not within your knowledge, I am telling you that it happens on Highway 5 every morning, and if you see the back-up of traffic all the way back sometimes pass Chapel Gap, it is not only frustrating to the motorists but it is costly to the motorists, because they are burning unnecessary energy, and it is also unsightly. I would suggest that it is better for everybody concerned if the workers go early in the morning and by 5.30 a.m. or 6.00 a.m. they finish and can go home and have the day to themselves, go to the sea and relax. They can work in the cool of the early morning. I do not understand why you still have to have those type of hours kept by the scavenging department.

I am still complaining about the open trucks going to these land fills, not only the Sanitation Department trucks but those trucks that are carrying garbage from the stores and from places like poultry plants. There is no net on them, and you can find the trucks going from these poultry farms with feathers and the other awful smelling parts of chicken going up the road and they are stopping with their trucks and making an awful mess. I think it is time that the Ministry has some very serious words about this type of behaviour by the stores and the plants in and around Barbados.

We are still getting a problem with people throwing snow-cone cups particularly out of buses and minibuses. I know that it is a rule that in the minibuses and buses you must not eat snowcones, but I must confess that the conductors do not seem to be doing a very good job in this respect, because many times you are driving behind a bus and out comes a snowcone cup. Sometimes it can be a bit dangerous, because it is a bit of snowcone and it can interfere with you. The minibuses, I believe, are more culprits in this respect than the Government's transport buses, and this again, I believe, is due to the fact that we need a very regular campaign, an educational campaign, about the upkeep of our environment.

The last bit of information I would like to seek from the Minister is in relation to the south coast sewerage projects. I want to know what is the progress of this scheme, when it is supposed to come on stream, and what method you are proposing to use, because there has been a lot of discussion going on about the system to use. I know there was a study being done for the Christ Church area and the honourable Members for Christ Church West, I know, and Christ Church East Central have been voicing their concerns about the proposed aeration method to be used in that disposal system. So I would like to know if you have come to any conclusion acceptable to all persons about these particular aspects of the environment.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, I would really like to see a more vigorous campaign in the areas of care and appreciation of the environment of Barbados. I do not think that enough is being done to teach people to appreciate the environment and to care for it, and this is one of the areas in which our Government Information Service can be very useful, and I hope that the Ministry will find it necessary to get behind them and insist that they start some public relations work in this regard.

Last, for my colleague and myself, I wonder if you can also update us on what is the present strength of the Division of the Environment, and if you are satisfied in your mind that the training has been afforded them to be properly qualified to deal with all of these matters we have just discussed — industrial waste, air pollution, noise pollution — so that we can be sure that the department is now geared with staff to take care and preserve the environment of Barbados.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is....

Hon. H. deB. FORDE (Christ Church West): Mr. Chairman, before you put the question, just a limited intervention.

I should first like to congratulate the honourable Member for Christ Church East (Hon. Dr. R. L.

Cheltenham), as well as the honourable Member for St. Philip North (Mr. W. O. Franklin), on perhaps two of the best speeches that we have heard in the course of these debates. I believe that their arguments were reasoned and the loud mouthness evident from one or two other persons were certainly not evident on this occasion. I think the speeches were rational. Obviously, their points of view were put, but they are very much certainly appreciated in a debate which, so far, has been, generally speaking, lacklustre.
8.40 p.m.

It is nonsense for the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central (Dr. R. C. Haynes) to claim that the Government based the development of tourism in Barbados in the last five years, or the last ten years, on mass tourism and that this has led, to some extent, to killing the development of tourism. Anybody who has studied the growth of the leisure industry, as perhaps the fastest growing sector of international economic activity, must recognise that mass tourism has come to stay and that today the people who travel are not a few selected, elite coming back from the time of travel in the age of Carthage right up to the present, but the large mass of population, because as working conditions in the world improve and people are given longer holidays and increased wages, and world transportation costs drop, one must expect that tourist travel will become an accepted pattern of human existence. In fact, mass tourism has probably come too late rather than too quickly, and, in some respects, had it come earlier, part of the economic crisis confronting the world back in the Seventies may not have occurred.

If you look at the economies of even the developed countries such as the United Kingdom today, or the United States, and even Canada now, you will note that they, too, are going after mass tourism, and they are having to look to tourism as an important earner and saver of foreign exchange. The United Kingdom today, I think, expends a good deal of its earning on trying to attract the visitor from the United States and beyond during particularly the summer months. If you look to the Communist countries as well, you will notice the accent has been placed on developing tourism as an important sector of the economy.

One has to recognise that Barbados is in competition not only with its Caribbean neighbours, but with countries both developed, developing and undeveloped. One has to recognise that here in the Caribbean our neighbours and our brothers are our competitors. You have to recognise the importance of countries such as Cuba in the tourist plant and the importance of Mexico, which has been stressed by the honourable Member for Christ Church East.

I think it is true to say that Barbados has done well, given the limited resources which it has. It has done well in improving its tourist plant, in training its people to deal with the problems of mass tourism, and tourism in general, and also in promoting the island of Barbados, given its limited resources. I do not believe at all that this Government need apologise for what it has done with tourism in the last ten years. Surely we took over an industry where, both in terms of earnings and numbers, we were certainly not progressing as fast as we ought to have done, and within a period of five years we had transformed that industry where tourism had more than doubled and where the visitors coming to Barbados had moved from somewhere about 220 000 to the high of 379 000 in the year 1979. We have not got back to that high figure of 379 000, although by 1984 we were quite near there with 364 000, but the earnings from tourism have grown despite the fact that we do not still have a higher percentage of long stay visitors as we had before. The reason for this has been principally explained in the speech of the honourable Member for Christ Church East, where he spoke of the fluctuation of the European currencies and the effect which they have had on the fall of tourism coming out of the United Kingdom.

I think it is not true to attack the Tourist Board or to attack the tourist managers, to attack the Ministry of Tourism and say that they have done nothing to cope with this problem. They quickly shifted the emphasis, particularly to the United States, to take up the slack, and they persisted in that market and the results have been showing up not only in the visitor arrival statistics, but also in the earnings which have accrued.

Barbadians cannot always assume that everything they do will result in success instantaneously. They must learn to build over a period of time, but it is a fact that the tourist plant here has been built on a solid foundation. It has been very properly and quietly cultivated, and I believe that we will continue to cultivate it in a sensible manner, given the small size of the island and given the small resources available to us. I believe that a figure of half a million visitors a year is about the limit that we can cater to properly. I know that the experts have projected a figure of 600 000 a year. If we are to go to this figure, however, we must change some of the attitudinal aspects of tourism in Barbados.

I think the honourable Member for Christ Church East was quite right when he laid stress on this. People must recognise that giving service is not servility. We are too much still in the slave mentality. Until we have freed ourselves, particularly the black race in Barbados, we seem over occupied with our blackness and the fact that we came from being slaves, rather than recognising that we are now the masters, we are the people who call the tune, we are the people who shape our own destiny. We need not be afraid of our colour, we need not be afraid of

the fact that we came from out of Africa, we need not be afraid of the fact that we were once in slavery. We should be proud of the fact that we have made those advances and we can stand up and talk and be alongside people from any part of the globe. Sometimes we do not see this attitude reflected, I am afraid.

Sometimes we are afraid, for instance, to serve our own black brothers within our own hotels. Sometimes we believe that a black person coming to a hotel would give a lesser tip than a white person, and there is a hesitancy about that. Sometimes some of the hotels themselves do not seem keen on going after the black market in North America.

Sometimes some of the people assume that the only thing that matters is that the beaches have to be our beaches for our black people and overstress the accent on black rather than recognising that, if we are selling a product, the beaches must accommodate everyone. Sometimes people misunderstand the freedom to use the beaches and translate that into the licence to make nuisances of themselves and relish in a calypso which might take issue with a Jack Dear rather than recognising that what Mr. Dear was seeking to achieve was to get some discipline and order on the beaches of Barbados. When the Minister speaks about controlling vandalism on the beach you will hear a reaction that he is against black people, and everything is painted in the terms of race. I think we have to free ourselves of this attitude. If somebody is black, you do not always have to emphasise the fact that you are black, as though you are afraid of your race. I have never bothered about the colour of people's skin. It does not make any difference to me whether they are black, white, blue or brown, and I do not think them any better or any worse off because they may not bear the same colour as I bear. I think that we, the legislators, have to keep emphasising this so that our people act normally towards others.

You can go into a hotel, for instance, in the south of France on the Cote D'Azur, and regardless of your colour you are treated with the civility, as though you were the most honoured guest. I have known a High Court judge in Barbados to have gone to one of the hotels owned by the Government and run by the Tourism Investment Corporation and to be treated as though he was not entitled to be there, until he asked at one stage whether the manager was there, and the manager came and made a good deal of him. In those circumstances, the people who were serving him adopted a different attitude. All of that is really unnecessary in Barbados.
8.50 p.m.

We must also not harass visitors. People are afraid to say this, and particularly politicians. I think we have to speak out everytime we see people harassing visitors who come to Barbados. Women go on the beach at Rockley, and they are hardly settled on the beach before you get mass attraction of the male gigolos who are offering services instead of allowing the people to enjoy themselves. It does not only happen to the visitors, it happens as well to some of my constituents, because I have had complaints about it, and I believe that the Government has to be firm in controlling the conduct and behaviour on the beaches of Barbados, regardless of what is the political fall-out flowing from this. We cannot compromise on these matters. In the interest of the country as a whole, it is sensible for us to say that the beaches are for the use of all of us, but it behoves all of us to conduct ourselves properly on the beaches of Barbados.

Now, Sir, it is again not true to say that the Government of Barbados has been working against the interest of taxi drivers, as the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central has said. One has, again, to congratulate the Tourist Board on its farsightedness in running a programme for the training of taxi drivers. I had the good fortune to listen in to one or two of the courses being run and to talk to several of the taximen who attended those courses. Some of them returned on more than one occasion to be present at the lectures, and I want to say that the Tourist Board showed vision and foresight in organizing that type of course.

It is not true, again, to say that nothing is being done by the Tourist Board to improve the understanding of tourism in this country. One only has to see the impact of tourism in the school; and even up to primary level today, some aspects of tourism are being taught. So I am not persuaded by the political attack which is obviously being levelled at the Minister because two honourable Members on the other side believe he might be a neophyte.

I think any examination of the performance of the Government in the tourism field will show that the Government has done well. It should not be afraid of what it has done, and it must be able to refute arguments that are based on the nearness of an election.

My purpose for intervening in the debate, however, was not to speak on the subject of tourism at all, but rather to deal with one or two matters arising under the other branch of the responsibility of the Minister, and that is in the field of the environment.

Once, again, this Government has shown its innovation, its creativity and it farsightedness in creating not only a department, but a Ministry with the responsibility for the Environment. The environment in which we live is most important. In these days of the nuclear age, it is important for each one of us to be conscious of keeping a clean environment, one in which

the human race can survive, and although Barbados is not a nuclear country, faced with the problems which accrue from nuclear plants, nuclear wastes, and although we are not a heavily industrialised country, faced with the problems accruing from over-industrialisation, although we are not a country in which, like Canada, for instance, there is a problem of acid rain, yet we have our own environmental problems, which could be most real.

To me, one of the most serious problems we have is beach erosion, and I am therefore glad that the Government has addressed this problem in these Estimates, and is addressing the problem in two ways: first, in trying to preserve our reefs by providing, in the long term, proper sewerage systems for the west coast and the south coast as it has provided for Bridgetown, and, secondly, in taking steps to curtail the beach erosion which has occurred. That is why I welcome the vote in the Estimates dealing with the South Coast Sewage Scheme.

I have, of course, like the honourable Member for Christ Church East Central, expressed my reservations about the system which was being proposed for the south coast. We have done that, I think, deliberately in view of the fact that both of our constituencies will be affected, to some extent, by an open lagoon system of aeration – as they are called – in that area. I hope that the Minister can enlighten me as to whether or not the Government has had second thoughts on the system which was proposed for the Graeme Hall Swamp. I still have great difficulty, despite the assurances given to me by the experts in the Ministry, both from their observations of systems overseas and from their scientific knowledge, in adjusting to the concept for the Graeme Hall area, given the limited land mass area, given the closeness and density of the population, and given the lack of experience which our people have had in dealing with problems such as these. I would like to hear the Minister's assurance on this.

Secondly, I am glad to see that the Government has started work at Rockley, and I note that there was a pilot scheme earlier in the year of providing some form of weed protection of the seascape off the Rockley Coast area.

The honourable Member for St. Philip North, if you could give me an extra minute, Sir, asked why they started with Rockley. The answer is simple, because the reefs at Rockley are virtually dead whereas the reefs on the east coast of the island are still alive, to a large extent, and it is important, therefore, to deal with the erosion which is occurring at Rockley since, unless it is stopped, it would pose a very big problem in the future for that area. I would like to see that project going at a quicker pace.

I would also like to see Rockley, of course, upgraded in the same way that facilities have been provided at Dover and elsewhere along the coast.

Sir, I know my time is up, but Rockley, as you know, is in my constituency. That is not its only significance to me, but it is a very important area for Barbados since it is probably more used as a beach than any other part of our coastline.

Mr. R. E. BRATHWAITE (St. Lucy): Mr. Chairman, I had no intention of getting in this debate, but first of all, I would say I rise to commend, and to make a request. The Good Book says, where there is no vision, the people perish. I remember approximately four years ago, when this Government, the Barbados Labour Party, was planning the Heywoods Hotel, we heard from the members of the Opposition that it was a white elephant, and all sorts of things, but I am glad that the members of the Opposition have found wisdom, because I think, that today is the only day you did not hear someone calling it a white elephant. I would like to commend the then Minister and the present one for their strength.
9.00 p.m.

I would say that Heywoods Hotel has become a pretty spot in the north. It has helped the small farmers with their vegetables and I am sure it has helped to reduce unemployment immensely. I always used to wonder how it is that the members of the Democratic Labour Party would always criticise the Heywoods Hotel and say it was too big, they did not mind a hotel, but a smaller one than that. Also, when we came to build the cement plant, they said they did not mind a cement plant, but it was too big. Yet they walking through the length and breadth of this island telling people that we have unemployment; proving to me that they did not believe we had unemployment when they were trying to have us build these small boxes, because you know the smaller the project the less people that project will employ. I always believed the bigger the project, the bigger the hotel, the more workers it would employ. So we in the north now feel very happy about the Heywoods Project.

There is one request I would like to ask the Minister of Transport and Works, and it is that you go through a road widening exercise down there, because even this morning I had to turn back on my way to give some direction to the tourists. And I am asking members of the Opposition and every Member of Parliament to do all that lies in their power to educate their constituents as to how they should treat these tourists from time to time. We must realise that recession is biting all over the world and the good God of Heaven has caused these people to come to Barbados, and if we do not treat them kindly, the Bahamas and those other places will try to do their best to get them.

I would like to commend the Minister of Tourism for the good job he has done at River Bay. I would like to let you know that River Bay has now become a tourist spot, because most of the guests go to River Bay now that you have the beach facilities there; you have the washrooms, you have a dressing room and all these kinds of things there and they like that area very much.

I saw in the newspapers this morning that the honourable Member for St. Michael West will be having a very big excursion at Archer's Bay on Easter Bank Holiday, and I am sorry to let you know that we do not have any such facilities at Archer's Bay. I would like to make this request to the Minister of Tourism, that he does all that lies in his power so that we can have a job done at Archer's Bay as was done at River Bay. Also, we have Cove Bay up there in the parish of St. Lucy where you look over to Pico Teneriffe, which is a very outstanding spot.

This is my final request. The North Point Hotel, I think, is one of the best spots we have in the island of Barbados, and I think it is a disgrace. I believe it is time that the Minister and this Government go about acquiring the North Point Hotel, because as, we all know, the North Point Hotel has one of the best swimming pools in the Caribbean, and I believe it is a waste. Years ago we used to use the North Point swimming pool for swimming races and things like that. It is a very good site, I would say, and I believe that at this time the Minister of Tourism should look into that and see if he could do something about it, because, as you know, we are having a surplus of tourists in the north of the island.

I would like to commend the Minister of Transport and Works for the way he is treating the roads in the north. St. Lucy is becoming a bit closer to town because the roads are so smooth and sweet; we do not have the potholes we were accustomed to having and the tourists do not worry about going to Heywoods. I am sure, too, that when we have that surplus we can house them now at the North Point Hotel, which would also generate more employment down there for the young boys and girls, and also opportunities for the small farmers there to get rid of their produce.

So I would like to commend this Government, and especially the Minister of Tourism, for the good job he is doing. I like the way he stood up today and responded to certain Members, and I am sure he has a long way to go, and if he continues in that trend, I am sure the tourist industry will continue to go from strength to strength.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I think you can wind up the debate.

Hon. A. TRUSS: Mr. Chairman, we have just started the environment, so I cannot wind up. The first intelligent speech made all day on that side was made by the honourable Member for St. Philip North. I would like to attempt to deal with some of the questions which he has raised, but I notice he is not in his place. There are one or two things which I can raise in the meantime that are of importance.

Earlier I touched on the fact that we have to take into consideration the socio-cultural and environmental impact of tourism. I would not deal with the cultural aspect of it at this point in time, but certainly the environment. There is a tremendous impact on the environment from tourism. The heavy hotel development along the south and west coasts has created a tremendous amount of problems in relation to sewage, which eventually goes into the sea, kills the marine environment, coral reefs et cetera, and this in effect results in the beach being eroded. Also, the snorkellers and divers and tourists that come here destroy the coral reefs by collecting samples as souvenirs, and, in addition to that, the local young entrepreneurs, in an effort to make a living for themselves, break the coral off for the construction and manufacture of jewellery and things of this nature. There is certainly a clash of visitors and Barbadians. Look on our beaches and in our parks and so on. So there are definitely problems in relation to the environment as far as the numbers of tourists that can come to Barbados.

I want to clarify that we are searching towards improving the quality of tourists that comes to Barbados. If perchance the quality is improved as well, so long as we feel we can handle the quantity, we will continue to do so. There is no deliberate policy to avoid bringing in as many tourists as possible or as necessary. The attack is basically a two-pronged attack, to bring as many tourists as we can and to bring the quality of tourists that we need. But the point which we do have to take into consideration is how many tourists are too many, and, in the absence of proper studies, I would not at this stage be in a position to tell this Honourable House whether that number is 500 000 tourists or 600 000 tourists, but the point is that you can only move so fast as the slowest citizen of Barbados. One has to take into consideration that every aspect of tourism studies that have been done over the past two decades has been relative to the economics of tourism and has not dealt with the socio-cultural impact of tourism.

Sir, the pollution that I was talking about earlier before we got involved in tourism, the pollution of the sea by sewage, as I was saying, and by the agricultural pesticides contained in the surface run off, are considered the major causes of the death of the coral reef to which

I alluded earlier. This removes, as I said, the protection from the reefs against the wave energy, the full impact of the wave energy is then dissipated on the beach and therefore it draws the sand out and you have soil erosion.

Another area of concern – he says it is a problem but it may not be a problem – is the possibility of an oil spill and the washing of oil tanks at sea close to the shores of Barbados. There are oil tankers that are plying the Atlantic from Venezuela and West Africa and there are large oil refineries in some of the Caribbean islands very close to us, hence the possibility of an accident that can lead to significant damage to our beaches and our marine life. The Ministry has been in the process of training people to handle these emergency measures in case of such an event. The policy of the Ministry, therefore, is that beach and marine environment should be maintained free of pollution.

The points raised by the honourable Member for St. Philip North are sound points indeed, and I shall try to deal with them. As the person responsible for the subject, it is difficult for me to answer the queries or the questions of the Opposition if they are unfounded or if they are in no way relative to the subject matter under discussion. I cannot say that for the honourable Member for St. Philip North. He has raised some very important questions and I shall try to deal with them.
9.10 p.m.

The proposed racetrack, which I myself have read about, has to do, I think, firstly with the Ministry of Housing and Lands. They have made an application; the Ministry of Housing and Lands will have to determine whether or not the area is suitable for such an enterprise. They will consult with the Ministry of the Environment, and the Environmental Engineering Department of our Ministry will investigate the possibility of noise and dust pollution. In addition to that, it has financial implications, and it has to go to the Ministry of Finance, probably even before it comes to my Ministry. So there is sufficient time. I am not in a position to say what will or will not happen, because, as you can appreciate, we are dealing with the Ministry of Finance and Planning, the Ministry of Housing and Lands and our own Ministry. But from an environmental point of view, we will do everything that is possible to ensure that proper standards are instituted and proper safeguards taken.

In relation to the point raised about the Graeme Hall Swamp, there is no evidence that the fish dying about a year or two ago is connected to chemicals or hazardous wastes or pesticides leaking into the Graeme Hall Swamp. The Ministry officials have been investigating this for sometime now and have come to the conclusion that the water draining out of the pond at low tide reduces the amount of oxygen in the water, which has contributed to the fish dying. I cannot say that it has anything at all to do with industrial waste. I am being perfectly honest with you. This is what we have found. If there was industrial waste, I would have reflected that. What I am reflecting is basically what we have found, that it is as a result of lack of oxygen in the swamp itself and nothing to do with pesticides, weedicides or industrial waste.

Sewage treatment. The point which you raised about the Bridgetown Sewage Treatment Plant was true. The point you raised about the Ministry of Housing and Lands contributing to the problem is partly true as well. We in the Ministry are currently considering a proposal to send to Cabinet, because the Bridgetown Sewage Treatment Plant cannot handle all of the sewage or solids that we send to it. The real problem is not that the system is overloaded, but by the time the sewage arrives at the treatment plant, it is septic. So we are talking about the quality of the sewage – that is the real point.

One of the proposals which we are going to recommend to the Ministry of Housing and Lands is that they dig a few more wells in the housing estates. This might help to alleviate the problem by reducing the pressure on the Bridgetown Sewage Treatment Plant until we get the south coast sewage treatment plant on stream. In addition to that, we have been using a Sanitation Service Authority landfill. We have been digging tracks – I believe the tracks are eight feet deep and three feet wide – lining them with white lime, emptying the stuff into them, covering it with white lime and then covering with mould – two feet to the top. For the time being, that is helping to alleviate the situation. I agree that it is not the perfect solution to the problem, but, as I said, when we get the south coast sewage treatment plant on stream, that will assist greatly.

With reference to the point you made about the Sanitation trucks, let me say this. We have been fighting with the Sanitation Service Authority as a Government since 1980 in relation to the matters which you raised. We think it is a waste of time, in terms of gasolene being wasted, in terms of people's time being wasted going to work, particularly in the morning hours, to be stuck behind a Sanitation truck, particularly on our small roads, as on Bay Street.

We put up a proposal to Sanitation which was knocked down by the union. The union said we would have to pay double time for starting one or two hours earlier, and that threw things all out of proportion. Instead, what we came up with as a solution to the problem was that by introducing a night shift at the Sanitation Service Authority, which would clean areas withing a three mile radius of the city of Bridgetown, then you would not have to clean those areas during the day, at least certainly not before 9'clock. This practice has been

working very well. That is why I was surprised to hear that you actually saw a Sanitation truck. I have not seen one in several months.

I think that it is since October or November last year that the scheme was implemented on a trial and experimental basis. Highway 5 from St. Barnabas to the city is cleaned at night. Highway 7, from Hastings police station to the city, is cleaned at night. From the Pine East/West junction, Collymore Rock and back to the city is cleaned at night, and Highway 1, from Deacons Road, Bank Hall, Fontabelle and Barbarees Hill. The main arteries into the city, within a three-mile radius, are cleaned at night so there is really no reason why the Sanitation Service Authority should have trucks in these areas before 9 a.m., which should give traffic enough time to flow into the city. It is a good point and it is a problem to which we have addressed our minds and come up with a solution. We will expand the service to include Speightstown, Holetown and Oistins. Then, hopefully, once we can educate the public of Barbados that we do night collections rather than day, they can then put out their garbage on evenings rather than early in the morning. So it is a whole educational programme which we have to do. It will take time.

With respect to the national park, Mr. Chairman, I would like to say that the national park has been designated. No provision, as you have correctly pointed out, has been made in the Estimates for its development, because the concept of a national park is quite different. It is not one of developing it in the fashion of Farley Hill Park or any other such park, so the initial work does not require massive doses of capital injections. We are working by arrangement with the people who own the land on a lease basis, because this is what has been recommended to us by Mr. Pennington, who is a specialist in this area, from London.

Studies such as on Turners Hall Woods are being undertaken, because they are the only original woods left in Barbados.

With relation to the Crane, which you have mentioned, and beach erosion at Rockley, the last honourable Member dealt with Rockley. Just let me say this. It was easier to deal with Rockley, for many reasons. The fact that it is also one of the most popular beaches on the south coast gave it a sense of urgency.

We introduced this new product called seascape, which is an artificial seaweed introduced by an American company. It is buried between six and eight to ten feet of water about 100 feet from the shore, is about six feet long and comes in strips of three inches wide. What it actually does is reduce the wave energy as the wave breaks to come in before it hits the shore. So by reducing the wave energy, the wave does not break up the beach when it lands, and at the same time the seascape captures some sand and you have a building up of sand.

I am not prepared to say without a shadow of doubt, Mr. Chairman, that it has worked successfully. But I do think, from a layman's point of view – because I go out there from time to time to check it myself – that it is working. It will take us another five or six months to determine whether or not it has worked. We took certain measurements, photographs and so on of the beach before we installed the seascape and we will do so again in another six months, and then we will be able to determine whether or not it has worked. If it has worked, then, of course, this is the sort of thing we will introduce all around Barbados, particularly on the south and west coasts.

In relation to the Crane, which the honourable Member for St. Philip North raised, the erosion at the Crane is very much more difficult to control. The experts tell us that the sea is going back to its original stage of several thousand years ago or whatever, and that the sea will eventually go back to the top of the cliff, so they advised us against doing any remedial work in that area. Until they can monitor what is happening very carefully over a long period of time, they will not be able to tell us for sure what the situation is, but, as an interim opinion, they have been able to say, "Do not spend any money in this area, rebuild the access road in a different spot because we believe that the sea is going to go back up to the cliff." That deals with that.

9.20 p.m.

I forgot to mention in relation to Rockley, Sir, for the benefit of the honourable Member for Christ Church West, that we have major plans for the development of Rockley Beach. We have been battling with the Chief Town Planner for a very long time, both my predecessor and myself, in relation to the construction of facilities, changing facilities and beach facilities, both for locals, tourists and beach vendors. We have finally made a breakthrough in this particular area. The Chief Town Planner has agreed to the proposal that the Ministry will purchase a particular house on the other side of the street for conversion into a changing room and washroom facilities and so on, and on the other side of the street he has given tentative permission – he has given us the nod for us to start to draw up some plans for the construction of beach facilities for beach vendors and proper facilities for tourists, visitors, and Barbadians alike, for picnicking. So that is being done.

Another major area that we are looking at is the area just off Bay Street obliquely opposite the Prime Minister's office. For that large area we are looking at a complete development. This is where tourism and the environment come hand and hand together, because

we have to look to reduce some of the pressures on some of the west coast and south coast properties when tourist ships are in Barbados. We have to find places for these people to go to. We heard earlier about Sam Lord's Castle, Sandy Lane, and Paradise Beach building things in front of the beach access ways. This would happen because when the hotel is full and there is a tremendous amount of pressure on the hotel to provide facilities for its guests, it cannot extend its facilities to anyone else; certainly to Barbadians but not to another guest from another hotel. So the Government has to try and find certain facilities. for example, the beach on the Spring Garden Highway. To the left of the Spring Garden Highway, if you are traveling towards the west coast, there is a beautiful beach. That is a beach we are looking at for the development, and this area as well, the Bay Street beach, Sir.

To get back slightly to the Environmental Section of the Ministry, Mr. Chairman, in dealing with the sewage treatment and disposal that I was talking about earlier, let me say that the last census that was taken in 1984 revealed that Barbados had a population of 252 470 persons and about 70% of these people live in very close proximity to Bridgetown, with heavy concentrations in St. Michael and Christ Church. In addition to this, the hotels and department stores tend to concentrate in these two areas as well. But the concentration of the Barbadian population as well as the tourist combination represent two major sources that produce large quantities of sewage. So there is a need to ensure the proper disposal of sewage in Barbados, and the other problem is that heavy rains in Barbados, sometimes leading to exceedingly very heavy stormy weather, might cause an overflow of the wells, whether these wells are residential or commercial wells and whether these wells are situated near the coast, and because of the fact of the high water there is a natural tendency for the wells to overflow, which in effect will spill their septic contents into the streets and areas, and it will smell and so on.

All of this, Mr. Chairman, highlights the need for effective centralization of the treatment and disposal of sewage and this is why I say that the design for the sewerage system for the South Coast is expected to start September of this year I believe – I stand corrected on that – and hopefully between 1987 and 1989 the actual construction of the sewerage scheme system could actually start. So we are looking at 18 to 24 months away to a maximum of three and a half years to four years.

The treatment and disposal of industrial waste was also raised by the honourable Member for St. Philip North. Today, Sir, in Barbados there are several industrial processes which at present operate, and they include not only the production of sugar, milk, and farm products, but the production of oil, pesticides, the use of acid in etching and pattern making in the manufacture of foam, plastic, fibreglass and things of this nature. So in our own way we are becoming fairly heavily industrialized, light industry but heavily industrialized nevertheless. The Ministry's role is to monitor the disposal of the waste of the individual industries and we have a system where each industry must first make an application to the Ministry to establish the particular type of industry and they must be able to list chemicals and other materials that they expect to use in the manufacturing process of the specific industry about which they are applying, because of the possible effects of the industrial waste on the water reserves, which is our main consideration, because if it filters into the soil, it can pose problems. The Ministry controls the location of the industry, so this is why we have to avoid putting an industry in an A1; in fact, even an A2 water zone. We have to restrict them to A3 and A4 water zones or outside of that. The Ministry's policy is that industries should be located, like I have said, where they will do the least damage to the water quality or the marine environment, if that is at all possible.

The environmental controls of the Ministry, Sir, basically with occupational health and safety, is another aspect of the work of the Ministry of the Environment. We monitor work places to make sure that workers are not exposed to hazardous chemicals, excessive dust or noise.

The honourable Member for St. Philip North raised the point about whether or not I thought we had the expertise in relation to these matters. I think we have, to some extent, the expertise, but I do think there is room for improvement. We certainly need additional equipment so we can test. But the whole question of noise pollution is a very serious question, Mr. Chairman, because it is very difficult to identify what, in truth and in fact, constitutes noise pollution. The Environmental Engineering Division has been working for a considerable period of time on various aspects of noise. Now we have been looking at industrial noise, airport noise, community noise, even barking dogs. That is noise, and it is an irritant as far as other people are concerned, also noisy neighbours, parties. A great deal more research has to be done before adequate legislation can be introduced, because we first have to establish what the standards are in relation to noise – what constitutes noise. So in the absence of specific community noise legislation, our Ministry, Sir, is still investigating the different complaints which we receive from time to time from the public of Barbados, and we are trying to at least acquire the knowledge of what the local components are and what the problems are as far as what the public of Barbados see as the noise factors. We appreciate the problem of noise in the community and, like I said, we are constantly trying to investigate these problems with the hope of coming up one day with the necessary legislation so that standards can be introduced. We have to look at the legislation of other countries, which we are in the process of doing, in order to determine, like I said, before what constitutes noise.

9.30 p.m.

Sir, there are over 400 factories in Barbados. They are in 14 industrial parks and the other factories are scattered throughout the length and breadth of Barbados. Today 180 of those factories have been visited and assessed by the Environmental Division of my Ministry with respect to exposure of workers to noise, to heat, to chemicals, to dust and to other hazards. The information at present is being computerised. Research is also being done on hospital records to determine the incidence of work-related diseases. We work very closely with the Ministry of Labour in relation to these matters.

We recognise that raw materials, work processes and work conditions are hazardous in several situations, and often adequate safety precautions are not taken where machines are not properly guarded, where pesticides have to be packed or sprayed, and there are risks of over exposure of workers to radiation because of the operation of X-ray equipment and so on. The Government's policy in relation to these matters is to spend a great deal of its time to try to identify occupational health and safety policies of the highest standard, and the polyclinics, in conjunction with the Ministry of Health, will be used to implement this policy.

The area of the Ministry of selected debushing, which I would like to touch briefly on, sand mining, coastal conservation project, mangrove systems, and of course the derelict vehicles and derelict house programmes we have on stream, I will talk about later on.

If there are any further questions, Mr. Chairman, I will be quite happy to answer them.

The question that the sum of $7 649 221 under Head 85 – Ministry of Tourism and the Environment – as amended, stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 43 – MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Hon. A. TRUSS: Sir, I will take this opportunity, since we have exhausted the other side in relation to the environment, to make one or two other salient points.

Selected debushing is a major component of this Ministry. The work involves the removal of unsightly bush and derelict houses and cars. The point is.....

(Aside: Mr. B. M. TAITT: Don't read it again).

Hon. A. TRUSS: Man, read in the Press and see Bowen moving. For 15 years you could not get him to move. What are you talking about? Read the papers today. Don't start on the debushing campaign, don't start on the derelict houses or the derelict cars, because for 15 years you all never moved one derelict house nor one derelict car.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Just give me ten of the jobs you have about the place. Don't worry about the lot of debushing thing. Get on with the debate, but give me ten of the jobs. Tell me how you can get a job without coming into Swan Street.

Hon. A. TRUSS: Sir, the Ministry's policy is that the physical environment should be clean and attractive. It is intended that after areas are cleared, unlike when the Democratic Labour Party was in power, they will be landscaped by the NCC in order to avoid them reverting to their former state. We are involved in the method of selected debushing, not just knocking everything down, nor doing what was done prior to 1976 when you saw 50 people from the city cutting down one ackee tree. We do not operate that way.

Absentee owners make the work of environmental upgrading more difficult, since owners are the persons with the primary responsibility for the maintenance of their lots. This creates a problem for the Ministry of the Environment, but there is a procedure which we have to go through. The procedure is fairly cumbersome, but nevertheless we have to go through it.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of privilege . This is a shameful filibuster that the Government is carrying out in the Estimates. A shameful filibuster! The Estimates are for the Opposition to discuss and raise matters and you are just trying to hide the other Heads and allowing this nonsense to go on all afternoon.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

Hon. A. TRUSS: Sir, I object to that, Mr. Chairman. When the Government gave the opportunity to the Democratic Labour Party of selecting Heads, they refused.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, no one could ever have envisioned when we refused that we would have to suffer him, Sir.

Hon. A. TRUSS: Suffer some more.

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

(*Aside:* On nonsense!)

Hon. A. TRUSS: The point is, Sir, if there were areas of concern that they wanted to debate, they never should have refused. These are areas of importance in Barbados and in this Honourable House. If they are not important to the honourable Members on the other side, that is a matter for them. The Ministry of the Environment is extremely important to the livelihood of Barbadians.

The problem, Mr. Chairman, as I was saying in relation to housing, is that we have a procedure to go through. If we come across a derelict house or a vacant lot, we have to research the owner of that house or lot.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir: I draw to Your Honour's attention that there is no quorum in the House. Let the bell be rung.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let the bell be rung.

The bell was rung and a quorum obtained.

Hon. A. TRUSS: Yes, Sir, as I was saying, the problem is that we first have to place a notice on the derelict house or on the vacant lot that the owner is responsible for removing the house or for cleaning the lot, and we have to give them a specified time. If by the end of that time nothing is done, we have to advertise for someone to submit a quotation for cleaning the lot, or, in the case of the house, for removing the house. Then we have to advertise that, within a certain period of time, if it is not handled by the owners the Ministry will do it, and then, by law, we have the option of removing the house or cleaning the area of land that needs debushing, if possible sell the piece of land for whatever money we can get, deduct whatever has to be deducted by the Ministry for cleaning it and put the balance in escrow with the Auditor General until the owner comes for it. That is the cumbersome piece of legislation. So when you drive through Barbados and you see some derelict houses and you see some overgrown lots, realise that it is sometimes not easy.

9.40 p.m.

We are given money in the Ministry to handle areas that are owned by Government, Government lands basically. That is our area of concern. The Ministry of Housing and Lands does its own debushing campaigns, because it is responsible for the maintenance of housing estates. The Ministry of Transport, on the other hand, is responsible for all the paved areas, the roads. So there is a clear delineation of policy between the three Ministries in terms of how we go about solving this problem. One may argue that, perhaps, we should have a central approach towards the entire problem, but, in the fullness of time, that will come.

Mr. Chairman, I mentioned derelict cars, and I think we should be proud of our record in relation to this area. Let me just say, for the record, that during the past year, we have issued over 71 notices for houses to be removed; 34 of these were demolished by the Ministry and the other remaining houses removed by the owners, and we have since.....

(*Aside:* Is that something to be proud of?)

Hon. A. TRUSS: You did nothing about it for 15 years. We are cleaning up the environment.

We have 86 more houses that are presently being processed for demolition, and we propose that during this year, we will demolish another 120 in order to ensure a clean environment in Barbados.

In relation to derelict vehicles, as of the ending of August last year, I believe we moved over 500 cars. The Ministry's Environmental Inspectors have carried out a survey and have identified 600 derelict cars in St. Michael alone. Another 259, Mr. Chairman, will be removed over the next couple of weeks. This, generally speaking, is our programme.

I think the highlight of our programme in relation to derelict vehicles and wayside garages can be attributed to the story in today's newspaper, and the advertisement by the Ministry of Tourism and the Environment in today's newspaper, to the effect that Bowen's Car Museum is now prepared to move, and we are going to move him to Bagatelle Quarry. That is important against the background of the fact that for 15 years, the Democratic Labour Party had the problem and was unable to solve it. They created it, they were unable to solve it, and I see no reason why they should be objectionable in this debate. Surely if the Ministry of the Environment has done a good job in one or two areas, they should be kind enough to get up and give the Ministry's staff the....

Aside.

Hon. A. TRUSS: Do not congratulate me, the Ministry's staff. I do not go out there, so that is precisely the point.

Another point in relation to the derelict vehicles is that the Ministry came up with the view that we would create artificial reefs just off the bank reef shores of Barbados and we would tie a series of derelict cars together for the creation of marine life to be formed. We will have an experimental programme of six to eight of these particular areas being discovered on the south and west coasts. The marine biologists are quite prepared to monitor this programme over a period of months to see whether or not derelict cars can, in fact, be an asset as artificial reefs in Barbados, which would assist tourism in terms of the amount of people that want to scuba dive and so on.

Mr. Chairman, the Ministry of Environment is also concerned, as I have mentioned to you earlier, with sand

mining and quarrying. I believe I should set this in perspective. In the beginning of the 1960s, the demand for sand to build concrete houses was very great. As people became more prosperous in Barbados, they shifted, and are still shifting today, from wooden houses to concrete houses. At some stage in the past sand was taken from the sea, but, today, it is taken from sites further inland. Most of these sites which produce the sand for construction purposes are within the Scotland District, which means that they are also within the proposed Barbados National Park. And what is unfortunate about all of this is that neither the Soil Conservation Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture, nor our own people, can tell us at this stage exactly how much sand is dug out. But it is very important that we get the necessary equipment to take these measurements, because sand quarries can give no particular figures in terms of the quantities of sand that are removed daily, or annually, and quarries can leave an area in an aesthetically displeasing situation. Disturbing the soil might also lead to other problems such as soil erosion, and continuing to mine sand may mean that a hill may soon be removed and you would have removed a wind breaking factor. The policy of the Ministry, therefore, must take into account the fact that sand will be needed for building in the foreseeable future, but the areas to be mined must be carefully chosen in order to minimise environmental damage.

Sir, I touched earlier on the Coastal Conservation Project. The project is directed by a trained oceanographer from the U.K. an expert in the conservation of the coastal areas of Barbados. The project is regarded as a high priority project since it seeks to preserve the beach on which our tourist industry is based, and preserving the beaches would also allow Barbadians to continue benefitting from jobs and incomes in the tourist industry, while avoiding the loss of valuable beachfront properties and recreational space.

Asides.

Hon. A. TRUSS: That is your problem. You are not even a good doctor.

At present, Sir, the Coastal Conservation Project provides technical advice on the proposed beachfront developments, and it monitors beach processes through beach profiles, wave observations and hydrographic surveys. From time to time, this information is sent to the Ministry; we assess the situation and as different information is computerized, we arrive at certain decisions in relation to what we are going to do, then the necessary equipment is sought or bought, depending on whatever it is available in Barbados.

Asides.

Hon. A. TRUSS: Your problem is that you know nothing at all about the environment.

Mr. Chairman, in the environment of Barbados, we have some mangrove systems. Mangrove is a type of tropical tree growing near the coastal land, usually in very brackish-type water. Various species of reef fish spend the early stages of their lives in the shallow waters of the mangroves.

Asides.

Hon. A. TRUSS: If you would listen you would learn something about the environment of Barbados.

The native and migrant birds also find shelter in the mangrove trees, particularly at Graeme Hall Swamp.
9.50 p.m.

The mangrove habitat can be damaged by the dumping of sewage, which causes an overgrowth of certain algae, thus upsetting the environment balance that is so very delicate, or by the infusion of pesticides that possibly can be washed down as a result of rainfall, or by the dumping of refuse straight into the swamp itself. There is a need for the remaining mangrove system in Barbados, mainly the Graeme Hall system, to remain. There is one small area around the Holetown area and a few smaller points on the west coast. These have to be studied by Barbadian students, by ecologists, so that the Ministry would be able to benefit from their expert advice in years to come. So the policy of the Ministry in relation to these matters is to protect and preserve mangrove swamp eco-systems.

I talked a little earlier, Mr. Chairman, about the pollution of noise and dust. In addition to what I said earlier, noise levels in Barbados are caused by vibrations emanating from three main sources: arriving and departing aircraft, machines in factories and vehicles.

There was a time when houses would not have been allowed to have been built so close to the airport, but with the development of tourism and the development of Grantley Adams Airport, the old Seawell Airport, what has happened is that places like Wilcox Hill and Thyme Bottom in Christ Church were actually there before the development of the airport, and by the airport expanding in order to accommodate larger aircraft, the noise level in the specific environment was raised. This has created some problems for the houses that are already there in the Wilcox Hill and Thyme Bottom areas of Christ Church. The intention was — never carried out — of course, for no housing to be in that area.

The Ministry continues to monitor noise levels in factories. Industrial hygiene requires that workers exposed to excessive noise levels be protected wherever and whenever possible by air plugs or muffs. Motor vehicle

noise is usually accepted as inevitable, but we are considering the possibility of setting limits on the amount of noise that vehicles can produce, taking into consideration, of course, muffler systems and so on.

Dust in the atmosphere, Mr. Chairman, is at times considerably increased as a result of storms in the Sahara desert. This does reduce visibility in Barbados, but seems not to have any serious health implications thus far. Indeed, the sources of dust over which we can have some control are quarry dust and factory dust and it is these two areas on which the Ministry of the Environment concentrates.

In relation to quarry dust, Mr. Chairman, we have a problem involving a large number of residents in the Green Hill area. With the quarries at Green Hill, since the houses are west of the quarry, the wind blows the dust into the houses. People in that area have made representation to the Ministry from time to time over the years, and we are investigating what possible options can be taken to protect them and at the same time not interfere with the operation of an industry.

In the process of time, we will have to establish certain guidelines for standards in relation to this matter as well, so that implementation of standards can be introduced to Parliament in order for us to take action against any quarry or any business that is involved in the production of materials that would give off dust that would affect the residents of a particular area. The Ministry must monitor these things and try to impress upon the owners of the factories, particularly at Green Hill, because this really is the main area of our concern, that they would have to take the responsibility to protect their workers and the neighbours from the dust produced by the industrial process.

Aside.

Hon. A. TRUSS: Mr. Chairman, I want to get back to tourism. I can't let you get away with these things in tourism. The last honourable Member that spoke, the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, I have not had an opportunity to talk about the nonsense he talked. Let me deal with him now. He said that the Democratic Labour Party, as a point of policy, would not support any venture to any other areas in the United States of America. As a matter of record, the honourable Member was against Caribbean Airways going into Europe. He never supported Caribbean Airways nor its venture into Europe. Between 1982 and 1985 Government's subvention to Caribbean Airways was $20 million and they brought over 54 732 passengers during that period and earned over $87 million.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, I draw Your Honour's attention to the Rules of Debate.

I am on a point of order. The honourable Member has to sit.

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

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I draw Your Honour's attention to Rule 28, Rules of Debate, Time and Manner of Speaking and Contents of Speeches. Section (2) of Rule 28 says: "A Member must confine his speech to the subject under discussion, and may not introduce matter irrelevant thereto."

I make the humble submission, Sir, that the honourable Member started off telling us about a debushing programme and was, in fact, discussing the environment, and that the matter which he has now introduced, which arises from a previous debate, is in contravention to Rule 28(2) at least.

I draw it to Your Honour's attention.

Hon. A. TRUSS: I was under the impression that we were discussing the Head Tourism and the Environment; so there is nothing which I have introduced which is outside the Head of Tourism and the Environment, with respect.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, in furtherance of my point, the honourable Member himself said he was referring to something that the honourable Member said. Since he is the first, I have to say, speaker in this debate, it could only be that he is referring to a previous debate which we have had already, which is contrary to the Rules. Nobody else has spoken.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member who is now on his feet, these interruptions will only mean that the Honourable Minister will be given more time.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Oh Lord, no, Sir! I withdraw everything I said, Sir.

Hon. A. TRUSS: The fellows want me to continue, Sir. As I was saying, the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, as a matter of record, stated that he has never supported Caribbean Airways' venture into Europe. We stuck with Caribbean Airways and I am proud to say, and I would like to pay tribute to the Prime Minister, for he stood up.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member is making Caribbean Airways the subject of the debate. His contribution is to tourism, I take it, the passengers that were brought to the tourist industry.

Hon. A. TRUSS: Yes, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Well stick closely to that, and let us not drift too far.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, the honourable Member is in breach of the Standing Orders.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member is on a point of order! The Chairman has just spoken.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On what? On what the Chairman has said?

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: No, Sir. On what he said.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Well, let him start again. You should have come before.

Hon. A. TRUSS: Sir, let me represent myself. I would like to compliment the Prime Minister because he stuck to Caribbean Airways. Between 1982 and 1985 the subvention to Caribbean Airways was $20 million, we brought in 54 732 passengers from Europe and we earned $87 million in revenue. He said that, as a matter of Democratic Labour Party policy, he will not support any Caribbean Airways venture in Europe, and now he said tonight he would not support any in North America. The people out there are not fools, Sir.
10.00 p.m.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES rose.

Hon. A. TRUSS: Man, what is the point of order?

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir.

Aside.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order. Please take your seat. Let us have the point of order from the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I do not believe, Sir, that any rational person could say that the Democratic Labour Party would not support Caribbean Airways. This was a creation of the Democratic Labour Party.

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

Hon. A. TRUSS: We never made the point on this side that they on that side in 15 years never did anything right, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member has about six minutes more.

Hon. A. TRUSS: Is that all, Sir? I have a riffle of things to talk about.

I really wanted to deal with some of the incentives, Sir, because he made the point that I said nothing about tourism. He came late, so he did not hear, and he was confused by the speakers on that side.

We created duty fee incentives for the purchase of furniture, fixtures and materials which are to be used in the refurbishing of hotels. My information from the Ministry of Finance and Planning is that over $390 000 was rebated to the industry last year alone. We in the Government reduced water rates to the hotel sector. We created duty free incentives for the purchasing of energy saving devices. We introduced incentives for the duty free purchase of taxis. We did that! You can buy a taxi duty free. We came back and we gave a certain period of time, and we extended the period for the duty free purchase of taxis. We negotiated with financial institutions, such as the World Bank and the IADB, to get additional funds for the tourism sector, and we made those funds available to the tourist sector, because when the Democratic Labour Party was in power, the bank was bankrupt! Where was he when Bernstein lent all the money to Bath Plantation for the Democratic Labour Party and broke the bank? Where was he then? People in glass houses should not throw stones!

Applause.

Asides.

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

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

Hon. A. TRUSS: Sir, it is an absolute fact that the Chairman of the Barbados Development Bank Mr. Leon Bernstein, used his casting vote to vote money to buy Bath Plantation for the Democratic Labour Party, its cohorts and supporters, and broke the bank. That was in a World Bank report. And when we came into power in 1976, we did not have one "payme" to lend to the tourist sector. And they on that side have the audacity to ask us what we have done! I will tell you what we have done, Sir! We have gone back and written off International Seafoods. We had to write off Bath Plantation and take the licks in order to clean up the books and go back to the bank and say, 'Here, a clean bank statement!' and start fresh. That is what we did.

During the past three years, special resources of the Board of Tourism have been allocated to the marketing of

small hotels, in particular. Substantial resources have been allocated to the Board of Tourism and the Board of Tourism has, in turn, passed these on to the hotel sector. And they have the audacity to ask us what we have done! The Minister of Tourism in the Democratic Labour Party promoted his own hotel. This Minister of Tourism is promoting Barbados, and the previous Minister of Tourism under the Barbados Labour Party promoted Barbados.

(*Aside:* Hear, hear!)

Applause.

(*Aside:* Hon. L. S. CRAIG: You are now ready to go.)

Hon. A. TRUSS: I will tell you what else we did. There is a 12% tax on consumption that this Government took off of all shops in the country that sell duty free items, because we intended to make duty free shopping in this country more competitive than in other Caribbean countries. So we took off the 12% Consumption Tax as a rebate. We are now in the process of introducing a new duty free scheme, which will allow the average tourist to go into any store in Bridgetown, buy anything and be handed it over the counter — at duty free prices.

Aside.

Hon. A. TRUSS: Do not get me annoyed, man. I am going back to the environment because you all are getting me annoyed with tourism.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order.

Hon. A. TRUSS: He wants to know why we are more expensive than Antigua and St. Lucia. Only an idiot would ask such a question. I am not saying that he is an idiot, I said only an idiot would ask such question — the honourable Member for St. Philip North and the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central. Look how much we have in Barbados! A perfect infrastructure! We have an airport second to none in the Caribbean. We have a seaport second to none in the Caribbean. We have a good network of roads in Barbados, 1 200 miles of paved roads. The Minister of Transport and Works saw to that. We have highways — the Spring Garden, Speightstown By-pass and St. Barnabas — and soon the Airport to West Coast Highway. And you want to know why we are more expensive? I will tell you why we are more expensive! The infrastructure is there – that is why! Telecommunications — the best in the world! Pick up the telephone and call anywhere in the world! Call direct, call collect, without going through the operator! The banking system is second to none. We hold our heads high. In the transport system in relation to tourism, we have minibuses, Transport Board buses, coaches and now a limousine service coming in. Do you want to know why we are more expensive? Do you want more than that? We have nightclubs, restaurants, bars, rum shops, duty free shopping, supermarkets, good doctors, good dentists. Do you want to know why we are more expensive? I will tell you why we are more expensive. The infrastructure costs money. Now, we have TVs in buses! Big Nissan Datsuns are taxis! Mercedes 190 Es are taxis. When they were in power, people were driving about in a Morris Minor 1 000.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Hon. A. TRUSS: I am coming back for you.

Laughter.

Applause.

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

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Do not put the question yet. It is time for them to reply. Have you put the question already, Sir. Do do, man card is ready again!

Laughter.

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

Hon. L. CRAIG: Sir, before you put the question.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Head 43 stand part.....

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: No, Sir, before you put the question I was on my feet. And this is.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member for St. James North.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Yes. Sir, in the light of the speech made by my colleague, the Minister of Tourism, I can only commend him for all that he has said here this evening. It has been a speech well thought out and very well articulated, Sir, and I wish to congratulate him, and I am quite sure you will give him the opportunity to address the Chamber once again, Sir.

Rise!

Laughter.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Rise!

The question that Head 43 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

10.10 p.m.

HEAD 75 — CAPITAL — MINISTRY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS — $5 059 632

Head 75 — Ministry of Legal Affairs was called.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS (ST. Thomas): Mr. Chairman, we have got to go to 11.30 p.m. to make up the time.

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: No, no, the Clerk said 11.30 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very glad that I have the opportunity, albeit late in the evening, to deal with law and order matters.

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: No, no. I do not want the press for this.

Sir, Government has a view of law and order and a programme for the implementation of policies,.....

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS:.....I am not going to ask though. Wait a minute, Sir, just a minute, Sir,..... that will take us into the 21st century. If I may start and be relevant to the Head dealing with Capital, for the total Ministry, the first aspects of the Ministry's development programme that I wish to look at is, of course, the Police, Subhead 1 on Page 66. There is an explanatory note on the next page. What we have envisaged for the development of police stations in the next five years is a gradual improvement of the present physical structure and conditions of police stations to serve the country into the 21st century. The complex at Oistins is but an example, a prototype, of what we hope police stations or court complexes at the magisterial level will be like. I must confess that perhaps the development at Oistins has been a little overdone, but, broadly, what is presently at Oistins.....

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: We have to talk up the time to 11.30 p.m. We must go to 11.30 p.m.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I draw Your Honour's attention, Sir, that this House has no quorum, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let the bell ring.

The bell was rung and a quorum formed.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am going to write it in the record. Sir, as I was saying, the intention of Government in relation to the development of police stations and magisterial court complexes is to have the type of structure similar to that as we have at Oistins, so that there will be adequate provision for lawyers, clients, general public, prisoners, magistrates, and adequate provision for the police to live in at the police station when they have to. I am not planning to build a station that will accommodate all the police assigned to a particular district or station. I am not building a station that will have residential accommodation based on an Emergency. What will happen in the event of a hurricane or some similar disorder when we would have to call out all of the police, is — if it is an emergency, you take emergency action — you accommodate at a hotel or you bring in some mattresses and men will have to sleep on that.

The fact is that since there has been a reduction in the hours of duty served by policemen, there is not the same desire on the part of the policemen to spend all of their leisure time in a police station. Men have their families. They prefer to be in the company of their families or their love ones. They prefer certainly rather than stay in a police station to get a bus or use their own private transport and go some place. So that where I think Oistins may have overshot the mark, we are trying to find the happy medium that will allow us proper residential accommodation for police without being unnecessarily expansive in our concept and delivery of service.

In the financial year to come, Sir, a new police station will be built at the Glebe in St. George — some people call it the Charles Row Bridge — near to the old post office. Sir, I believe that is in your constituency and it should bring some development to that area. There was an old school there and we are incorporating in the design, which has been done by Athelstan King & Associates, part of the old school complex; building the new complex around that old school and incorporating such of the old school as can be used. That project will start later in the financial year after the necessary tendering processes have been gone through, and because it is a matter of public tender, Members will not expect me to give a hint to the potential tenders as to the cost. We have built in a considerable sum to take care of that. I must let the House know that the project will start in the calendar year 1986 and run into, and be completed in, calendar year, 1987.

The other major construction project that will start this year, and for which money is here being voted, Sir, is the Police Band headquarters. All Members will know that the police band is presently headquartered at Station Hill in a large house, a building that once was the residence of the Commissioner of Police in the colonial

days. That is coming down and a new complex will be built at District A for the police band, on a similar principle in terms of a residential accommodation. That is to say, we will not — I think there are 59 members of the band, I am subject to correction — have 59 living rooms or dormitories, but we will have enough space to accommodate more than two-thirds of the band if they have to live in.

We also have to recognise in the plan that it is a fact now that we have female members of the band and female apprentices, and we have to build the facilities in such a way as to separate the males from the females and make proper accommodation for males and females. The concept is to redevelop the present site and have it linked with District A next door, Sir, because there will be a connecting road from the present Police Band headquarters over to District A next door and there will be a large canteen providing common facilities for the officers at District "A" as well as the officers in the Band.
10.20 p.m.

It is important, I think, that the band should be properly accommodated. The Barbados Police Band has an outstanding record, particularly in terms of its contribution to tourism development. The band has been on tours to Scotland, England and the States. This year we have a problem — great demand is being made of the presence and participation of the band overseas in July and August this year. They are required in England for the Caribbean Focus programme, they are required in America — the city of Albany is having a celebration, they are required there — Germany is having something else and they are required there. The German leg and the leg to the USA will cross, so a decision will have to be made as to which of the two the band will attend, and we are trying to work in harmony with the Tourist Board — the Board of Tourism, I think they call themselves now — to see to what extent we can satisfy the demands of these overseas people who require the service of the band.

The band, I must say, has within the last few months made a long playing record, which should be on sale later on this year. The final rights are being worked out in regard to the royalties of that through a company called International Spotlight, which recorded the band in Barbados. That kind of activity can only serve to promote the band in Barbados even more than has been done in the past.

Sir, I mentioned two stations this year. As I say, the plan is to have all of our stations upgraded over a period of time. For the immediate future, having regard to what is provided for in the Development Plan 1983—88, land has been acquired at Welchman Hall for the erection of a police station and court complex there, and after the work has been completed at the Glebe in St. George, we will move to Welchman Hall. The candidate for the Democratic Labour Party in St. Thomas took issue recently at a public meeting with the plan to have a station set a Welchman Hall. He made his comments in ignorance of the Development Plan and certainly in greater ignorance of the logistics that should be required in relation to the siting of the police station.

I have, since I have been Attorney General, ensured that the facilities at District "D" Police Station at Rock Hall have been rehabilitated and upgraded, but the site at District "D" in Rock Hall is irrelevant to Barbados at this period of its development, and certainly irrelevant to Barbados in the 21st century.

(*Aside:* Mr. B. M. TAITT: You don't have any audience).

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I don't mind the audience, I am not talking to the audience, I am putting it in the record.

Honourable Members can easily conceive, as easily as the Cabinet was able to conceive, that, from a security point of view, District "D" Rock Hall is totally unsuitable to be a police station. If you block the entrance to District "D" Police Station you can maroon all the police in there, they cannot get out. Put a few petrol tankers across the road, light them and you have taken control of that police station. We are living in a world of increasing disorder, a world of rowdyism, hooliganism, terrorism, and one does not know to what extent terrorist activities will develop over time, and so the societal responses must take account of the potentiality for damage and destruction to our country. And so I want to move the police station from Rock Hall and site it at a point in St. Thomas where the police would be able to have proper access and egress from the station in such a way as to ensure the security of the forces of civil order and the policemen themselves.

Rock Hall may have sufficed in the days when we were a plantation economy, in the days when we were still colonials, but it will not suffice for the future. Anyone who has practised in the court at Rock Hall could not be satisfied with the accommodation for the lawyers, any one who has had to go there as a witness could not be satisfied with the facilities for witnesses. You have to stand out in the road, in the yard or up under a shed. It is not good enough, Sir. So Rock Hall does not harmonise with Government's thinking and concept for future development, and to that extent it will be closed as a police station in due course and a new one built.

I had better say at this stage, without going through Subheads 2 and 3 as they follow, that there is a corollary to that. If you close the station at Rock Hall, the query will come, what are you going to do with the building? I have another use for those buildings. I have another use for the police station as well as the Sergeants' quarters, which are

at the entrance to the gap, but a use that will harmonise with what I conceive as being the proper development of correctional services for Barbados.
10.30 p.m.

The time has come when we must think of a centre, an institution, that provides treatment for offenders between the ages of, say, 17 and 22. The time has come when we must provide facilities to deal with persons who are on remand, but whom we wish to protect from the possibility of contamination by admixture with seasoned criminals. We need to develop a series of remand centres — indeed, perhaps an attendance centre where young offenders can be given a short, sharp shock — and without knocking down District "D", I believe that set apart as it is from the hustle and bustle of a metropolitan area, District "D" Police Station can be reconverted for use as a remand centre. So that I wish to give the House the assurance that we have an alternative use, consistent with our policy for the development of correctional facilities, that could be made of District "D" Police Station as it presently is.

In addition to that, Sir, work will continue over a time on a number of police stations. But that is really a manifesto matter, and I would not necessarily go into that tonight. I will concentrate on what is happening in fiscal 1986 — 1987.

Sir, I turn to Vehicles, Plant and Equipment for the Police Force. I indicated two days ago that.....

Asides.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The police do not have batteries? If the police do not have batteries, that is not my fault. They have money. They even had enough money to agree to send some police officers to certain neighbouring islands. This afternoon I gave my approval to it, to look for the persons that took the boat "Fa Fa 2".

(*Aside:* So Hall is down there?)

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I do not know about Hall. You see, Sir, they are asking me operational matters and they well know, and the honourable Member for St. Michael West (Mr. B. M. Taitt) must know, that, constitutionally, I cannot interfere with the day-to-day operations of the police. He must know that at common law, since 1968, it has been made perfectly clear by the Court of Appeal in England that no member of the Executive can give instructions — 1968 Queen's Bench, Queen of Metropolitan Commissioner — can interfere with the Commissioner of Police in regard to operational matters, matters of a day-to-day basis, Blackburn v. Blackburn, which relate to a Police Force.

The Commissioner's hands are not tied, my hands are tied as a politician!

(*Aside:* Mr. B. M. TAITT: And properly so, too.)

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am glad that you have added that. "And properly so, too."

I am not here to respond to what my predecessors did — that was a matter for them — or did not do. But where a member of the Executive is responsible for the formulation of policy, after due consultation with those who have great expertise, such as a Commissioner of Police, where a member of the Executive is expected to provide with his colleagues the necessary money to run a Police Force, it is but right and axiomatic that the Executive should have a say in the formulation of policy. As required by the Constitution of Barbados, the Cabinet is the supreme body for the formulation of policy, and there shall be no quarrel by anyone, be he the Commissioner of Police or average citizens, if, in return, as a matter of policy for the provision of 1 200 men, as we shall shortly have, and the provision of equipment and vehicles within the financial competence as the supreme policy making body said, "Now, in return for that, I want you, as a matter of policy — I am not dictating the details — to concentrate on the areas of drugs, coastal patrol, and breaches of the Road Traffic Act." There can be no quarrel with that. Members must concede that it is the right of Cabinet to set the broad parameters in return for the money, the equipment and the human personnel that are given to the Force to perform its work of maintaining law and order in this country. So I do not think that there is any quarrel.

I know, certainly, there is no quarrel between myself and the Commissioner of Police in the light of that understanding of our respective roles. I cannot interfere and tell him go and arrest anybody, or go and search somebody's house, or, conversely, do not go and do it, because that is an operational matter entirely within his province. Similarly, if we vote money under the Head — Operating Expenses — they must know what are the items that are properly chargeable to Operating Expenses, and if they look at Appendix E, they will see there a description of the items that properly fall under Operating Expenses, supplies and materials, maintenance of property, and so on, and I believe they might find "batteries" under Operating Expenses. I am not here to teach or lecture, and I am sure the police know where they can draw money from for the purchase of necessary equipment.

Sir, we have done quite a bit in the last few months in terms of additional equipment, specialised equipment and vehicles for the Force. Soon after I became responsible for this Ministry, I saw to it that four Ford

Granadas were provided for the Force. We have, also, other bits of equipment which I do not want to go into the details of, because it is being used in very sensitive areas, but, so that people do not get the wrong idea, I had better say that it is being used specifically in the area of drugs. Honourable members will know that I came with a Resolution a few weeks ago, I think for $11 100. It did not seem like a lot, but it bought a lot of equipment, very sensitive, very small, very important equipment for the use by the Drug Squad. This year we are providing a number of additional vehicles, cars, Land Rovers, motorcycles, both heavy ones and the light motor cycles, to replace vehicles in the Force, and one or two will be new. But we have a problem. The country expects us to make Barbados a safe and secure society, and in pursuance of that expectation, it is necessary for us to have eight vehicles on the road 24 hours a day. That has implications particularly in terms of our fuel expenses, but it is a job that we have to do, and police vehicles are worked very hard indeed. I do not know if honourable Members realise that the average useful life of a police vehicle is two and a half years for a car.
10.40 p.m.

(*Aside:* Buy proper cars.)

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: It is not a question of buying proper cars. What kind of cars do you want me to buy? You have Subarus, you have Granadas, you have all kinds. You have gifts.

(*Aside:* What about Citroens?)

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I will investigate that. I am looking for suggestions for a car that is fuel efficient and a car that is durable, and a car that is, of course, speedy. I do not want any slow car.

(Aside: Buy Mercedes Benz.)

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: At what price to the Barbadian citizen? Every two and a half years we have to look to replace cars. The replacement problem is not due to negligence on the part of the police drivers.

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: But each one of us gets into an accident from time to time. Statistics show that each one of us is expected to have one accident every eight years. But it is just a sheer problem of work rather than any bad driving.

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: We know police vehicles get into accidents from time to time, but they are just like every other vehicle in the country.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. Honourable Members are interrupting the debate.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: So ever so often we will have to come here to replace police vehicles, particularly cars every two and a half years, and that is why you will see in Subhead 2 a vote for $200 000.

Aside.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please. We cannot have two debates going on at the same time. If honourable Members want to go into the Lobby and have a debate, do so, but let us carry on with the business.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Now before I finish on this Head I would wish to draw Honourable Members' attention to an item — it is a new item; it never happened before — at page 67, "Maintenance of Property". It is a new departure. You will see $1 million voted for maintenance of property, and I will tell you how that has come into the Estimates this year under Capital.

When I first went into the Ministry and was reviewing the state of play, I decided that the only way one could know about what was happening within the departments was not to rely on reports that would be sent up, pages of paper, but to go and see, and I did a tour of police stations, and I made comments in July and August as a result of my visits. Let us be frank. I am not hiding anything. Some of the conditions at Bridge and Harbour, for example, are awful. Some of the living conditions down in Central, in the barracks, are not reflecting 1986 standards. We have to provide the men with proper facilities.

I made a statement at District "A" about the state of repair of what is a comparatively new station, only to incur the wrath of Mr. Lennie St. Hill. I said that, as a result of my experience in private practice, seeing what had been promised to the courts, seeing what had been promised to police stations, to policemen everytime by MTW, the time had come if we wanted to do something about upgrading facilities in the courts and police stations and the Registry, the time had come for the Ministry itself to have a vote. If you were giving MTW $500 000, give it to the Ministry and let us direct what were our priorities and get the work done. So for the first time in the history of Government in Barbados, the Ministry of the Attorney General is now being given a separate vote of $1 million for the maintenance of its own property.

Have I run out of time?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Yes, you have.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I will come back if there are any questions.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Does any other honourable Member wish to make a contribution?

The Honourable Attorney General may wind up the debate if he wishes. You have 15 minutes in which to do it.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Now, Sir, this $1 million will be dealt with differently from, say, for example, the $1.5 million that has been voted to start work on District "B", the Glebe and the Police Band headquarters, in that I am committing $250 000 of this $1 million to the refurbishment of the Central Police Station. In the barracks in town, they have a problem down there. That is a great haven for the rats from Tudor Street, around the canteen and so on, and we are going to do rodent control down there to try as far as possible to ward off leptospirosis.

We are also going to fix the administration block. That will cause some dislocation, because I will say that the estimates that I got done for the work that is to be done at the Central Police Station administration block, not the whole thing, the administration block and the barracks, the quote is $250 000. It will mean that we have to relocate while that work is being done, the Commissioner, the Deputy Commissioner, the Assistant Commissioners of Police as well as the accounts personnel, the general administrative personnel and so on. We have to look for alternative space and we are looking at business places in Bridgetown for temporary shelter, if you like, pending the completion of the works, but I can promise honourable Members, and more particularly the police in this country and those who have to do business at District "A", that they will see substantial improvement to the central administration block and the barracks out of this $1 million that is voted.
10.50 p.m.

Included in the maintenance vote of $1 million is provision to do a number of other stations, maintenance, repairs to rooms, windows, put in proper toilet and bathroom facilities in the stations, things like that. We will be attacking virtually every police station, every one, in upgrading the maintenance in the coming year. We will also be doing necessary maintenance work at the Registry, and we will also be doing maintenance work at fire stations across the island. A lot of this work will be small contractor work, and I trust that a number of small contractors — carpenters, masons, plumbers, painters — will be able to get work and help us rehabilitate and refurbish buildings and property under the Ministry of the Attorney-General during the next financial year.

(*Aside:* Mr. B. M. TAITT: Who will be hiring them, the police?)

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sorry.

(*Aside:* Mr. B. M. TAITT: Who will be hiring them, the police?)

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: No. We will be doing the contracts in the Ministry. We will be doing a standard form type of contract in the Ministry and the ads will go out. Do not forget the Financial Rules. A lot of this is small work, $25 000 and that sort of thing. For work under $25 000, the Financial Rules provide that we can have quotations. Anything in excess of $50 000 must go to public tender.

(*Aside:* Mr. B. M. TAITT: What if the police would be handling it.)

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: No. You would see a sum if you look under Subhead 9, the first column, "Personal Emoluments $33 060" and then, "National Insurance Contributions 2 106 Transport Levy 78," and so on. I can explain this. That money is to cover the emoluments of a Buildings Officer. We will be advertising for a Buildings Officer, who will be attached to the Ministry, and will be responsible for preparing the contracts, assessing the tenders or quotations, advising the Ministry on the awards and, most particularly, supervising the execution of the work. So we will have a man in charge who will be a construction person. No materials will be bought by the Ministry as such. We are not geared for that, we are not getting into that, but the Buildings Officer will have to devise the sketch drawings for work to be done, if that is necessary, will do tenders where they become necessary, or will invite quotations and recommend an award of the works. We think that in this way, we will be able to give a speedier and more efficient service to persons connected to the Ministry of Legal Affairs.

So that is a major departure, as I say. It is the first time in the history of the administration of Government since Independence that we are not relying on MTW as an executing agency but rather the Ministry is assuming responsibility for the execution.....

(*Aside:* Dr. R. C. HAYNES: You are repeating yourself. Sit down!)

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS:.....of its own works. I really hope that this will relieve a lot of the cirticism that has built up over the years in respect of the amount of neglect of the courts, the Registry and so on.

I am one who is of the view that law and order in relation to a developing society, but more particularly in relation to a society whose economy is tourist oriented, are matters in themselves of a developmental nature. I believe, quite seriously, that if you do not have good law and order in Barbados, if our

systems of law and order are seen to be collapsing or unresponsive, ultimately you can affect adversely the very developmental thrust that you are seeking to achieve. Put quite simply, if we allow lawlessness, vandalism and offences against the person to be the norm in Barbados and do not respond, when the word gets abroad, as it got abroad in Jamaica, you will see the consequence in a fall-off of tourism when people assume, or are told, that Barbados is not any longer the same destination. So that law and order is seen too often in a very negative light, whereas I think it has positive contributions to make to development and is developmental in itself.

Is that the end of my 15 minutes, Sir? How many more do I have?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You still have three to four minutes more.

(*Aside:* Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: You are really watching time today.)

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I have eaten them already.

Sir, in relation to Prisons, I keep saying, and I hope I am not mistaken, that.....

(*Aside:* Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Four minutes can be a long time.)

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS:.....the work turned out at the prison, by the prisoners, of a capital nature is excellent.

(*Aside:* Mr. B. M. TAITT: All they want are some locks.)

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: They want some locks. You will see in Subhead 5 that we are completing a whole programme of refitting the cells with modern locks. We started in the last financial year and we will complete it. We have even gone further. We have been able, I am proud to say on behalf of Barbados, as part of technical assistance to send the Superintendent of Prisons to Antigua to assist them. He just came back over the weekend. He has been there and done a report for the Antiguan Government, made recommendations which the Antiguan Government has started to implement, and I have to send the officer at the prison responsible for electrical work to do some electrical installation for them in Antigua. We are co-operating in this area. We know what is happening in Grenada — Mr. Maloney has been sent down and is doing a good job — and we are co-operating with Antigua and giving them the benefit of our experience.

Now one very important thing has happened at the prison recently, that is,.....

(*Aside:* Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Two men escaped.)

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS:.....Rough Rough and Murdock gone. Do not mind Rough Rough and Murdock. You will always get escapees from time to time. We will find them, Sir.

I am trying to segregate persons who are committed and convicted for criminal offences from those who are more unfortunate than wicked and who are unable to satisfy civil debts and are in prison from time to time for non payment of debt. I would like to see the day when imprisonment for civil debt is a thing of the past and we find a different way of dealing with that. I am looking at the report by Mr. Justice Payne of England, done some years ago, to see what out of that report I can adapt for Barbados. But at the moment we have been able to construct a separate wing, if you like, for persons who are there because they have not paid their debt, maintenance, or whatever, and keep them separate and distinct from persons who are there for punishment as a result of conviction of criminal offense.
11.00 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I do not have enough time.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is that Head.....

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Sir, before you put the question.....

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: As I was saying, Mr. Chairman.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I cannot have two honourable Members on their feet. I will hear the honourable Member for Christ Church West.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I will speak next time.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Okay, the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I think that I will take this opportunity to state the position of the Democratic Labour Party in relation to certain matters which fall under this Head. Firstly, Sir, the Democratic Labour Party has been deeply disturbed over the

escalation in crime, particularly crimes against the person, which has taken place in Barbados over the years, and is determined to put every possible resource behind the Royal Barbados Police Force to ensure that this development is not only contained, but that there will be a significant reduction in the levels of crime in Barbados. And I speak not only of crimes against the tourists but, equally important, also crimes against Barbadians. That is the first point I wish to make.

The Democratic Labour Party, Sir, is also very concerned and very upset over the conditioins in which many of our young police officers have had to work over the years, when large sums of money have been allocated to another part of the law and order maintenance section in this society. I refer to the Defence Force. We feel that there has been an unfair distribution of those resources and that more and more money should be put behind the Police Force. We think, Sir, that it is quite wrong to recruit young men to the Force and then force them to live under virtually subhuman conditions in many of the police stations. Indeed, I am pleased that, for the first time, I have heard an admission from the other side that conditions in many of these police stations are indeed very bad.

The Democratic Labour Party is also committed to the concept of a new Police Headquarters, but is concerned over the proposed site of location in the Wildey-Pine area as was suggested on the floor of this House in the past. We feel, Sir, that there are alternatives where this could be achieved with much lower expenditures. For example, there is ample opportunity for the refurbishing of a building in the region of the Garrison area which can be used. The Defence Force is claiming that, but the police can also have a claim to that, and refurbishing that will be a lot cheaper than building a new headquarters. We also feel that the existing police buildings in Bridgetown, of course, will have to be maintained and upgraded, because it is important to remember that in another Caribbean territory, I believe it is in Antigua, you have a situation where you have separate Police Headquarters. They have a large Police Force in the city but near to that you have the Police Headquarters, which is largely an administrative unit. I understand that conditions in relation to the CID, for example, in the police station in Bridgetown are pretty bad, and I think that needs to be expanded and better facilities made available to the officers in the CID Department.

Sir, there are many other things I want to talk about. It seems to me that there is a need for some care to be exercised with the use of expensive equipment. I gather these walkie-talkies that police officers use cost something like $2 000 or something in that region — the expensive ones, the good ones, cost about $2 000 or near there — and from time to time you see that police officers are forced to go out with these walkie-talkies in their hands, and if they have to arrest somebody, quite clearly the walkie-talkies are going to drop. Now when I see police officers elsewhere, say, the United Kingdom, with their walkie-talkies, they usually have them with a strap and their hands are free, and you are talking now about quite expensive equipment.

Of course, I think it is important that there should be an adequate supply of batteries. On the last occasion we had to complain bitterly on the floor of this House to get some batteries for the police. They got the batteries. It is my understanding that they are running low in batteries again.

(Aside: Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: That is not true.)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: That is my understanding, that they are running low in batteries again.

There can be no doubt that there is also a need for a public relations effort by the Police Force in critical areas. I think they have played an important role with their limited resources in trying to educate people in matters such as drug abuse. But I am not satisfied to this day that enough resources have been put behind the Police Force in fighting the problem of drug trafficking in Barbados. Until we can deal with this question, Sir, of patrolling the airport and patrolling our harbours, we will never be able to lick that problem.

We do not grow drugs in Barbados, they are imported into this country, and something has got to be done about it. I think there has got to be a joint effort between the Police Force and the Coast Guard, and I believe that you may need more units to operate in the surveillance of the coastal waters. There are many little harbours around Barbados where small boats can come in, and even if you have covered the Bridgetown Harbour, there are many, many other points in Barbados where people can bring drugs into this country and they need to be under constant surveillance. You need the combined resources of the Royal Barbados Police Force and the Coast Guard working in unison to deal with this particular problem.

11.10 p.m.

Now, Sir, there may be a case — I say there may be a case — that the most economic way to do this is by regular aerial surveillance of the coastline of Barbados. I would not go beyond that, because the implications are very serious in many ways, but it is a very expensive business, with the present vessels available to us, to keep them going around Barbados keeping those harbours under surveillance and there may be a more economic route to do this. But whatever the mechanism, the Democratic Labour Party will be giving the highest priority to the question of the control of drug trafficking in this country

and preventing any further use of Barbados as a port for the transhipment of illegal drugs. This is a very important commitment that we have made to this country down the years, and whatever resources are necessary to deal with this cancer that has developed in this society will be made available, because all your other efforts, Sir, in law and order can be easily undermined if you do not deal up front with this question of illegal drugs in the society.

I believe in the past that there have been drug squads. I do not want to say too much in this area. I believe that at the operational level there have been many many problems which they have faced and I do not think that they have ever had the full assurance, the police have ever had the full assurance, that this particular Administration would give them the kind of backing that they wanted. It is my understanding that many people who were assigned to the Drug Squad opted to leave the squad for fear of their lives and for other reasons. This is in the past. I do not know who are the present members of this Drug Squad, and I do not want to know.

(*Aside:* Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The same one who opted to leave was brought back in September).

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I don't know who are the present members, but what I do know is that persons have left because they were fearful for their lives. I will say no more on that matter, for obvious reasons. I believe, Sir, that if there is a perception by the police that all responsible for law and order were all working in unison and committed to the eradication of drug trafficking in Barbados, you will find people working with greater confidence within that Drug Squad, which is vital if we are going to be able to deal with this problem, because it requires special skills, it requires special training and it requires a knowledge of what is going on, and you really need a highly specialised unit to be dealing with this particular problem.

I am also concerned about one or two other matters, Sir, and I wonder when the Minister speaks whether he can tell us what are his proposals in respect of what he considers to be a reasonable establishment for the Police Force of Barbados. There has been a considerable division of opinion within the Barbados Labour Party, as we all know, as to what would constitute an optimum level of manpower for the Police Force. We on this side were guided by the professional opinion of the Commissioner of Police rather than by the opinion of the politicians on that other side, and on the floor of this House there was a clear difference of opinion. Eventually I think it was settled that, generally speaking, the Commissioner of Police was correct in his assessment of the manpower needs of the Force.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE (Christ Church West): Mr. Chairman, I welcome the opportunity to speak under this Head, and in the limited time available tonight I wish to respond to a few of the misconceptions of the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central.

The honourable Member complains of conditions under which the Police Force works and said it was the first time he has heard it admitted from a Member on this side that some of the conditions are bad. The honourable Member came into this House rather late, so I would probably excuse his *faux pas* on that ground, but I will remind the honourable Member that when we assumed the Government in 1976, on my first tour of duty as Minister with responsibility for the Police, I drew to the attention of the public that the police at Police Headquarters were sleeping on their kits because there were no adequate facilities for cots and beds on which they could sleep.

The honourable Member should know that the Royal Barbados Police Force, for the 15 years during which the Democratic Labour Party was in power, had frequently drawn to the attention of the party the absence of adequate living conditions for them, particularly those people who had to be on duty for 12 to 24 hours. During the regime of the Democratic Labour Party no new police stations were built and the maintenance of police stations left much to be desired. The last police station built before the Democratic Labour Party came into power was built by the Barbados Labour Party; it was the Hastings Police Station. Since then there has been one major piece of work carried out at Oistins, where there is a model police station, one that is going to be repeated in the other areas, planned under the Government's development programme, and we have also rescued the work that was so badly carried out at District "A" Police Station.

The Democratic Labour Party has a lousy record in looking after the physical conditions of the Royal Barbados Police Force, and only for the purpose of an electoral exercise they are mouthing statements in which they do not believe, and which they have no intention whatsoever of fulfilling, if one looks at their track record. I have already drawn to the attention of this House, in 1977, when it comes now to the wages conditions for the members of the Royal Barbados Police Force, where the Right Honourable Member for St. John on the file dealing with the duty allowance to be paid to policemen who were working extraordinary hours, sometimes 88 hours, made a note saying to the Chief Establishments Officer to tell them something but do everything not to pay them duty allowance. That is in the records of this House. Do not let the honourable Member, for the purpose of the Press and the public, give the impression that the Democratic Labour Party has any special concern for the Royal

Barbados Police Force. The facts do not bear them out on this.

The honourable Member talks about a new Police Headquarters. For several years the police have been calling for a new headquarters and the Democratic Labour Party were saying that they could not build it from surplus. When we came into power, we started to look at establishing new police stations — and you will see it in the Government's five year programme — and also constructing a new headquarters, and in addition upgrading the facilities at Eric Park, at Station Hill for a new auditorium and music hall for the Police Band.
11.20 p.m.

We approach the British Government for assistance with the new headquarters, and we had professional advice on the location of the headquarters, including the professional advice of the Royal Barbados Police Force, from its head right down to the members of the Association, and the best opinion given to us was that Wildey would be the ideal place for it, bearing in mind certain security considerations, of which the honourable Member obviously has no knowledge, and I am not going to — although I am not in the Cabinet — disclose security matters. But he talks glibly and lightly about the Democratic Labour Party has reservations on the point — based on foolishness, without a proper consideration of the matters which you would take account of in locating a headquarters!

I will give him one which should be an open secret. Anybody knowing the present headquarters, having the traffic congestion which exists in Bridgetown, would realize the problem posed for the Royal Barbados Police Force in case of a riot taking place, and it is basic common sense security to move your Police Headquarters out of a congested area to give certain freedom of movement to the police in terms of emergency, particularly where you may have one force engaged in action. You must know that. The honourable Member has given no study to this subject, and really should shut up when it comes to talking about the police. Instead of going about just accusing people of being connected with drugs and a lot of foolishness, he should give some decent study to what is happening about the Royal Barbados Police Force.

I am not giving way, so do not get up.

When it comes to a headquarters, we have advanced the plans to the stage that the Government has had proper advice from an expert in the Home Office in London, given under the British Development and Technical Assistance, and a proper architectural brief has been prepared, based on the best advice available to us, and it is intended, Government's finances permitting, to construct a model Police Headquarters up at Wildey, not only having access to major areas of security, but being near to the major television station in this country.

The honourable Member must know also.....

Asides.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: We will show him the reports that were done. Do you think we worked up there and just sat down and twiddle our thumbs. If the honourable Member used to understand how Ministers work.....

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: If it is a point of explanation I am not giving away.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: You have to give way if I rise on a point of order. Just sit down and behave yourself.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: It had better be a point of order, otherwise you will hear how I deal with your fraudulent points of order.

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

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that you report progress to His Honour the Speaker and ask for leave to sit again.

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

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until 11.00 a.m. Friday, March 21, 1986.

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

The question that the House stand suspended until 11:00 hours on Friday, March 21, 1986 was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the House accordingly.
11.25 p.m.

ON RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed.

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

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: (Christ Church West): Mr. Chairman, when the House adjourned in Committee of Supply last night, I had not concluded my speech, as you will recall. I would wish, with your leave and the Committee's, to continue.

Mr. Chairman, I was making the point, and I hope I made it very clearly last night, that the contention of the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central (Dr. R. C. Haynes) that the police were living in subhuman conditions at this time could not really be borne out when one compared the conditions that existed prior to 1976 with the current conditions as exist today. I went on to show that since 1976 the Government has had a clear programme for the physical improvement of conditions for the police and for other improvements as well.

I refer to the Barbados Development Plan 1979 – 1983, and I read, Sir, from the passage beginning at 164:

> "The maintenance of law and order is one of the primary functions of a Government. In Barbados where there is a continuing need to attract investment capital both in the manufacturing and tourism sectors which are vital to the economy, it is essential that the crime rate be kept to a minimum. The existing facilities at the various courts have remained unchanged."

That dealt with the courts, Sir, and then it goes on to deal with the position on the police at page 165.

The Government made it quite clear that, during the Plan period, it would increase the police establishment in a phased programme. That commitment has been fully carried out. We established a high-powered committee under the chairmanship of a person from one of the leading police establishments in England, and he carried out a rather detailed survey of the manpower needs of the Police Force after full consultation with the Commissioner of Police and the Police Association. Towards that end, the Government has built up the Force's establishment to 1 200 men whilst proceeding with relieving the Force from serving other needs as well. So it is nothing but wicked to give the impression that the Police Force has not had increased manpower and facilities, whereas money has been spent elaborately on the position of the Barbados Defence Force. I thought that that myth had been exposed a long time ago, other than to hear the Member for St. Michael South Central still giving vent to these views which are not founded on fact.

We may argue about whether the optimum number for the Force should be 1 200 or 1 500, but I believe that one of the recommendations is that we can go on to a reserve Police Force for the second phase of our plan, and the honourable Member ought to be aware that steps are being taken to look at these areas. In addition, I must emphasise that a lot of the duties that formerly fell on policemen from weights and measures duties to duties connected with car parks, duties connected as well with the inspection of vehicles, these duties and more have been taken from the police in order to make more manpower available for strictly police duties. The Government has also during that period provided the police with additional equipment and additional financial resources to aid them in the execution of their duties.

When I took over responsibility for the Force in 1976, the Force had something like 26 walkie-talkies, whereas anybody who knows anything about policing will tell you that at least one-third of the Force should be provided with walkie-talkies. You must recall that the Democratic Labour Party had discontinued providing the police with police dogs. They made an issue of that in 1961 when they ran the country telling people that the Barbados Labour Party in those days were feeding police dogs and had bought the dogs to go against black people. They did not have any clue that police dogs are very vital in the detection of crime, and I would hope that the Minister, before he finishes his reply, will deal with the Government's proposals for increasing the number of dogs available to the Police Force, to assist particularly in the detection of drugs and other breaches of the customs law at the airport and at the seaport.

We have done all this, Sir, on a proper phased programme, treating the Police Force as the primary force for the maintenance of internal law and order. Never has it been part of the Government's contemplation that the Defence Force should replace the Police Force, and the Government has not shown, as the honourable Member contended last night, any preference for the Defence Force over the Police Force.

Now, Sir, new police stations. In the Plan period of 1979–83 we had hoped to construct a new station at Oistins, Christ Church; one at Welchman Hall, St. Thomas and another at Charles Rowe Bridge. We had constructed the station at Oistins and the plans, as the honourable Member for St. Thomas has said, for the

Welchman Hall Station are well advanced, and so, too, are the plans for the construction of a police station at the Valley, St. George rather than at the Charles Rowe Bridge location. Work has been done on other stations, including District A.

Sir, if you look at the successor Development Plan, 1983—88, you will see reference being made to the proposal for the construction of a Police Headquarters. At page 183, Sir:

> "During the Plan period it is proposed to construct two new police stations, a police complex and to complete work started on some existing stations during the last Plan period. Construction of a new police complex at Wildey, St. Michael is expected to begin early in the Plan period. The complex will provide accommodation for the Regional Police Training Centre, the Barbados Police Headquarters, a forensic service lab and a district police station."

The Government has proper planning techniques to deal with the problem of law and order, and there has been more done besides physical planning for the Force. The statistics will reveal that during the last ten years the Force has been provided with expanded training opportunities, locally, regionally and overseas. It is a fact that we carried out negotiations with the British Government principally, the Canadian Government, including the RCMP and the Royal Ontario Police Force, for additional training opportunities to be provided for officers and regulars to go overseas for training that was not otherwise available here, and an increased number of policemen has been trained overseas. We have also upgraded the training facilities at the Regional Police Training College, so that today we are running courses for Station Sergeants and Inspectors on a regular basis, with the assistance of the British Government and the assistance of other friendly Police Forces in the area. In the area of drug detection, policemen have been sent abroad to the United States and other areas for improved training in this field.

I think that if you review the record of the Barbados Labour Party Government in the area of law and order, and particularly as it affects the policemen, you will find that we have done more in the short period of ten years for the Police Force than the Democratic Labour Party did in its 15 years in power. That is a fact, Sir. The facts bear this out. I carried the responsibility for five years and I knew what were the needs of the Police Force and I went about systematically, subject to the provision of funds where the Government had any, making sure that the basic foundation has been laid. That foundation has been consistently built on by the Barbados Labour Party, and we will continue that programme in the next five years of the Barbados Labour Party Government between 1986 and 1991, so the public of Barbados, and more specifically the Barbados Police Force, can feel satisfied that their needs have been and are being attended to adequately.

The honourable Member was critical in some sense about the public relations efforts of the police in critical areas. I believe the AG will reply to this, but it was for the first time, under the Barbados Labour Party Administration, that any policeman was trained in mass communications. I insisted that the police should not only rely on the Government Information Service, but, because of the peculiar needs of the police to relate to the public, should have a unit at Police Headquarters to deal with the public relations aspect of law and order within the community. Inspector Longe — I think he has now probably been promoted — was perhaps the first policeman who was exposed to training in this field. Since then, other policemen have been sent, and you will see frequently on television and hear on the radio the police programme dealing with the public relations aspect of policing.

11.10 a.m.

When it comes to the area of drugs, the honourable Member says that there should be more public relations done by the Police Force in the area of drugs. What more is he asking them to do? The police are out in the forefront every week lecturing at our schools, lecturing to youth groups, making themselves available to the church groups, giving them information on the drug problem, and trying to education the public against the worst aspects of drug trafficking, which is now becoming a problem not only for our countries in the Caribbean, but for the world at large.

The Democratic Labour Party would have people believe that the drug problem confronts Barbados alone, or that Barbados can be sanitized from outside influence completely. What we can do is to seek to control those influences, and the programme of the Police Force has been directed, with some considerable success, towards that end. So I cannot really accept the contention of the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central on this point at all, and I believe that the case which he sought to make out is based, as most of his contentions are based — not on fact — on an infactual basis and an absence of proper analytical faculties.

I wish to commend the Government for the continuing enlightening programme which it has adopted towards the question of law and order in our society, and I trust that you will hear the last of the argument that the Government is showing a preference in its provision for Defence and Security, as against internal security forces. Before, Members would make a big song and dance that the Defence Force was turning up in areas where they should not. What they did not recognize is that very often, when it was necessary, the police were the people who

would ask for Defence Force assistance in certain areas. I recall an incident involving a Bridgetown fire, in which the then Commissioner of Police, Mr. Prescod, requested the presence of the Defence Force to assist in the control of the crowd at a time when the police resources were being pushed to the ultimate. I recall, also, a request, both from the Sugar Producers as well as from the police, for the Defence Force assistance in relation to the plethora of cane fires which we have had from time to time, and I recall, also, a request from the police for Defence Force assistance relating to the surveillance of the hilly areas and gullies of Barbados in order to detect places where people might be growing marijuana or harbouring other criminals.

The forces have learnt to work together, conjointly, in the interest of maintaining security in Barbados. And make no mistake about it, Sir, I want to explode once and for all the myth that there is an area in which security is exclusive, because internal security can have external aspects, as well as external threats can have internal aspects, and there is always a need for both forces to work in harmony together. I am satisfied, from everything I have seen in our community, that we have learnt here how to maintain successfully the integration of the two forces that have primary responsibility for maintaining law and order. I am also satisfied, Sir, that the civil arm of the Government has learned successfully to control the forces adequately and within the bounds of the Constitution of Barbados.

I was very pleased that the honourable Member for St. Thomas, the Attorney General, made reference in his speech to a Privy Council decision in England setting out the limits under which a Minister may intervene in the day-to-day work of the police. This matter arose, I remember, at the time of the Victor "Pele" Parris enquiry. There were those on the other side who would have wished me, as the Attorney General, to intervene in the day-to-day investigation of the crime, and I had to stand firmly not only against them, but against any other person on this particular issue and make my position very clear. I remember being attacked from the platforms on this issue, even being slandered by one of my colleagues at the Bar, whom I forgave for his indiscretion, as he has subsequently apologised to me privately on the matter. I think that there must be people in this community who are prepared to take the heat of public criticism on principle, and I am satisfied that the convention which was established in 1978, I think it was, at the time of the Victor "Pele" Parris issue, was a correct convention, and I am happy to hear the Honourable Attorney General also continuing to stand up for the principle of that convention.

There must be a check on how far a politician can give a direction to a police officer in the day-to-day execution of his duty. It would be contrary to all the democratic principles for which we stand when Attorneys General would be able to direct the police to go and arrest or lay a warrant against a particular person. Today it would start with Mr. X, and tomorrow it would end at Mrs. Y, and all of the democratic institutions which we have built up so laboriously and so assiduously over 300 years could come tumbling down. That is why I feel extremely satisfied, even looking back in retrospect, that the decisions taken then for that principle was the correct decision, and it was one in keeping with the character of people from the Barbados Labour Party. Even when popular opinion might, misguidedly, suggest otherwise, we must have the courage of our convictions to stand up in the public, and stand up here in this House, for principle, even if it means losing popular support in the effort of so doing.

I am satisfied, Sir, that the Barbados Labour Party's record in the field of law and order is one of which it can be proud. It has no apologies to make. It has understood the problems, it has analysed them, it has used the resources available to it to assist in alleviating those problems, and I trust that, in the next five years, it would have an opportunity to continue to carry on the work in this field.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Attorney General may wish to wind up at this point.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I am grateful to the honourable Member for Christ Church West, and former Attorney General, for making a number of points in retaliation to comments made by the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central last night. But, as usual, that Member makes his wild assertions and departs. He does not come back to hear the answers.

I want to deal first with some of the matters raised by the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central. He made a statement that the Democratic Labour Party is concerned about the escalation of crimes of violence against the person, and is prepared to put every resource against the crime. Lovely general language, no specifics! And what are the facts, Sir? That up to November 1985 the incidence of violent crimes had shown a decrease by at least six per cent, and that is a consequence, no doubt, of increased policing and surveillance by the Royal Barbados Police Force, particularly after September when we started to increase the establishment of the Force.
11.20 a.m.

I had better say at this stage that the honourable Member had asked last night what did I see as a reasonable establishment for the Force. It is not what I see as a reasonable establishment for the Force, it is what those engaged in policing and who have greater expertise in police matters than myself can see as an adequate minimum number of men and women for the Force, and

that number has been set by the Commissioner of Police at 1 200. By the end of April we should have achieved that minimum satisfactory level of 1 200. Right now people are doing examinations with a view to recruitment in April. We recruited some in September, I think it was, some towards the end of last year, around 18th December, and we are recruiting again the final intake in April. We have not only recruited them, we have deployed them in specific areas of concern, and some of the recruits have been doing surveillance on beaches with a view to the eradication of the drug menace and we are seeing some results. We are seeing results which the Press in this country refuse to recognise. It is really shattering to the morale of the Police Force to read that harassment on beaches and the drug trafficking on beaches.....

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I was getting the score, Sir. Fifty for one.

It is disheartening to see that the efforts of the police in reducing the trafficking of drugs on the beaches are not being recognised. What we have found, particularly since December, is that there is no longer so much traffic in drugs on the beaches themselves because of the police presence. They are moving from the beaches elsewhere, and the traffickers are making contact with people in the street, on the way to the beach or leaving it, and as we recognise the problem, we are cracking down on it. I explained last night that we have eight cars on a 24-hour patrol throughout this country.

It amazes me to hear from the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central how many things the Democratic Labour Party will do for the police. They are committed, he said, to a site for a new complex, but not Wildey. He cannot tell you where they want to build a new complex. We have identified a site and as soon as there is an availability of funds, the construction will start. There has been a token vote put in to allow the preparatory design work to be done by MTW architectural department.

When you look at page 9 of the Estimates, the statement of current expenditure for the ten year period 1975–76 – 1984–85, you will see in a stark comparative way the difference between what was doing when the DLP was in power for the police and what we are doing. In ten years, current expenditure for the police has moved from $6.6 million to this year, $30 million, last year $24.2 million, a 400 per cent increase in current expenditure from $6 million to $24 million. I do not have to say anything more. That tells its own story. Do you know why? Because when the DLP was in power the establishment of the Force was 850. With a reduction, if you like, or movement out of the Force of police personnel into Immigration, into Licensing — at least they are not in court processing anymore, a few of them have joined, but the balance are not in court processing, you might have six or seven — we have moved out police and deployed them in other areas, made new departments — we have increased the establishment by 350 and still have been able to multiply the expenditure four times in ten years.

Members on the other side will be familiar with a blue and white document that the DLP put out towards the end of last year, "Thirty Years and Beyond", and it amazes me to hear them and their colleagues on political platforms talking about the police and drugs and so on, law and order, and when you look through the 40 or 50 pages of that document, there is not one word of their record in relation to law and order for the 15 years that they were in power, and not one word about what they intend to do beyond. It reminds me of the same document and the contribution to women's affairs, a half page, and do you know what they say about women? That they are waiting until after the conference in Kenya to put up ideas for ameliorating women's position in this country. Not a clue, not an idea, they can think up. They have to wait until 10 000 women meet in Kenya to come up with an idea. So that their strictures about law and order ring very hollow indeed.

Now the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central said there is need for strong public relations efforts in critical areas, and in relation to drugs there should be a co-operative effort between the police and the Coast Guard. Well, there is a co-operative effort between the police and the Coast Guard. It is not done everyday, you cannot be so silly as to do it everyday, but on an organised basis the police and the Coast Guard do co-operate with a view to stamping out the trafficking not only in drugs but in contraband.

Members on the other side, particularly the honourable Member for St. Michael South, ought to know that a boat owned by one of his good, good friends....

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am only stating a fact. I am not commenting. I am only saying that a boat was escorted into Barbados with loads of liquor, television sets, and all kinds of goods. That is one of the results of the co-operative effort.

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Get me vex and I will tell you a lot more, too!

Sir, in relation to drugs, the honourable Member told two...

11.30 a.m.

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

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, he made two statements for which there was no factual basis. People who have to fight the menace of drugs at all levels receive threats. It has not been drawn to my attention that anybody has left the Drug Squad because he was fearful of his life. There may have been a time when there was a change in personnel in the Drug Squad, as there has to be from time to time. But the head of the Drug Squad now is the same person who was the head of the Drug Squad last year when I took office. And it is not true, Sir, to suggest that the police have never had assurances that this Administration would give them backing. That cannot be true. Right now, the head of the Drug Squad is away attending an international conference. There are two other officers also: he is in Spain, the other two are going to the States.

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: No, no, no. I am putting it in the record. I am not stopping.

This is in pursuance of a policy that we expose the members of the Drug Squad to the latest information and techniques for coping with the drug problem that are available not only in the region but in the wider world. And, in pursuance of that, officers attend courses in Miami and Puerto Rico, in England and in Canada. They never had any police dogs when they were in power. They wanted to weed them out. We have three now and we are getting another four, and we have two policemen going on training in May specifically to work with dogs.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Two minutes more.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: All of these are supportive efforts on the part of the police and on the part of the Government, which is making the money available to assist in the fight against drugs.

Sir, there was a complaint by the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central that there are no batteries. That is not true.

He is asking for belts for walkie-talkies so that the men do not have to hold the walkie-talkies in their hands and arrest the person at the same time. One thousand dollars is in the Estimates this year to hook up the walkie-talkies.

I think I have dealt with all the matters raised, except one, Sir. The honourable Member mentioned unfair distribution of resources *vis-a-vis* the Defence Force.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: One minute more.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Thank you, Sir.

That is not reflected in the Estimates. It is certainly not the policy. Because the Defence Force has been a comparatively new development, it has had to be equipped at a faster rate than the Police Force, whose existence has been longer but if one looks at what is being spent on current account as well as on capital account, and what is projected and will be done, there can be no complaint.

I just wish to say, finally, Sir, that the police and the Defence Force have collaborated. From time to time, honourable Members will recall a photograph of members of the Defence Force in the St. Andrew, Boscobelle area, combing gullies looking for marijuana with police personnel.

(*Aside:* Mr. B. M. TAITT: I wish they could find all.)

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Ask about that. You have your chance to talk.

The question that Head 75, as amended, stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 35 — FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE — CURRENT — $9 841 395

Head 35 — Foreign Affairs and International Trade — was called.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I beg to move, Sir, that this Head stand part. Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

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

(*Aside:* Mr. B. M. TAITT: Which Head, Sir?)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Page 86. Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

The question that Head 35 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 77 — FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE — CAPITAL — $730 000

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN (Christ Church East Central): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am a little bit surprised that with all of the issues relating to foreign trade, CARICOM, the CBI, CARICAN, the Mustique Meeting, all of these major developments that took place over the last year in which Barbados played a prominent part that there was such unanimity in the community, the honourable Members on the other side have decided in their minds

that so successful has the Government performed this part of its role that they were going to allow this to pass without comment.

(Aside: Mr. B. M. TAITT: Waste of comment.)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Well I am happy, Sir. All I would do, Sir, is to lay on the Table of the House, the latest statistics that we have in relation to trade, and they are the official statistics from January to November and the comparative table between 1984 and 1985. I have already said, Sir, that by the time the Budget is delivered, we hope to have all of the statistics in for the full calendar year, and part of the preliminary data for the last quarter of the fiscal year, that is, 1st April, 1985 to 31st March, 1986.

I am hoping that the international community will be able to respond in 1986 to the stimulus which a permanent reduction of the price of oil will give to trade. I trust that there will be a reverse of what occurred when the price of oil increased in the 1970s and early 1980s, where it is now almost provable that the developing countries, the Third World countries, bore the brunt of the cost of the developed countries adjusting their economy to the increase in the price of oil and in the reduction in the price of commodities. I also hope that the activities of the protectionist elements will be abated not only in the developed world, but also in respect of those who espouse the same philosophy within CARICOM.
11.40 a.m.

It is interesting to see what has happened in view of current dialogue that is going on with CARICOM trade, and I will say, Sir, that Barbados' trade with CARICOM dropped in 1985. Our exports were $64 million approximately, domestic exports not including re-exports, $64 761 342 as opposed to $92 225 890 in 1984. The rest of the Caribbean, Trinidad and Tobago, in particular, was able to continue to increase their exports to Barbados. The total imports in 1985 from CARICOM countries were $150 million approximately in 1985 as opposed to $141 million in 1984.

I am also going to make another point, and it is in relation to that special relationship in trade which seems to exist in the CARICOM between those who believe in unrestricted trade, or the conduct of trade with the minimum of restrictions, namely Barbados and the Windwards and Leewards. In those areas our exports feared better in that we exported in 1985 $23 million to the OECS, or LDC, as they are called, in 1985 and $20 million in 1984, which is in stark contrast to our position with the MDCs, where our domestic exports in 1985 to all the MDCs were $40 million as opposed to $72 million in 1984.

Now Trinidad and Tobago that is topical. Our exports in 1984 were $60 million; in 1985, $31 million, a drop of nearly 50%, a totally unsatisfactory situation. Our state of dissatisfaction has been communicated, because we believe that is partially due, and I stress the word partially, to the protectionist policies adopted in that country and the bureaucratic red tape that has been introduced in that country, and our representations have been made very clear about that part of the reduction. The other part of the reduction is due to the general economic downturn arising from the lack of buoyancy in the current economy of Trinidad and Tobago. But the Government has not adopted a policy of standing still. Vigorous efforts have been made to exploit other markets, and, in particular, tremendous energy, time and money are being devoted to the exploitation of markets in the Caribbean, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guadeloupe, and Martinique with some success, too. That is in addition to our efforts to improve our trade with Canada, the United States and the EEC.

I will have these documents photostatted and made documents of the House, as is customary. When we are talking on these things, we should talk against a background of the facts, not imagination, not conjecture. The straight facts, let them speak for themselves!

We are encouraged by the fact that more and more of the countries have decided to honour their commitments in respect of Nassau Understanding and in respect of what I like to call the Port-of-Spain Agricultural Protocol. That is the one under which we have replaced, in respect of 45 items approximately, the old state board marketing protocol with a new one. We have talked about this a million times. The laws which implement it have come before Parliament. The new increased custom tariffs *vis-a-vis* external goods in relation to these 45 commodities have all come before Parliament, and I am pleased to say that more and more Governments in the Caribbean are understanding the intimate relationship which exists between this common external policy and a protectionist mechanism, and the achievement within the CARICOM of a laudable objective of increasing our production to replace that proportion of our imports that can be replaced. All of that is taking place.

That is a really fair survey of the international trade section. There has not been any major political development, Sir, that has excited the Opposition, otherwise they would have talked. I will give them full opportunity, now that they have caught their wind, Sir, to see what contributions they are going to make.
11.50 a.m.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD (St. Michael South): Mr. Chairman, I wish to make a few observations on this Head of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

(Aside: Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sandy, you don't even know the subject area.)

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: It wasn't called, for a start. I want, first of all, to make the observation that the economic plight in which Barbados finds itself, and the other countries of the world find themselves, require that emphasis should be placed on maximising the benefits from exports and to reduce as far as possible reliance on imports. Certainly that is the orthodoxy that is preached as a solution to the problems facing Third World countries, particularly those which find themselves under the heavy burden of debt. To the extent that that is applicable to our situation here in Barbados, namely, that we must seek to increase our earnings from exports and to reduce our heavy import bill, we must seek to ensure that our policies are consonant with that objective.

I think all of us in this country are deeply concerned about the low level of relationships that exist within CARICOM, and particularly the poor state of relationships existing between Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago, which is our main trading partner in the region, and I believe that it is incumbent upon the Government of this country to do everything within its power to ensure that those relationships are improved. We do not wish to see a slanging match going on, we do not wish to see two important countries in this region shouting at each other and not coming to grips with the main requirement, which is that if there are differences, in a diplomatic manner we should sit down and talk about them and try to find solutions. I do not think that shouting at each other and snarling at each other will solve these particular problems. It calls for a very high level of diplomacy both in respect of the conduct of our foreign relations and particularly the conduct of our foreign trade.

I would like to implore the Government to do everything within its power to ensure that the relations between Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago are improved. When we see those relationships at such a low ebb that the two Governments cannot even agree on a mutual date that certain visits could take place, and when on top of that now we see relationships between Barbados and Venezuela also strained, we have to ask ourselves what is really happening. Only, I believe, some time earlier this week, we read that there were problems between Venezuela and Barbados and that these problems were expressed in certain newspapers, and we would wish the Government to make some kind of comment on that particular position, because we cannot in this region have relations between Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago soured, and then a tit-for-tat situation going on between Barbados and Venezuela. When on top of that we hear of problems existing in some of our foreign Missions, I think there appears to be something wrong in terms of the conduct of our foreign affairs, especially as they impinge upon our foreign trade.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I am replying now, Sir, finally. The usual generalisations, lack of specific incidents and things of that kind have emanated. It is obvious that the honourable Member was not prepared for this. The shadow over there seems to have disappeared. There was never any substance, so when the shadow has disappeared now, we are in a very perilous state.

The Government of Barbados' commitment to CARICOM, commitment to the deepening of the integration movement, commitment to honouring its international commitments is so well known and beyond question that I do not think we need to respond in any way to the veiled suggestions of the honourable Member that there is something wrong on our side.

Experience has taught me that in these integration movements, periodically difficulties arise from the fact that sections in communities feel that their own individual markets are better because of the greater economic activity in that market, because of the fact that their per capita incomes may be higher than the overall CARICOM market. There is no question about it, that there was such a feeling in some of the markets of CARICOM by groups of individuals who had power and influence, and they said so. A section of manufacturers in Trinidad and Tobago said that because of Trinidad's great prosperity, they should look to their own market, keep out the rest, that that was the best way forward for them. They said Jamaica had no money to buy their goods, Guyana had no money to buy their goods, the Windwards and Leewards did not have any standard of living to buy their goods, Barbados was too small, that their own internal market of 1.2 million people with all the petro-dollars backing that was what they should aim at.

Now policies were designed to effectuate, unwittingly or wittingly, that view point. Now the whole ball game has changed. In the meantime, perhaps the honourable Member in his speech would have explained how is it that there was such a dramatic reduction in access, and not only of Barbados' goods. If Barbados was the only country that had trading problems, I would understand the kind of speech made by the honourable Member. I would really understand that, but what he cannot deny is that in every country in the Caribbean which exports goods to Trinidad and Tobago, the manufacturers have complained about the failure to receive licences and the ECOs – timely, in sequence or in conjunction with each other.

12 noon.

The honourable Member cannot get up here and point to any country whose experiences have been different

from ours. So when he tries to suggest that we are in some peculiar position, obviously the honourable Member is either not reading the situation at all, and I doubt he does read the situation, but because of the particular year we are in, and the particular time of the year we are in, it is not convenient or politically appropriate for him to let the facts speak for themselves.

I beg to move that Head 77 stand part.

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

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I indicated that I wanted to speak on this Head.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I cannot entertain that.

The question that the sum of $730 000 under Head 77 – Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 78 – CAPITAL – MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN (Christ Church East Central): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the sum of $16 507 244 under Head 78 – Ministry of Health and Social Security stand part.

Honourable Members will see that this is one of the areas of expenditure in which there is a fair increase, and the reason is the commitment of Government to the improvement of the physical infrastructure at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, the continuation of the investigation of alternate methods of delivering mental health care, including the physical conditions of the Psychiatric Hospital at Black Rock, the development of the final stage of the polyclinic programme and the re-equipping of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the polyclinics to allow them to perform more of the medical services in Barbados than at present is being performed.

I know that honourable Members are going to ask me, so I will start off by saying that I am pleased to inform honourable Members of the manifesto commitment, which, for the benefit of honourable Members I will remind them of, and it is at page 22 – it says in relation to Health:–

> "The carefully phased implementation of the National Health Service is not a five or ten year plan, but rather a plan for life designed to provide free and easy access to health care for all into the twenty-first century.
>
> "The final implementation of the primary care service during the '81 – '86 term will be accomplished with the cooperation of the health professionals and the Barbadian public, when the time comes for each person to be registered with a primary medical care team. These teams will comprise a doctor, a clinical nurse, a community nurse and a records clerk/receptionist. Some of these teams will operate out of the polyclinics which the Government is providing and also out of doctor's private premises.
>
> "Secondary and Tertiary medical services (that is services involving hospital care) will be adjusted to accommodate cases arising from the upgraded primary care service.
>
> "The eight polyclinics will service the areas surrounding them bringing primary and some secondary services right into the heart of the communities."

That was a commitment that we made. I am pleased to say that, as we look back over the last five years, the Barbados Government's commitment to the implementation of this scheme has been pursued with vigour and honesty, and we have been remarkably successful, although I say so myself, in attempting to honour this commitment. In fact, we are very near to honouring all of them, and I trust that we will be able to honour all of them by 1986.

The polyclinics are functioning very well. The number of visitors to the polyclinics are increasing. The National Drug Scheme is in operation. The position of the Government in relation to increasing the number of specialists needed to handle referrals from the GPs out of the polyclinics has been settled. An offer has been made, now, finally, to the general medical practitioners by the National Health Service Board. So that I do not think that it can be truthfully said that the Government is not interested in honouring its commitment. It is true that, periodically, there have been differences of opinion between some doctors as represented by the Barbados Association of Medical Practitioners, and the Government, but the Government's position has been made clear.

I have a few figures here, Sir, and these figures are up to the end of February. The number of clinical medical practitioners that I have approved in Establishments is 23. Nineteen are filled fulltime, that is, 40 hours a week, and three filled part-time. The clinics are Ladymeade, Black Rock, Maurice Byer, Randall Phillips, Warrens, Six Roads and the Edgar Cochrane polyclinics.

12.10 p.m.

The number of attendances for January 1986 was 12 223. The attendances range throughout the age group in Barbados. The largest age group that makes use of the polyclinics are of the 16 to 64 age group, and the largest number of attendances takes place at the Ladymeade polyclinic.

Ten new specialist jobs have been approved by me for the creation of a variety of specialist skills at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, and I expect that as from April the new conditions of service which have been offered to the doctors will be brought into force.

As honourable Members will recall, when we were discussing the Civil Establishment Order in this House, I explained very carefully how the Government arrived at its position, how we had to take into consideration the existing salary scales of doctors, of lawyers, of professionals, of the medical practitioners in the public health service, the position of the judges, all those things, at arriving at a final position with respect to the award and remuneration of full time medical officers who also had an option of private practice and an option to use facilities in the hospital for their private patients, which facilities are being paid for by the community. We had to put all of these things in the melting pot and come up with a method of remuneration which would not create jealousy for the engineers, for the lawyers, for the accountants, for the economists, for the administrators, and would at the same time take into account the amount of money that the Government could afford to pay.

Sir, we said very clearly then that those doctors who wish to continue on their existing terms and conditions would be given that choice. That is a fundamental choice which one has to give. That, I am told, has been communicated to the doctors. Those who wish to continue to take advantage of the new opportunities are being allowed to do so. I am told, Sir, that the administrative arrangements for the implementation of Government proposals and the law as contained in the Civil Establishment Act will be completed, and that there is no reason why the new terms and conditions cannot apply to those who do not opt out as from 1st April. Back pay, of course, will be paid. I look forward to all the efforts being tied up.

The pharmacists have been given their offer. I know that the honourable Member for St. Michael North West (Mr. L. A. Weekes) will be aware of the generosity of treatment that the Government has offered to pharmacists. I want to emphasise this: that the Government is not anti- anybody in this exercise. All we are interested in is being pro the sick people in Barbados to ensure that the level of health care in Barbados will continue to be delivered in circumstances such that we will remain the object of admiration of the whole world.

(Aside: What happened to the vagabonds?)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: One or two vagabonds cannot constitute the whole thing. You know that in all professions you have vagabonds. That is why you have disciplinary committees; that is why you can strike them off; that is why some get sued for negligence. Once there are human beings, there will be vagabonds. That is the position.

I beg to move that the sum of $16 507 244 under Head 78 – Capital – Ministry of Health and Social Security – as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. M. A. KING (Christ Church West Central): On this occasion, Mr. Chairman, the honourable Member for Christ Church East Central (Hon. H. B. St. John) started by saying that the hospital was one of the areas where there has been an increase in expenditure in the Estimates. He spoke of certain improvements in relation to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and he talked about the governing party's manifesto and commitment in relation to hospital improvement. But the fact is, Mr. Chairman, that at present the Queen Elizabeth Hospital is almost a disaster. The hospital is run down; it has suffered from years of neglect by the Barbados Labour Party Administration. There have been shortages in equipment and supplies. People who go there for treatment complain daily. People have to take some of their own personal things in the hospital for use where supplies should be offered by the hospital.

There is no question about it, that there has been inadequate maintenance at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital over the years, and all of this has resulted.....

Aside.

Mr. M. A. KING: You say it is old hat. It is an old time speech, but the fact is that it is so old that it bears repetition daily because of the constant and persistent neglect which this Government is capable of. It is old and it is very true, and we are calling on you to take immediate steps to ensure that all the problems in relation to the staff, in relation to the shortage of equipment and supplies and in relation to the neglected maintenance over the years be addressed as a matter of urgency, because if you are talking about the health care of the people of this community, it is there that you have to start.

All of the problems, Mr. Chairman, have resulted in a demoralisation of the staff at all levels in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, and in recent times we find in relation, for instance, to the Emergency Ambulance Service where attempts have recently been made to improve that service, that the persons employed in that

service are completely demoralized at this stage. Most of them are handpicked now by the Minister of Health, they have to work as he directs them or not at all. It seems that he is not prepared to enter into any negotiations with them in relation to the terms and conditions of their service and employment, a man who has a background in trade union activity. One would imagine that the proper and appropriate course in relation to the workers who are employed in the institution over which you have control would be made to reach agreement on a reasonable basis rather than imposing your will on them and coming to a decision irrespective of what they wish, or what they do not wish.
12.20 p.m.

I say the result is that the staff of the Emergency Ambulance Service is now completely demoralized. They are demoralized about the fact that persons who are in charge of the service show no leadership. As I say, they have been handpicked by the Minister without the appropriate training, personal commitment, so to speak, and capacity to fulfill the job for which they have been chosen. And we get the ridiculous situation, the improper position, I suggest, where the persons who have been employed in positions of that kind are out walking the campaign streets with the Minister.

(Aside: Mr. B. M. TAITT: That is not true!)

Mr. M. A. KING: It is true that some of the persons who he hand-picked to perform in the Emergency Ambulance Service are walking the streets as his main campaign operators.

The whole point about it is that these services should not be politicized. These are services which are there to provide for the sick people of the community particularly, and the moment you seek to politicize it too much, you are going to demoralize the rest of the work force and you are going to have problems in the efficiency of the service entirely. So that I would urge the Minister of Health to take the politics out of the Emergency Ambulance Service. The people who are appointed in important positions in that Service should not feel that they are bound to walk the streets campaigning with him because they are dependent on him for a job.

(Aside: Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: You seem to be worrying about it. It has you worried.)

Mr. M. A. KING: I am not worried about it at all. It is no concern at all to me, because the problem with him is that the people equipped to run these services, and, in fact, who were out campaigning with him, are not persons of any particular worth. That is the problem. Independently of politics they could hardly have had the job which they are being asked to do. Apart from political influence, they have no other qualification, so to speak, for doing the job which they are required to do.

When we find that Ministry of Health vehicles are being used for partisan, political campaign purposes, that is another serious thing. Public Service vehicles should not be used in that regard, and the sooner that is drawn to the attention of the Minister of Health, if he does not already know, the better for all of us.

Now we see an increase in the vote for the Ministry of Health. I would urge the Prime Minister, as well, to ensure that certain controls exist in relation to expenditure under this Head, because sometimes we can find that we can look at small areas and complain about the abuse of funds in that regard, and although they might be small individually, they are significant, because when you abuse your position in expending funds wrongfully in one area, you can abuse it in other areas. You can start small, you can end up quite big.

Certain remarks made at this stage by the honourable Member for Christ Church West Central were ordered by Mr. CHAIRMAN to be expunged from the record.
12.30 p.m.

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

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is one of the beautiful things about being a Chairman. The only.....

Asides.
12.40 p.m.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: A nursing Assistant from the Psychiatric Hospital was brought to be the Deputy Ambulance Officer. A resigned policeman was also made a Deputy. A lady from the Customs was made a Deputy and an English-trained, qualified nurse who was the only person qualified in the field, was made one. Only about 20 of the first group of people where selected – that is 20 of the group that was trained – and then the others were sent home.

My information is that after an incident in which a paraphlegic fell of a stretcher, the ambulance man who

was dealing with him, who apparently was inebriated, fell. He, the patient and the ambulance trolley. He was subsequently – that is, the ambulance man, one of the 20 – sent home for three months on full pay. The patient, as I indicated, was an epileptic. This happened between last August and October last year and that gentleman never came back to work, but he was sent over to the National Insurance where he now works, I am told, as a cashier.

Now, Sir, it is not customary to itemise that sort of information unless one is going to be using it for a purpose.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: If the honourable Member will give way, I missed the first part of the honourable Member's speech. I just want to know if these persons to whom he is referring were persons who were appointed to the various posts by the Public Service Commission.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: That is the whole point. I think the Honourable Attorney General understands where I am going. All of these are persons who apparently – I can only say apparently – the Minister had determined should work in the particular places. The Ambulance Service, from my understanding, is one of those areas in which the Minister handpicks the people. He certainly handpicked the now Director of the Ambulance Service, and that creates another problem which we will discuss a little later.

Sir, there is another area that is reported to me that the Minister has become involved in. It has to do with the sterilisation of instruments for surgery. I am told that whereas there were persons, who were trained in the past, who were always used as substitutes when those who work in the field go on leave, the Minister has now deemed it desirable and necessary for him, the Minister, to bring persons himself and put them in, direct that they be the ones who will be used in this very delicate area of the sterilisation of instruments for operations. I am told that the surgeons will not use any instruments sterilised by that group, because the surgeons feel that they would be guilty of negligence should anything happen. All of this has occurred because the Minister said that "he is in charge" and therefore whatever he directs must occur.

Sir, I do not know that we have to make case after case of this kind of political interference at that level. Political interference by a Minister of Health in the delivery fof health care in an institution like the hospital is abominable. It is not something that ought to happen in any society, and no one on either side of this House can be comfortable with that kind of interference in the day-to-day running of an institution to deliver health care in this society. I do not mind what anybody says, I am one of the persons who will spare no effort to see that kind of political interference at that level in this particular area of that activity eliminated.

I want to deal with something which the Prime Minister said. The Prime Minister in discussing the National Health Service has been giving the impression that all is well and that there is peace and love and joy.

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

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Well, Sir, that is his view, but I am reading from the bulletin of the Barbados Association of Medical Practitioners for February 1986, page 4. I will make this document available to the Reporters so that they can have accuracy in anything I quote, but I am reading from page 4 and I am going to read very slowly. It says:

> "It should be noted with care and optimism that hospital doctors repeatedly stressed that no matter what the offers are the packages will remain unacceptable if no new position is negotiated with general practitioners in the National Health Service.
>
> In dealing with the general practitioners, Council has been informed that contrary to what is now frequently seen on television, that several patients are dissatisfied with the current polyclinic setup. Most members indicated....."

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Two minutes more.

> ".....that whereas initially their practices did fall with the opening of the polyclinics, they have returned to their usual level and even higher in some cases. Among members working in the polyclinics the description of the service offered vary from unacceptable to appalling. They confirm the large number of patients seen as given by Government, but indicated this led to a poor quality of care and often no time can be spent for an adequate consultation. This has had two effects –
>
> (a) patient dissatisfaction, which led to
>
> (b) duplication of service when a patient then seeks adequate consultation by their private doctor.
>
> Practitioners stressed to Council that often patients seek care at the polyclinics when they might be able to afford the consultation fee of around $25, but were often unable to afford any medication prescribed which often cost $75 or higher.
>
> It was pointed out that though all citizens contribute to the health levy, only those who go to the polyclinic can receive the benefits of the drug

service which is funded out of the levy. This discriminating practice was claimed to be an unacceptable state of affairs....."

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I crave your indulgence to finish the sentence.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have three honourable Members on their feet.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I crave your indulgence to finish the sentence in the interest of accuracy.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your time limit has expired. I call now on the Minister, the honourable Member for St. Michael South East.
12.50 p.m.

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Mr. Chairman, it seems to me that the quarrel as far as this Head is concerned is that the Minister of Health happens to be a candidate in the forthcoming elections, and the contributions to the debate all are focused on attacking him.

The honourable Member for Christ Church West Central (Mr. M. A. King) has used up all of his allotted time criticizing the Minister and, apparently, attempting to judge whether he is capable, fit and what's not to be a Minister. I am not going to go down that line, but I want the honourable Member to understand that there is a good, old Biblical saying, "First of all, look at the mote in your eye, before you can take that out of your brother's."

Asides.

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: I know that. I can paraphrase, too.

I heard him accuse the Minister of not being prepared to enter into any negotiations with the workers. I take that allegation to be a very serious one. To begin with, no Minister of Government has the right to negotiate with any workers. The responsibility for negotiating on behalf of the Government rests with the CEO.....

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order. The Honourable Prime Minister himself has, on more than one occasion, told this House that he is, in fact, going to enter into tripartite negotiations in this same very area – he on the one side, the university on the other and BAMP on the third. I do not want to start any difficulties. The Minister is now saying that no Minister has any right, and I wish to point out to him that this has been a practice that has been going on. As Minister of Labour he should know that when there is difficulty, the Minister of Labour joins in the negotiation, so he should not say he has no right.

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: A correction. The Minister does not join to negotiate. I join as a conciliator. You do not understand the difference between a conciliator and a negotiator.

The Minister responsible for the Civil Service is the Prime Minister, and he is the only Minister that is within his right to enter into any negotiation. It is common practice that the CEO negotiates on behalf of the Government. He ought to know that the proper way of resolving an industrial dispute is by advising the workers representatives, and in this case it may be the NUPW – I suppose that they are NUPW members – to take up the matter with the Chief Establishments Officer. It is not really fair, or indeed, proper, for any honourable Member who knows better to get up and make those allegations.

As far as the allegation that some persons were hand-picked and are walking the streets campaigning, let me remind the honourable Member that here, again, even if a Minister was instrumental in getting someone a job, the right of that worker to work rests with the Chief Establishments Officer. It is the Public Service. You have friends from the other side who recommend people, all of us do, but the Chief Establishments Officer is the person who has the responsibility, the prerogative, to appoint the person. That is so in the Public Service, if you do not know.

If you were to go on a bit, what is wrong with someone exercising his constitutional and democratic right campaigning with a Minister or with anybody else? We have persons, and I will call names. It is well known that persons who belong to the Democratic Labour Party, who are card carrying members, who are paid-up members of the Democratic Labour Party, are civil servants and go out there and canvass for the DLP.

(Aside: Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Name one person).

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: I am not going to call names. I am not going to get into that. I know how to deal with my situation when it arises.

Civil Servants, like anybody else, have a right, the right to join a trade union or to join a political party. The only thing that concerns us, those of us that believe in the integrity of the Civil Service, is that in the discharge of their responsibility, they do not allow partisan, political persuasion to influence their decisions. I think that is important. But, do not care what you do, you are going to have public servants who belong to the Barbados Labour Party and some who belong to the Democratic

Labour Party, and some who do not belong to any party at all, and they are going to exercise their right and they are going to get out there and support the particular party of their choice. You know that, and it goes right through the Public Service, so I do not think that we need to harp on this. The public of Barbados do not take it so seriously when you seek to tell people that public servants are not involved in politics. I know, and all of us in here know, that that is not so, and there is nothing wrong when someone cares to canvass with an honourable Member or the Minister.

Maybe, what I think the honourable Member should be doing is to concentrate on trying to win those people over. Maybe they do not like him, and that is why they go with the Minister, or they like the Minister and hate him. That is a matter for him. If he does not know how to use the human touch and human relations in order to persuade people, that is a matter for him. Do not come in here and vent your hostility on a particular situation that he should be able to control.

As far as the use of the Public Service vehicles are concerned, we have seen in political campaigns persons who are aligned to the Democratic Labour Party using their ML vans, their MP vans and cars carrying members to the Democratic Labour Party meetings, and openly say that they are members of the Democratic Labour Party. But what can you do? The same way you cannot control a civil servant from expressing his views as to which party he belongs to and wishes to support, it is difficult for us to police the drivers of some of these vehicles. Some of them drive Government vehicles and they abuse Ministers. They say they do not like the Prime Minister, they do not like the Ministers. So what? We are big enough to tolerate that sort of thing. We are not going to retaliate by taking any action which we think is unworthy of us. We take it because in this party we are big enough to accept criticisms, and when we hear criticisms like these, and people opposing us, we try to convince them by deed and by action that we are the better political party and Government. It just shows you how members of the Opposition are reacting, but I understand why at this time, rather than concentrate on the substance of the debate.

The Estimates are here. No one from that side got up and spoke about the Housing Welfare Programme. That is under this Head.

(Aside: That will come later!)

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Nobody has talked about it. Look how many hundreds of old people's houses are repaired across the country? It is only now you are hearing so many old people's houses are being repaired. In 1976, $1.5 million was voted to repair old people's houses. And what did you have? The money was supposed to be used by the Democratic Labour Party, but the money was not used to repair senior citizens' houses; it was used to repair able-bodied women's houses. That is what happened under the Democratic Labour Party, and in many cases you could not even find where the money went, and that was just before the election. In six weeks' time you blew $1½ million, and that was just before the election. The election was in September and in August you released $1½ million to repair old people's houses and the old people's houses were not repaired. Still the money went! But what has happened is that we have voted money, an increase sum of money, in the coming Estimates in order to accelerate the repair of old people's houses.

1.00 p.m.

It was the Barbados Labour Party that introduced the whole health service. They get a service which takes into consideration the plight of the senior citizens. We felt as a caring Government that something should be done to assist the senior citizens, helping to wash for them, to cook for them, to write letters, to make messages for them, and all this was started by the Barbados Labour Party. What did the Democratic Labour Party do? Absolutely nothing in this particular area. But rather than concentrate on this particular Head or the allocation under this particular Head, you hear criticism about a Minister.

What about the Emergency Service? The Casualty Service has been improved. I have spoken to several persons, and I have visited there on several occasions only to experience an improved service at the Casualty.

The building of more polyclinics has brought a lot of relief to people. Lots of people are going to the polyclinics and they are happy and satisfied with the service, but you will lead people to believe that there is dissatisfaction. People are happy because they are getting the service free; they are able to get drugs. Under your regime, did they get? No way! Old people, out of their pensions, were made to pay for their own drugs. You allowed that to happen. I remember the story of a senior citizen living in Mount Friendship in my constituency who, after the death of her husband, was sent a bill by a doctor of over $1 000, and all she could say was, 'Where is she going to get the money from?' That was under the Democratic Labour Party regime. Thank God the senior citizens do not have to look for that money, because we have introduced a service which gives the senior citizens free medical attention and supply of drugs. That is what you are to concentrate on.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: One minute more.

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: You need not get in here and criticise a person without paying some attention to what is before this Honourable Chamber. We

are discussing money to provide services for people, health services. The National Health Service was not started by the Democratic Labour Party. No member from your side wants to support it because you have your reason why you do not want to. We feel there are people in Barbados who should be relieved of the high and exorbitant fees charged by some doctors, and we know that some people in this country cannot afford to pay the high fees, and that is why we have embarked on a national health service, and nothing you say is going to prevent us from pursuing our objective.

I am satisfied, Mr. Chairman, that the Government's approach to medical health care is the correct one, and there are a number of persons in this country that are satisfied with the direction in which the Government is going. Let them run and let them wait. I am sure that in a couple of months' time, a couple of weeks' time, you will then see exactly what the people think about the good, bold initiative by the Barbados Labour Party Government.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, every once in a while ....

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman ....

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

Dr. R C. HAYNES: Does he rise in his capacity as Leader of the House?

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that you do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be suspended until 2 p.m. today.

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

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

1.10 p.m.

ON RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed.

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

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this Head and to commend the Government.....

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, may I draw to your attention that I was on my feet when the honourable Member interrupted in order to move the suspension of the House.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: You were on your feet, but we did not know what you were about to do. You could have been going outside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I was here. I was in possession of the House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Chairman is in the Chair. Please. Both honourable Members take your seats.

The House is in Committee of Supply. At the suspension, the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central was on his feet and he had caught my eye. He may now proceed.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, I believe there are certain traditions which have guided the political parties down the years. They have sought their best, from time to time, to avoid appointing crooks, vagabonds, people who have no regard for the due process politically, constitutionally, or otherwise, people who do not understand the impropriety involved in the abuse of public trust. I think that this, by and large, has been a guiding principle. But Mr. Chairman, we find ourselves in a situation where many aspects of the activities in the Ministry of Health do not reflect the fact that those binding principles have always obtained.

We find, for example, Sir, that due to mismanagement at various levels, and due to the ineffectual con-

temptuous guidance of the political directorate within the Ministry of Health, we have reached a situation where I can say without any doubt that the public sector of health in Barbados today is at its lowest ebb.

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: That can only be a matter of opinion.)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: And I give that, Sir, as a professional opinion. I do not often speak on matters of health in this Parliament, because I am exceedingly careful to make sure that there is a great divide between my political activity and professional activity.

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: You crossed it today.)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Now, Sir, I say this for this reason. There can be no doubt in my mind that the sort of things you see happening in the Casualty Department of the hospital have never happened before. Today, Sir, the waiting period in the Casualty is longer than at any other time in the history of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

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

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: People are sometimes in the hospital for 12 hours, 24 hours, without being attended, with serious illnesses and often with serious complaints and often with severe pain.

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: That is a terrible indictment of the doctors.)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I have never seen misdiagnoses of the kind which I have recently noticed coming from the Casualty of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: That is a serious indictment of Dr. Brancker.)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I have never seen anything like it. Only – and this is a fact – on Monday night, at about 12.00 o'clock I was called by someone, a friend of mine, an employer, and he told me he had an employee at home who was in the most excruciating pain, that he had gone to the hospital the previous day, was kept for long periods, that he was X-rayed and he was sent home, having fallen off a motorcycle. Normally, Sir, it is not a category of case that I would see. However, in the circumstances I said I would see him the next day before I started my official clinic.

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: The doctors are worthless.)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: He did come. When I attempted to examine him, Sir, he was in such severe pain that I said to myself, 'Surely this man must have a fracture somewhere.' I arranged for a private X-ray immediately, and, to my surprise, that man had a fracture of the inferior ramus of his pubic bone and a fracture of the acetabulum, that is the little area where the head of the femur goes in. And he was sent home from the Casualty! I referred him to a surgeon immediately and the surgeon said to me, "This does not surprise me. I saw one recently who had five fractured ribs and was sent home in total agony." That is a fact! And that is only two or three days ago. I am just telling you. This is what is taking place in that hospital. The number of people who are being sent home from Casualty, who should be admitted and remain within the protection of an in-patient facility, is absolutely alarming. So you have the waiting, you have the sheer agonising discomfort to patients in this country, and you come in here and say that you have lifted and upgraded the health services in this country!

(Aside: You do not have any shame.)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I.....

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Not me. Look at it here. The doctors cursing one another.)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: It is not the doctors, it is the system. It is the system in which the doctors have to work and the conditions under which they have to work that results in that kind of quality of medical care. I can afford to speak, because I speak with knowledge and authority in these areas.

(Aside: Mr. B. M. TAITT: This is the best Minister they ever had.)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: You may recall, and the honourable Member for St. Andrew (Hon. L. B. Brathwaite), may recall, that for many years I said that the multi-purpose clinics and the polyclinics of Barbados had an important role to play in the health delivery care of this country. The multi-purpose clinics under the Democratic Labour Party, renamed the polyclinics under the Barbados Labour Party, have an important role to play. But they have to be properly staffed, properly structured and properly organized, and the Government has to get it in its head that health care delivery ultimately depends on the health care deliverers and not on the politicians. When politicians seek to impose systems on nurses, doctors and other personnel, when they seek to ram policies down the throats of persons, policies that are unacceptable, for short term political gain, then you get the type of problems that you have in the polyclinics.

Mr. Chairman, the polyclinics are excellent structures. We spent millions of dollars on those polyclinics. There is no question about the physical structure

of the polyclinics. What I am saying is that the quality of medicine in the polyclinics in Barbados today is appalling and at the lowest ebb you could ever think about.

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: That view is not shared by anybody else.)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: The amount of remedial medical practise that has to be done by doctors in Barbados on patients who have been to those polyclinics, that is incredible. There are vast numbers of patients who find it totally unacceptable to go to a polyclinic to spend hours waiting to be seen by a doctor, either not to be seen or to be given the most cursory examination if examined at all, and then to be prescribed a whole lot of medicine that has no relevance whatsoever to their complaints. The garbage cans around Barbados are full of drugs thrown away by persons who have received drugs at polyclinics under those circumstances.

Medicine and medical delivery systems grow. You do not impose them like that. They come out of something. And what this Government does not understand is that for them it is a political thing in order to justify the extraction of over $50 million from the pockets of the people of Barbados, and after 10 years have found that they have offered them nothing in return apart from the fact that most of them now have to buy drugs that they once got for free, and poor quality drugs rather than good quality drugs.

(Aside: Mr. B. M. TAITT: True.)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: That is the sort of situation at the polyclinics. Make no mistake about it!

What I am saying to the Government is that you have an opportunity in the polyclinic service in this country to ensure that you make a significant contribution to primary and maybe secondary health care development within those polyclinics. There is plenty of opportunity there. But it has to be properly structured, properly organized and, further, what you have to do is to look at the kind of load that you are placing on the staff in those polyclinics. It is a terrible thing, Sir, to see the lack of confidence that people have in those polyclinics.

Let me tell you something. When this extended polyclinic service was introduced in Barbados a few months ago, within a matter of a week or two many doctors' offices were empty in Barbados. Today, the same offices are full again. The patients went to the polyclinics, they sampled the polyclinics, they are fed up with the service offered and they have returned to their doctors now because they are not satisfied with the quality of service.

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: That is good.)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: The whole point I am making is that there are things that should have been phased in so that the polyclinics would be able to make their impact on health care delivery in such a manner that the service offered was comparable to that anywhere else in Barbados, whether in a private doctor's office or elsewhere. But that has not happened and it has not happened because the Minister of Health has no understanding, he cares not, and he is totally indifferent ....
2.10 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Two minutes more.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: .... to the needs of the people of Barbados in respect of primary health care.

Mr. Chairman, what I am saying is gospel. This is what is happening in Barbados, and it is unfortunate, because the Government and this Parliament have approved the building of those polyclinics, and the standard of health care being delivered today is far from satisfactory, and, I say, at most times terribly appalling and at the very lowest ebb.

Sir, you take Enmore, for example. There was a system and structure of health care delivery there. At the old Enmore the health care delivery was better than it is at Ladymeade today. I practise next door to both institutions. I have never had to do remedial work emanating from Enmore yet. Today, you have a problem of people coming into your office begging you for assistance after going next door to a multi-million dollar operation. I know what I am talking about, and I am going to come back, because it has just got to stop, because sooner or later there are going to be major problems in this country in relation to health. Let us stop talking about capital structures. Let us stop talking about the politics of this matter and look and see what is happening from day to day. Look at the editorial of the BAMP article which was made a document of this House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: That arises from a consensus of medical opinions in this country.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Thank you very much, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member for St. James North.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I cannot boast, like my colleague, to be a professional person at any level. He is a well known and I have no doubt successful

physician specialist and his views at the medical level, Sir, must be respected. I cannot respect his views when he is trying to put politics into his profession since he has been, and it is an established fact, an adviser to those persons who form BAMP, which is supposed to be Barbados Association of Medical Practitioners, which has been obstructionist in the Government's bringing forth and upgrading the health care of this country. It is only the envy of the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central about this Government's ability to deliver what they have promised this country – a medical health scheme unmatched and unrivalled in the Caribbean and beyond the Caribbean. That is the aim. You talked about you divide and separate your whole partisan approach from politics and medicine. You cannot. It is humanly impossible. You are not made up of that stuff.

Sir, the Government in its manifesto, as clearly read out by the Prime Minister earlier today, has delivered a health scheme of which I believe all Barbadians are proud. So proud are they that the very people BAMP which is carrying on a battle against this Government to stop us from delivering the very health service which we have promised, the very GPs themselves, the general practitioners, whom you, the Member for St. Michael South Central, had got together with BAMP to stop the GPs from joining the scheme – the GPs saw the wisdom. What they have done is to put their country first, the health of this country and its citizens, and have joined the scheme. Now this scheme is the envy of the Democratic Labour Party and the Member for St. Michael South Central who is an adviser to BAMP. This is the problem.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order: I am a member of BAMP. I have never attended a meeting of BAMP – sorry, probably one meeting around 1975, and I am not an adviser to BAMP in any matter whatsoever. I have never been.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I do not even believe that if an elephant heard you, it would believe you. If you whispered that in the ears of an elephant, it would not believe you.

Now, Sir, I cannot speak with any authority about the workload in the Casualty because I, fortunately, have had no reason to be in the Casualty. But I remembered a few years ago when his party was in office that there were people who were crowded on top of each other in the Casualty for 12, 13, and 14 hours a day. That, I know, was a fact of life. In recent times I am told that the work in the Casualty is of such a standard that the nurses in the Casualty, though they may have a grievance here and there, like any work place, laud the Government. Senior nurses that I have spoken to support the venture of the Government in building polyclinics to take off that load which the Casualty once had. No one can deny that if someone had to get a wound dressed, he went to the Casualty, or if he had a headache. Some people who fell down in the streets because of having too much alcohol, the police would take them into the Casualty. Today, as I understand it, there is a flow of people going into the polyclinics for medical attention.

I know of one particular case. While doing house-to-house in a place known as Reece Road, a dog bit a child and I invited my driver to take that child to the Sir Randall Phillips Polyclinic. It was 7:30 p.m. and the polyclinic was supposed to be closing at 8:00 p.m. and that child was able to go to that polyclinic and get medical attention and come back home. Before that child would have to go to the QEH and stand up in the hospital's Casualty for hours before it could be attended. So if you are going to use the argument that the polyclinics which are supposed to take off some of the load of the hospital, and the Casualty in particular – and you now have some seven or eight polyclinics – I am subject to correction – are not taking up that load, well then something would have to be radically wrong, and I know John Public does not believe you, because you cannot divorce your political thirst for office in this country from your profession. You have a thirst for political office and you will say anything or do anything to discredit the health service or the services in this country for office, and that is why you cannot divorce the two.

2.20 p.m.

Barbados, Mr. Chairman, is unmatched in the entire Caribbean in its transport services, it is unmatched – let me repeat – this small country in which I live and which I am proud to be a citizen of – I am not proud to be living between some of you, but I am proud to be a citizen of this country – is unmatched in nearly every conceivable service in this country, in the Caribbean: Education, health, transport, tourism, law and order. There is nowhere in the Caribbean, I believe, where your chief henchman can walk around a country and abuse politicians, abuse judges, abuse people's wives and be alive, no other place in the Caribbean, and that is why I say even in law and order, in the field of the trade unions, stability. Every day and every hour throughout the entire territories you can hear of a general strike. Name one in Barbados within the past ten years. With a fragile economy, tourism and sugar and light manufacturing, this country can hold its head and boast of its services and equally boast of its Government.

Certain remarks made at this stage by Hon. L. S. CRAIG were ordered by Mr. CHAIRMAN to be expunged from the record.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: That is what I heard, Sir. An ambulance wheel fell off, a Minister put somebody in a job who was a retired policeman, but nothing, no praise for the health service of this country, of which you, as a Barbadian, can be justly proud. Name one in the Caribbean. I would say that you are one of the greatest doctors in the Caribbean. I would say that about you and I am proud of you, but I do not say that I am proud of you as a man, but as a doctor I would recommend you to stand side by side with any of them at all at all.

Certain remarks made at this stage by Hon. L. S. CRAIG were ordered by Mr. CHAIRMAN to be expunged from the record.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: What I would say is that I know the Member for St. Michael South Central can defend himself and he does not need you to defend him in anything at all. He is a man and you are a majorette. That is the big difference between the two of you.

I heard a lot of mention made here about people's houses being repaired and not being repaired. This Government has a powerful record. There were times – and I have before me, Mr. Chairman, a report. You talk about corruption? You have a lot of gall in truth, you know. This is a document of the House which I can read from. Peat, Marwick, Mitchell and Company, Ken Hewitt and Company, Chartered Accountants – Auditors' Report to the Members of Parliament. This is what they say, not me. This is what Peat, Marwick, Mitchell and Company, Ken Hewitt and Company, say. I will not read the whole thing, Sir, I will read from here:

> "Independent investigations into the use of a grant to the Housing Corporation of half million dollars....."

This is just before the election. You came hot and sweaty and took $500 000 out of the Labour Welfare Fund to repair the homes of people who gave their blood, their sweat and their tears to make this country what it is, the senior citizens whom I have a love for.

Aside.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: You can say what you feel about me, I will go down in the eyes of this country as one of the champions of the old age pensioners. Go out there and ask about me. I cannot say that for the Member for St. Michael South. I cannot say that for any of you.

Sir:

> "Independent investigations into the use of a grant to the Corporation of half million dollars funded by the Labour Welfare Fund and which was officially designated to be used for the purpose of repairing old age pensioners' houses reveal that persons other than old age pensioners were beneficiaries of expenditure from the proceeds of the grant."

That is an indictment! Look what you did! Here is the Labour Welfare Fund money made available – and this is the response to the Member for Christ Church West Central.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Two minutes more.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: This is the response to the Member for Christ Church West Central talking about this thing went here and this thing went there. I just gave you the hard facts where the Leader of the Opposition, then Minister of Finance, made available a half million dollars to repair old pensioners' homes, and the Leader of the Opposition, then Minister of Finance, knew that the material and monies were spent in other places other than for the senior citizens of this country, and you at that time was presiding over the Cabinet of this country. But birds of feather flock together.

Mr. Chairman, Barbados is unmatched in its health service, unmatched in its education policy, unmatched in transportation, unmatched in law and order, and we as Barbadians can be proud of a model Government looking after the welfare of model people in this country.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Sir, it is most important that a reply is made instantly to the very severe and serious allegations on the professional competence of those involved in the delivery of health care at the polyclinics and at the Casualty of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Having regard to the fact that the person who made the allegations is a doctor himself, a Member of Parliament, a former employee of the Hospital, indeed a former Consultant at the Hospital, I take very seriously the gravity of the allegations that have been made.

2.30 p.m.

I would wish that the honourable Member identifies the day, the time, if possible, and the name of the patient or patients so that a full scale governmental investigation can be held. The Government does not wish to have on its staff people who a professional person with the experience and calibre of the honourable Member characterises as being so hopelessly incompetent as to miss an obvious diagnosis. The standard of professional negligence is such according to my understanding, that if a doctor fails to diagnose a case which any ordinary competent doctor would easily do, that is the criterion of professional negligence. I invite him, I would like him to do it, because Government has no interest in paying the taxpayers' money to people who ought to have a reasonably accepted standard of conduct. As a matter of fact, as a professional person, faithful to the oath that he undertook, he ought, immediately, upon these facts

becoming known to him, to have informed the employers as well as his own professional association about this matter.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: A point of order.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I have discharged my obligations to the Hippocratic Oath by ensuring that the patient, having come in contact with me, had access to the appropriate treatment. That is my obligation to the Hippocratic Oath.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: That may be your Hippocratic Oath, but, as your political duty now, not only are you to come here and speak of it, when invited to give the Government the information on a confidential basis, you should do so. I do not want it, do not give it to me. Send it under your hand to the Director of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, who is responsible for the administration of the hospital. Action will be taken. The person will be carried before the Public Service Commission, and before the usual Professional Standards Committee. That concludes that.

I have some other hard information.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, order.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: There is no point quarrelling with me. No one can quarrel with me. Do not quarrel with me. The honourable Member cannot quarrel with me.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, order. I cannot have this. Order, please!

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: You cannot quarrel with me. I am approaching this matter with a view to ensuring that the taxpayers' money is spent how all of us intend to spend it.

Asides.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I am doing that.

Make your allegations. If you do not send the information, I can only characterize you as an abuser of the privileges of Parliament. That is all. If he does not lend a hand in the normal investigatory process with a view to having remedial action taken, I characterize him as an abuser of the privileges of Parliament, a coward, who would come in here, make a false allegation, an unprovable allegation, against a fellow professional person, and not have the decency, or the character, to carry it to its logical conclusion.

Sir, on the waiting time, I have been assured that it is untrue to say that at the Casualty there has been no improvement in the waiting time since the introduction of the polyclinics, and since the reforms that have been introduced there which consist of the creation of a special cadre of officers, including a consultant, to head the team of doctors, 14 of them, who look after the patients. These doctors are backed up by a group of doctors who make themselves available for being on call in the various specialties so as to ensure that casualty officers who need a second opinion have access to the consultancy service at the hospital. So the reforms which have been introduced consist of having a head of the Casualty, at a consultant level, who is paid a special level of remuneration to ensure that he is not only available for his administrative and professional services in a normal period of time, but, in addition to that, he is available on call. His professional consultancy services are backed up by a special on-call regime.

Sir, I am told that the waiting time has been cut from five hours, on the average, to three hours.

Asides.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, the Government has at its disposal information handed to it by the people who are responsible, on a day-to-day basis, for the administration of the hospital. I say in this House of Assembly that I have been informed, having checked with the appropriate officials, from the Hospital Director down, after listening to the allegations of the honourable Member, that the waiting time at the Casualty has been reduced from five hours, on average, to three hours.

I am informed, also.....

Asides.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: You see, you cannot have it all ways. There is one thing that is clear – none of us deliver hospital care. Doctors and professional health administrators deliver hospital care, and these are the answers that we will give, not only in here, but out there, that when you make these wild allegations, they are not backed up with any facts. They are backed up with spite, envy and invention.

Emergency cases are seen immediately. One of the effects of creating the polyclinics has been to allow the Casualty doctors more time to look after genuine emergency cases. The Casualty in Barbados, as the honourable Member must have seen, originally used to cater to all

types of cases that went there, irrespective as to whether they were genuine emergencies or not. It was really an abuse of the word "casualty." Now that the polyclinics have been created, the Casualty can function in accordance with its original purpose and in accordance with the generally accepted purpose of a casualty. The waiting time, the three hours, includes the time taken for diagnostic services to be performed after referral by the doctors, like X-rays and things of that kind. That, Sir, is the information that I have received from the officials who are there to give Government information in answer to these charges that have been made today, and I want to make it clear that it would be most improper for the charges to have been made without the reply being published. And, Sir, it would be a very serious thing, of course, if the Government has been misled.
2.40 p.m.

On polyclinic attendances, I also have information that I am going to give to the House. The evidence shows that after nearly nine months of operation of the polyclinics, the popularity of the polyclinics has been maintained and the attendances have stabilised and have increased greatly from the first week. I have them here and I am going to call them out, because this is the mirror, this is the check, this is the evidence as to how the polyclinics are regarded by the people who go to them. The weekly attendance at Warrens' first week was 128, attendance from 3 – 8 March, 213; Black Rock, 166; 3 – 8 March, 449. Maurice Byer, 118; 3 – 8 March, 406; Six Roads, 41; 3 – 8 March, 192; Randall Phillips, 241 first week, 550 March 3 – 8; Glebe, 47 first week; 3 – 8 March, 120. Gall Hill, 30 first week of service; 3 – 8, 153; Ladymeade 368 and 662.

Sir, the evidence is clear that, consistently from the first week that they were opened, they built up. I am saying that we are now in a position to evaluate the constancy of the level of attendance, and I am saying that the level of attendances indicate quite clearly a consistency which would seem to indicate to a normal person that there is such a degree of consistency that there is satisfaction.

I go further, and this is the final point I am making. Luckily, the Government has another yardstick, it has a clinic which is run exclusively by the University of the West Indies, in Wildey, and we can prove and demonstrate how many people attend that clinic, how many attendances there are, and we also know that in these services up there they have the most ideal circumstances. So that is the position. I reject totally the allegation that the Government is in any way interfering with the administration of medicine or preventing it from being delivered. If it is not being delivered, it is because the professionals refuse to carry out their duties or are incompetent to carry out their duties.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I must respond immediately to some of the highly politicised garbage which the Honourable Prime Minister has just been disseminating on the floor of this House and inviting the Press to publish. Let me make something very clear. He has invited me on the floor of this House to call a name. It is not my intention to call any name on the floor of this House. I have said before that my professional obligation under the Hippocratic Oath has been satisfied by the steps which I took. It is as simple as that. Any further steps that I take in the matter would be through the professional route, in the first instance, and I have already drawn it to the attention of the professional persons who have a senior responsibility in that area. I have already done so.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: On a point of order: This is the first time the Honourable Member is saying that. I would like him to tell me the date when he did it because I do not believe him.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I am telling you what steps have been taken and I am not the only doctor involved. The surgeon to whom the person was referred was also involved. There are two of us, two consultants, myself and another doctor, so there is no problem.

Let me tell you what I will do. I will voluntarily surrender my privilege as a Member of this Parliament if you report to the Medical Council of Barbados that I made a false allegation against a colleague. I would allow the due process to work in respect of the General Medical Council of Barbados. That is a free offer I give you. I am entitled to surrender my immunities and privileges, I can do that, and Mr. Chairman, I do hereby now, on the floor of the House in respect of this specific matter give notice that I will surrender my immunities and privileges. So you have an opportunity now.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: On a point of order: What I want the honourable Member to do is to just give us the date so that we can carry out the investigation now. Just tell us the day and the time approximately. You do not have to give the name. Just give the day and the time and we will carry out the investigation.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I will deal with the matter in my own way, not in your way. The second point the honourable Member made, Sir, is about having appointed consultant staff in the Casualty. Let me tell you something. As Chief of Staff of the Hospital ten years ago, the first consultants to Casualty were appointed. As a matter of fact, the first surgical consultant in the Casualty Department is now a senior surgeon in the hospital. That is a fact. I recommended the first appointment that was made of a consultant in charge of the Casualty.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I have watched the performance of the Casualty Department down the years. I myself, as chairman, have come under very bitter criticism from the floor of this House from time to time when I was responsible for the allocation of staff in Casualty Department. We have responded to criticisms in this Parliament in the past, and the average waiting time in Casualty was reduced to half an hour in 1976. The average waiting time in Casualty was reduced at one point in 1976 to half an hour, when daily reports had to be submitted by the hospital direct to the Minister of Health, and that report was made in this Parliament after a six weeks period.

But I will tell you something, Sir. When you get statistics telling you that the average waiting time has dropped from 12 hours to five hours or from six hours to half an hour, these statistics virtually mean nothing. What can easily happen is that you can have 100 people in Casualty on any day and 90 of the 100 might go through Casualty in half an hour, but the ten critical ones, the ones with pain, the ones who are suffering, can be the ones who may be there for 24 hours in the Casualty Department. So when you come and quote average figures of a reduction in waiting time, they are nonsensical figures when you are responding as an administrator. I am responding to the experiences and the needs of the people of Barbados; so don't quote to me average figures. I know how they are computed. I know how we compute the figures in order to demonstrate that the average waiting time was half an hour.
2.50 p.m.

I go further, Sir, and say that when the honourable Member for St. Michael East (Dr. D. G. Blackman) was Minister of Health, the average waiting period in the Casualty was one hour. That is under this very Administration. So if you are going to come now from five hours to three hours, it means there has been an increase from one hour to five hours which may recently have come back to three hours, even within their time.

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: What foolishness is he talking about?)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I am telling you. Reports have been made on the floor of this House. I am saying that when the honourable Member for St. Michael East was Minister of Health, during his time there was a one hour average waiting period. That does not mean that a lot of patients were not there for 24 hours because, when I send a patient down there at 7.00 o'clock, I have sometimes to be up until 4.00 and 5.00 o'clock in the morning trying to monitor that patient through the appropriate person inside there and find out what is happening. I am the person who their families would be calling at 9.00 o'clock, 10.00 o'clock, 12.00 o'clock, 2.00 o'clock, 3.00 o'clock. I am the person who has to be calling up here and there trying to get a patient seen. I know what I am talking about.

They do not call the Prime Minister. Give me your private number and each time I am called by one, let me call you. Share the agonies of the people with me. I have to share them. I have to spend the sleepless nights. When you are talking of average waiting periods of three hours and five hours, let us do a bit of sharing of the agonies of the people. Go to Martindales Road or go to Halls Road and tell the people there that the average waiting time is three or five hours. Go and tell them that the average waiting time at a polyclinic is an hour or half and hour. A foolish statistic to rebut an argument! You should know better! Analyse the statistic and see what it means. It means it is foolishness!

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: It is foolishness?)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I go further and I say this, Sir.

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Well, you are telling me the administrator is a fool. You are telling me that.)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: The numbers are right. I am not saying the numbers are not right. I say the interpretation of the statistics is wrong. If you are a politician or if you had any sense or any understanding of statistical information in response to health services delivery, you would not accept that foolishness as an argument on the floor of this House. You just would not make that kind of argument. It is a foolish argument!

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: You are telling me that the people that are paid are fools?)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Let me tell you something also about the polyclinics. To come and say that 99 people were going there six months ago and 500 people are going there now is also a foolish statistic and I will tell you why. There are a large number of people who go to the polyclinics not for medical care – they know the examination would be inadequate – but they have been stabilized on drugs prescribed by their practitioners outside and all that happens is that they get a rewrite of the prescription, and if the prescription emanates from the polyclinics, they will get the drug totally free. That is why you see those statistics. Of the 599 or what you talk about there, I will bet you easily that about 250 or 300 go there only to get prescriptions, and if there is any variation from the prescription approved by their private physician, they go straight back to their doctors' offices. That is what BAMP is talking about when they talk about duplication of services. I am saying that over half the people who go to polyclinics go there because the Government has a discriminatory practice in relation to access to free drugs, although the entire population has

to pay the Health Levy, and that half those patients go to the polyclinics and then go to their doctors. I know what I am talking about. I have patients who do that. I have elderly patients who go to the polyclinics to get their drugs. I tell them, "Go there and get your drugs free." But they are not taking anything. They are not going to take anything.

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I am going to hit you for 6 when your time is up.)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: If the colour is different they would not take the drug.

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I have you. You make the allegation. Prove it.)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I will tell you something else, too. There is a limited number of drugs which they cannot change, up through the proprietary route. I always make sure that they are the ones that I send them there to get free. I can pick the ones carefully.

Mr. Chairman, these are the four points made by the Prime Minister of this country. I am not going to accuse him of spite, envy, wickedness, nastiness, unprofessional activity or any of those kinds of vulgar and abusive words that should not emanate from the mouth of a Prime Minister of this country on the floor of the House. I would not do a thing like that. What I would say is that I believe, I genuinely believe, Sir, despite his lack of wickedness, he may well believe what he is saying. I believe there is a reasonable possibility that he believes those statistics.

(Aside: Mr. B. M. TAITT: Do you mean he is only ignorant?)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I believe, Sir, that the whole thing rests on ignorance and his failure to understand that you have to look at the point of delivery to understand what is going on in the health services.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Let me tell you something, Sir.

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Tell me.)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: It is like someone who understands an appreciation of good batting. It is not the man that looks pretty. It is not the man with the elbow in the right position and nice kind of footwork. What determines whether the ball goes along the ground for four or whether it goes in the right position, or the speed at which it goes, or the amount of power put into the shot is the point of contact. The angle at the point of contact.

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

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: And that is your problem! Your problem is that you cannot deal with the problems that emanate when your health care delivery services interface, interlock, respond to the demand of the needs of the population. That is the essential point I am trying to get across to you.

Do not accuse me of not telling the truth. I am very upset, Sir, although I do not appear so, because the Honourable Prime Minister has developed a penchant recently for attacking people on professional grounds. Every single person in here can tell you so, too. I would never go down that route. I have never gone down that route and I would never ever do it. I say, Mr. Chairman, as you know, Sir – in fact, I notice they have warned you on this – I have always kept that wide divorce between my professional activity and my political activity and that is why I hesitate even to speak on health matters in this country. But I believe that the problems have reached the point now and are of such a severity that unless the Government understands that words and edifices and money do not necessarily produce a health service, unless they understand that they have a Minister responsible for Health who is incapable of understanding anything about health delivery, unless they understand that so long as he remains Minister of Health then the health service of this country will inevitably continue to deteriorate – you know perfectly well that that is not the sort of appointment that should be made to the Ministry of Health for a variety of reasons – the problems will continue. These are the facts!

Sir, let me tell you something. Do you know when the problems in the Casualty and the problems in the Health Service come home to people? It is when they, their friends and their relatives have to experience the situation. I do not reflect on any of the people, professional or otherwise, in the Health Service. They are all part of a system, and so long as the system exists, then professional errors and omissions would be made. There is no one who could be called upon to see 300 people a day, there is no one called to work considerable hours ....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: One minute more.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Anyone missing a fracture of that nature that I referred to would have to be working there for long hours, or under considerable amount of pressure.

Mr. Chairman, I have not even looked at an X-ray to determine a fracture of a bone for some 23 years.

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: That is why the man is guilty of negligence.)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: For 23 years ....

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: ... I never looked at one. And I looked at it, and there it was. But these things happen, and I would have to decide in my mind whether there is a system and the instant circumstances in which it occurred before I determine what line of action I think is justifiable in the circumstances. I would not be pushed into anything by any politician who does not understand health care delivery, however well meaning.

Thank you very much.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: For the information of the Committee, the score is 183 for 1.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Yes, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please continue.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Sir, I am glad that the honourable Member got up, because he has got up and has backed-back again. I say that if a person of the calibre, profession and repute of the honourable Member gets up in the House of Assembly and makes a direct charge of professional incompetence in that he saw a patient who went to the Casualty and who had a fracture which he could clearly see, – without even an X-ray, and say that all he is doing ....
3.00 p.m.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I never said that.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: That is what you said. You said that. He had a fracture and you had not looked at an X-ray for 23 years.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I said that I had not looked at an X-ray prior to that. Obviously, you cannot see a fracture without an X-ray. Don't be crazy man!

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: You could feel it though, that is what you said.

Anyway, the honourable Member made the charge, and all I am saying is, if the charge is so great, of professional incompetence, you ought to help us to rid the whole community of such an incompetent doctor. That is what I am saying, help us to get rid of him, because I do not want him – he is drawing money under false pretenses. The Public Service Commission should get rid of this incompetent. That is what I want. Things like that should not be covered up. It is your duty as a professional person, and I am not moving back on that one bit, to follow through the logical consequence. Do not make the allegation in here under the cover of privilege. Make the allegation – in fact, put it before the relevant authorities – and let us get rid of him. I do not want him. The Government does not want him.

Sir, on the question of the polyclinics, the honourable Member said that the information that has been handed to me is bogus information. Well, listen, you cannot get away.....

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order: I said that your interpretation of the information is bogus. That is a different matter.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Do not run away from it. People in here heard him. He said that the information that was given to me is non-sensical information, it does not make any sense. What I am saying is that I would expect that someone who holds the office of Hospital Director and is responsible for the administration of the hospital would be aware of the usual norms, the norms which are used to judge the quality of the service in a Casualty, and I say that I have been informed, and veritably believe, that once you tell me that they use the waiting time as the statistic, that that is a proper criterion. So don't run away. What you are saying again is that the people who are responsible for the running of the hospital are incompetent. Again, make your charges! That is your defense. Your defense is that the people who are running the hospital, who have been appointed in accordance with the norms of the Public Service Commission, are incompetent. Well, continue to make the charge, because I know that all you are going to do is to make charges. I say, Sir, that emergency cases are seen immediately and the average waiting time has been reduced from five hours to three hours.

I go further, Sir. On the question of the attendances at the polyclinics, there is a consistency of attendances. I have the figures not only from the first week, I have the figures for this year, and I can show that at Gall Hill in St. John, Sir, from January 6 – 11, there were 145 attendances; January 13 – January 18 – 182; January 20 – January 25 – 182, and then you go right down to March 3 – March 8 – 153. There is a consistency in there. From January 13 – January 18 at Ladymeade – 692 and March 3 – March 8 – 662. Let us go to Randall Phillips; from January 6 – January 11 – 583, and March 3 – March 8 – 550. What I am saying is that whatever the honourable Member says, there is such a consistency in the attendances at these clinics right through as to demonstrate that there has not been any drastic reduction in attendance, or any fall-off of any significance. So there must be consumer satisfaction.

I go further, Sir. On the question of the drugs, the honourable Member says that people go to the polyclinics only to get the free drugs. What I am reading from is not in relation to dispensed drugs. I am reading from the Clinical Medical Practitioner Service. I am not dealing with the pharmacists, I am dealing with the doctor. There are 23 – I want to repeat it – there are 23 medical practitioners operating at the polyclinics now.

I go further on the question of medicine. I said that the Government has had discussions with the Barbados Pharmaceutical Council and I am pleased to say – I have said it before – that the Government, as a matter of policy, has taken the decision that they will allow practitioners to prescribe medicine within the formula and that those medicines can be filled at places other than polyclinics for the categories of people who are entitled to the free medicine. So, therefore, if the honourable Member has over 65-patients, the honourable Member can rest assured that, so intent is the Government on the implementation of a reasonably clear and deluxe National Health Service, he will be able to send them to his own druggist now. As a matter of fact, he does not have to send them to his druggist, the druggist in his building will be able to attend them.

Now tell me if that is not going to be an improvement? And they will not have to pay. Note that from April 1 an agreement has been reached. The honourable Member also knows, and I have repeatedly said it, that we have agreed to ten new consultants at the hospital so as to be able to provide for the same Casualty ten additional people to be on call and to provide secondary or back-up opinions in relation to referrals from the polyclinics or referrals from the Casualty. That must be an improvement.

What is the honourable Member saying? Is he saying that all of the people who are recommended for appointment in accordance with the procedure are incompetent? What is he saying? He cannot be attacking the Government. He is attacking the professionals. It is not the Government that is delivering the care. Thank God, there are no doctors on this side. We do not deliver the care. It is the professionals who deliver the care, and if the professionals are paid the money and they agree to the contract agreement, and they go to work and then deliver bad care, you cannot blame the Government. You should help the Government to root out these people. When you criticise things, you can only criticise the Government for not making provision, and the Government has made provision in respect of the number of doctors and in respect of the equipment. Four million dollars in equipment is going to be installed. As to when it comes has nothing to do with the Government. The procedures have been complied with. The money is there to pay for it.

Asides.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I know, Sir, that the manpower available in the Casualty has been increased greatly and has been supplemented by these 23 doctors, plus about 28 nurses, plus a barrage of other para-professionals backing up the doctors. You cannot convince anybody that with all of that manpower brought to bear, together with the equipment, we are delivering an inferior service. Common sense revolts at such a preposterous suggestion!

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Sir, I am disappointed that the Prime Minister, because he has become involved in locking horns with the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, has lost his way. It is only a couple of weeks ago that the Prime Minister was corrected in that impression he is giving, that they are providing some ten additional consultants. He knows that is not true. What has happened is that there are posts which are at the hospital and he has now made provision. You will recall that we had the debate about the Assistant Consultant. Are you saying that you are providing for ten new additional fresh bodies who are going to be consultants? That is not true, and we should not give the impression to the people in Barbados that the Barbados Labour Party Government has brought in a large number of staff, that the staff is going to be increased by ten additional consultants.....

Asides.

3.10 p.m.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: On a point of order, Sir: I am saying that as a result of the proposals agreed to between the Government and the doctors, I am providing more than ten new bodies as Consultants at the Hospital, and I will tell you how. The Consultants' obligation was 23 hours a week, it has now gone to 40. In addition to that, there were five people who only worked part time. They are moving from part time to full time. In addition to that, there are five new posts that were not there at all before. So that when you come to time, with the existing Consultants, the elevation of part time into full time, plus the five new bodies, I say that under your system, in time available to the hospital, I have provided more than ten bodies.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: May the Lord preserve us from that kind of logic! May the Lord save us from the Prime Minister! If you bring to bear the faculties which you have just brought to bear in this argument to the rest of your portfolio, God help us in this country! Nobody believes what you just said, including you! You just got up and said that you are providing ten new Consultants, and then you said ten new bodies, and then you turn round and say, 'In the context of what you mean, perhaps because in all of this, what I really am saying is.....,' and then you add up to ten.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: On a point of order, Sir: It is more than ten, because 10 at 20 is 280 hours. What I have provided is more than that.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I bow to the superior logic, whatever that means, but nobody inside or outside of this House will believe you. The fact is that the hospital has not changed in one iota the number of persons who will be functioning as Consultants, if you look at the posts. When you reclassified the posts, we went through that meticulously. What you have done is to make way for those who have been called "Assistant Consultants" to be Consultants if they are prepared to meet your terms. You must not mislead the public in this area as sensitive as health delivery.

I go further. The Prime Minister is now talking about he wants this incompetent, whoever it is, that cannot see a fracture that a blind man, a trotting jackass, would have seen, removed. That is what he is saying now, but it was only yesterday that the Prime Minister was saying to the doctors, who had been called vagabonds by ....

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: The distinguished Minister of Health, of whom it has been said that Hudson Austin is a refined version, that distinguished gentleman who called the doctors in Barbados vagabonds, he, inspired by the Prime Minister, who got in here in all of his pristine glory and said that if the doctors do not come to him he is going to bring doctors from outside, he went out and brought Neptia, Kayah, Sam Couch and the duppy, dropped them in here as doctors, and now the Prime Minister is saying he wants them rooted out. We do not believe you. In order to fulfil your political ambitions, to be able to say in the election that you have done what you said you would do, in order to tell the population of Barbados that you have completed a national health scheme, you went out and recruited like if you were recruiting boxers, like if you were recruiting gardeners. You had people telephoning people on the telephone and dismissing doctors and recruiting doctors. You have been behaving in Barbados like if the health delivery system is something you can get at a peddling shop. And now you come in here to tell us you want to help root out incompetence! I do not believe you.

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: So what?)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: You are a "so what" Prime Minister, so I expect you to say, "so what." That is your response to every question we raise in here – so what? – and when you go out and ask the people, "do you wish me any more?" All they have to say to you is, "So what?"

The fact is that the National Health Service has been a failure from the day that the honourable Member for the City (Hon. B. A. Miller) told this country that she was going to provide with the Government a free health service. She resiled from that position, as did the Government. The Government told the people of this country that it was bringing in a magnificent health service. We heard the distinguished and learned Minister of Health ....

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: You see that now? He is vexed because I called him "distinguished." I called him something else, I had to withdraw it, and now I called him distinguished he is quarrelling. The distinguished Minister of Health, who is beloved by everyone who comes into contact with him, the Minister of Health who is loved by his Cabinet colleagues like no Minister has ever been loved, whose performance as a Minister has been superior compared with any since we had ministerial Government, that gentleman is the one I am talking about! That Minister who is the fairest on a daily basis with the running of the hospital, with the running of every single department under his care, that is the Minister I am talking about! You and that Minister came to the people of Barbados and told them that the National Health Service was dead. He told the people of Barbados that, as far as he is concerned, who wants to play with that service can play with it, but as far as he is concerned it is dead. And now you come and tell us from the manifesto that you have fulfilled your dreams; you have done all that you were supposed to do!

(Aside: Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Is it a health service? Yes or No.)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: You are practising what the Democratic Labour Party had in its manifesto, and some official in the Ministry of Health dragged it out and said to you "why are you tarrying so long? You have had nine years and the blueprint has been here for you." And somebody said, "Grab it and run with it, it is a good thing." It took the people of this country nine years and $50 million later to discover what we said was the way you should go.

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: But you keep saying it is a national health service, you keep saying that now, from the 1st April, you are going to provide something which the honourable Member for the City and which the Minister of Health have been saying you are providing. Now you are saying you will provide it from the 1st of

April – All Fools' Day. The people of Barbados must be put into the cauldron of idiocy, so they are fools, and on All Fools' Day you are going to be told that you are now getting what you always had – free! – when, in fact, there are people who are now dead because they could not get medicines that were prescribed for them.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Ha! Ha! Ha! Very funny. Well, let me tell you about one, my friend. Let me tell you about one I know.

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: You ought to be ashamed! You should have given him the medicine).

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I believe that we must not get carried away. I had a friend who was perhaps my best friend. The reason he is dead, as far as I am concerned, is because he could not walk one day. He started to totter, he went to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, and at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital a doctor examine him, told him to walk a straight line, he wobbled the straight line and the doctor sent him back home. That was the last time he walked.

(Aside: Hon. L. S. CRAIG: "Goldie" he was your best friend and you let him walk? You could have walked for him.)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Do you think that is funny? I know I am funny, I would be funny to you. The whole of Barbados is funny to you. Barbados is very funny to you and your colleagues on the front bench. You have been able to perpetrate a joke on the whole of Barbados for the last nine years, so you are right. We are funny. We are foolish. We allow the Barbados Labour Party to throttle us.....

3.20 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please, let us deal with the subject.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: That is right. I am talking about my health.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: The electorate will have to decide whether we are funny or not. They have decided already that you were funny after 15 years. They will decide that.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, what is he on now!

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: No! You must not come in here and try to give the impression that you have a trolley going down the road and it is so full of delicacies that none will splash out and you are bringing in a National Health Service. We are saying to you that the Health Service which you have provided in the context of these Estimates has been a failure in the context of your promises.

I will go further, Mr. Chairman. The honourable Member for St. Michael East (Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN) demonstrated to the whole of Barbados that the Psychiatric Hospital had the most inhumane conditions of any hospital anywhere in the Caribbean that we know of. He said that the only thing that should be done with it was to get a bulldozer and bulldoze it. You come to us with the Estimates this year.....

(Aside: Hon. L. S. CRAIG: We upgraded it since we came in here).

Mr. B. M, TAITT: They really should upgrade it for you.

He comes to us this year and in the Estimates – $358 000. You would think the Prime Minister would come in here and tell us what provisions are being made. First of all, he should come and tell us if what the honourable Member for St. Michael East said was true. He should tell us what provisions have been made to improve on the position as seen by the then Minister of Health. Sir, you are familiar with collective responsibility, and if the Minister says so, it is so – that is their business. So the Minister of Health told us that the conditions were horrible.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Is the honourable Member for Christ Church East (Hon. Dr. R. L. Cheltenham), who is shouting, "why?" – is he really subscribing to the theory that he does not have to explain to Parliament whether what one of his colleagues, as a Minister, said about the delivery of psychiatric health care in this country was valid? Does he not think that he has a responsibility to the rest of the community to come in here and say to us either, (1) he was wrong; or (2) he was right and we have taken steps to correct it? Instead, what do we have for the Psychiatric Hospital? "This subhead provides for the upgrading of the physical facilities at the hospital. It includes provision to purchase beds and mattresses as well as a vehicle."

Sir, the person who wrote that explanatory note, as it is called, probably looked at the previous explanatory note and the one before it. This does not fall into the National Health Scheme at all. There is no obligation or

responsibility under the National Health Scheme for psychiatric care.

Sir, it has also been said by almost everyone who is practising in this field that there has been a substantial increase in the number of psychiatric patients in Barbados, both out-patients and in-patients. It is a fact that with the high incidence of increase in drug use in Barbados, there has been a corresponding increase in the number of persons who have to seek psychiatric care. What is the Government doing about it? What has the Government done? What can we tell from these Capital Estimates is an indication that the Government it taking steps to provide the kinds of facilities that would be necessary for this community if we are not all going to die from the results of psychological and psychiatric stress?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Two minutes more.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, in the two minutes let me say that the Psychiatric Hospital's position is only a reflection of the position at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. It is a reflection of steady, or, if you will, benigned neglect by the Government which, only during an election year, suddenly discovers that what the hospital administration had been saying to it for the last seven years was worthy of examination. And so, Sir, during the year of 1986, the equipment becomes available at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. The equipment which had been asked for, some of it as long as seven years ago, now as we come to an election year, suddenly everyone is jumping and ready to provide the equipment.

I will say this for the honourable Member for St. Andrew (Hon. L. B. Brathwaite). When the honourable Member for St. Andrew was Minister of Health, he demonstrated a willingness to listen. He demonstrated a willingness to discover from the community what would help to make an improvement in the system of the delivery of health care. That has to be said for him, the honourable Member for St. Andrew.

Asides

Mr. B. M. TAITT: The fact is that he tried, and we said he tried, and we are on record of saying this. One only has to compare his performance with the abysmal activity which has been going on in the name of the distinguished and loveable gentleman that said in a pamphlet how, when he was a civil servant, he fought the Dems. His whole life is committed to fighting the Dems. Now, he is fighting the people from his ministerial position. The only thing we can say is that he is winning the fight. He is bringing the whole of Barbados to his knees, and now he is saying that he is aided and abetted by no less a person than the Prime Minister himself.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Sir, the Minister of Health is the second biggest disappointment in Barbados. He is second only to the Prime Minister himself!

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE (St. Andrew): Mr. Chairman, I would not wish to speak for any length of time on this subject, since I believe that it has had a reasonable hearing, but there are one or two points which I would like to enter the debate on.

I would wish, firstly, to start on the subject of the Psychiatric Hospital, and the arguments that we did not look at that particular area of health. When I had the opportunity and the privilege to serve in the Ministry of Health, it was the concern then of the Government, and, I believe, still the concern – and that was only a brief four and a half years after we had entered into office in 1976 that I assumed responsibility for the Ministry of Health – to look at a total package for health care in this country. And I recall that on a visit to the Psychiatric Hospital, I made an observation, and I do not think it even went down well within my own party, with respect to the status of the hospital at that time. I said that from my observation, and from what I had seen of a massive, out-dated structure, it needed to be levelled to the ground that a bulldozer needed to be put on it, and I would have liked to have the opportunity of driving the bulldozer myself.

I saw, however, a beautiful piece of real estate property that could be usefully utilised by Government to do a number of things, for example, house industries. It was my understanding at the time that it had something like 14 acres of prime land, and you could have developed there part of an industrial estate, if you wish or a very nice housing project. I was not looking at it as Minister of Housing and Lands, but rather as Minister of Health, and springing from that, although what I said was taken in some quarters as a joke, I was extremely serious, and everybody realising that there was something in the point which I made, came around to the view that the hospital area should be looked at, and that we should think in Barbados in terms of a modern psychiatric hospital.

3.30 p.m.

In this day of mental health care, people are not looking particularly seriously at the institutional care. While there are cases which you will have to adopt that type of care with, it is always felt, and by those people who are trained in mental health care, that it is better for those people who are mentally ill to be within the community so that they can adapt themselves to the condi-

tions which are out there. Today you are not looking again at sprawling areas like the buildings we used to know as Jenkins, and now called the Psychiatric Hospital, but you are looking at more modern facilities with comfortably set out bed arrangements or what-have-you in order to accommodate psychiatric patients. I was looking myself at an area in Waterford or somewhere like there where you could probably have not 14 acres of land but probably five or six acres of land. I am happy to announce that the Government has come around full circle to my idea, and that a study is now being done with a view to arriving at a decision with respect to a modern and fully updated mental institution.

We sometimes, for some reason or another, seem to think that a person who is mentally ill is not a person to be rehabilitated or a person to be looked after. We seem not to understand that mental illness is like any illness which man is subject to, and when we have our mental patients we tend to abandon them, but we feel in this Government that we have a duty and that the patients themselves are entitled to expect proper care from any Government of the day. I have worked very hard towards that day in the short 18 months I was there, and the Government was very much inclined towards the views which I took with respect to that institution and, generally, to mental care.

I took that subject first as it was the last of the few points or the main points made by the honourable Member for St. Michael West, and since I always regard it as a subject which people tend to shy away from, I decided that I would raise that first.

I want to deal now with the broader question of health care delivery and the health care services which the Government set out to bring to this country as introduced in its 1976 manifesto. The introduction of care for the people in this country in the form in which we set out to have it was not a matter to be lightly brought in. By that, I mean you were coming up against a number of prejudices, entrenched prejudices, you were coming up against large professional interests. The doctors in this country have over the years been a group of people who practised medicine and who were looked up to by the people in the community who visited their offices, and there was a time in Christ Church when they used to refer to doctor politics up there as a type of mafia politics. I am not suggesting by that that I believe that the people up there felt at the time that they doctors were mafia, but it was because of the powerful position which the doctors held at the time in the politics of Christ Church. The doctors in those days were powerful. Of course they are still very powerful today, because they see a lot of patients in their offices and therefore they believe that they are a powerful lobby and they can control a considerable amount of votes. So if a Government, acting upon the will of the people as shown in the mandate given, considers that it should embark upon a programme of activity which would usher in health in a community in a particular form, it will not be surprising to discover that entrenched interests would set its back up against a Government which seeks to interfere with a system in which they have practised over a large number of years.

Now let me put it very straight, as I have put it before in connection with this very subject. Nothing in Barbados is free. The water that used to be delivered at the standpipes which were prevalent in the past, but not particularly existing today, might have been free to the people who used it, but not to the people who paid for it. If you decide to abolish bus fares in this country, it would not be bus fares abolished to the people who carry the weight of bus fares, because there is not a tap that is pouring money into the Treasury which we do not see but which we learn to accept like manna from on high which will pay for these things. Even if you have oil, like the oil-rich countries of the world – and they are having a battering now – they must still pay to have the oil brought out from underneath and they have to pay people to bring it up. Therefore, whoever are the people to provide the money for the running of the country, must pay for the services at some point or other. If you say that there is no charge at all for any group in the society by way of direct pay or a fee for service, there must be a pay by way of insurance premium or by way of Government's payment to the doctors or the people who are totally involved in that type of service. So do not let us fool ourselves about service being free. Money must come from the Treasury or from some source, but it must come from somewhere.

3.40 p.m.

I would think that in a small society such as ours, and with the entrenched interest which I talked about, that no doubt it would be extremely difficult, maybe not even in a lifetime, with the conservative attitude of people, to quickly bring into operation a service as revolutionary as the one which we sought to bring about. And there is another point which I want to deal with. In Barbados, the country is divided right down the centre on political grounds. It is so in the church, it is so in the law, it is so in medicine. Definitely so, right down the line! I was recently in the court and I was the most surprised man when I saw Mr. "Sleepy" Smith.....

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

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE:.....and attacking the Barbados Labour Party and attacking Mr. – I can call his name, he is no official – attacking everybody.

Aside.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: He is no official. That is wrong. I tell you it is wrong. I feel it is wrong. Attacking.....

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: I hope this is a point of order, because I am going to be very reluctant to give way. I understand the Rules of this House.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order: Mr. Chairman, there is a Standing Order in this Honourable House which requires the Honourable Member to hand the name to the Presiding Officer if he is going to call the name in debate.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Look, you are making sport. You do not even know what is going on. In his official capacity, you mean in his official capacity. What is his official capacity?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Carry on.

(Aside: Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Question the Chair.)

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: I am going ahead. It was something to do with a list which was on a notice board and I heard this man calling a lady's – Mrs. Holland – name, a former judge was on something to do with lawyers and he was quarrelling saying that everybody was a Labourite. When he looks in the mirror, he tells himself he is a Labourite although he cannot be one. This country is split right down. It does not stop me from saying it, and I will continue to say it. My constituents expect me to speak on these matters which vitally affect their interest, and I have to be sufficiently public spirited to stay up here and, if needs be, be sent out on matters on which the public feels strongly. I do not feel within myself that I am not going to breach the Rules or fight to breach those Rules.

That this country is divided, seriously divided, right down the centre is a fact, and that there are people who can only see politics in everything, no one can deny. The Barbados Medical Association is equally divided, and they have strong advocates in there who do not ever want to see the Government's programme get off the ground.

(Aside: Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Like who so?)

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: But there are some very good people in there. There are people in there willing to co-operate and they recognize that the Government has a mandate to carry through the National Health Service. It must carry through that service with the doctors.

A lot of play has been made in here about where we got the doctors from, where we bring them in from, if they can speak English and what have you. Great Britain, in its time, had to open its doors for people to come in once they were qualified. And I will tell you, the doctors have a lot of power in their hands – at least I hope it would be for all times – whereby they can say who can come in or who cannot come in. A lot of power. And I will tell you, when a Government that has the mandate of the people can be subject to the power of a small elitist group, the Government can be in serious trouble, very serious trouble. It is my view, Mr. Chairman, that in the short time, and given the amount of problems which this Government had to face with respect to getting the National Health Service on the way, that the Government is doing comparatively well.

I recall that during my time, a Jamaican consultant on casualties was selected.....

(Aside: Mr. B. M. TAITT: Your time is up.)

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: No time is up..... to look at the Casualty of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. That study was done and a number of the recommendations were implemented. I cannot tell you what the waiting time is up there or anything like that. But what I can tell you is this.

I have gone there and have seen people.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your time is up.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE:.....despatched very quickly. That might not be the experience of everybody. With the amount of polyclinics abroad and the amount of people who they are attracting, I have no doubt whatever in my mind that the Casualty of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital would be able to do the work that it is designed to do, that is, to look after very serious cases. In the past, people with even a headache went to the Casualty. The Casualty, Mr. Chairman, is not for that purpose, it is for serious cases of injury, but if people continue to crowd the Casualty with cases that can be handled at the polyclinics, we will continue to get these problems.

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

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW (St. John): Mr. Chairman, a lot of hilarity emanated from the Government benches today, a lot of noise, more noise than we like on the subject of the delivery of health care in this island. This is no occasion on which we should be indulging in frivolities, because it is a very serious situation in this island. Nobody expects perfection in every department of activity for which the taxpayers give of their hard won earnings in two directions, both in the way of private personal direct taxation, in the way of health levies, and in the way of consumption taxes in the way of indirect taxation, but everyone expects good service.
3.50 p.m.

The honourable Member is quite right. There is nothing free in Barbados, probably not even the air that we breathe, because the cost of breathing the air in Barbados, particularly with the badly-tuned engines of

the Transport Board, could mean pollution of your lungs with subsequent danger to your health. So not even the air is free. There is an immortal God who said that the beaches are free and they belong to we. But that has been challenged by the Government spokesman, and by the Chairman of the Tourist Board, and by Ministers of Tourism and others. Nothing is free.

We have come to the stage in Barbados, unfortunately, that with well trained people available in this country, people are afraid to go into the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. The people of St. John.....

Aside.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Yes, people are afraid, including your humble servant. Yes, because even with the protection of policemen, life support systems were removed from a young man, who inhabited the parish of St. Michael, in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Contrary to popular belief he did not die in Christ Church.

On January 1 this year, an eminent public officer entered the Queen Elizabeth Hospital at 9 p.m., a man well known on both sides of the House, extremely popular, and the people of St. John are still grieving over the unnecessary demise of that person. He had a history of heart ailment, he went into the Casualty and he was walking around in the Casualty, speaking to people and telling them that he was not feeling well, and there was no qualified person available to give him any attention or to put him in an appropriate ward. After some considerable time he was given an injection by someone, and at 3:30 a.m. in the morning he passed on. Paramedics are trained that anyone suffering from a heart attack, provided they are given the right first aid treatment, has a reasonable chance of survival. Very few of us would have any chance of survival if we had a heart condition, not after four and a half hours. The Prime Minister has said that the waiting time is only three and a half hours.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: The average waiting time is three hours. Emergency cases are seen immediately.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: A heart attack is an emergency case. Four and a half hours, and yet he says the average is three hours. Well, the average could be five minutes for him and ten and a half hours for somebody else.

Let me give you another example. This one was more fortunate. This gentleman living in Kirtons Land, a client of mine, went into the hospital with a heart attack and was put on a stretcher on the floor of the Casualty at 11 o'clock at night, and at 2.30 p.m. the next afternoon, when I checked in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital's Casualty, he was still on the floor on a stretcher. I had to get a private doctor to go and have him removed from there, and, thank God, he is alive today.

I am not saying that the Casualty has only now got bad. But the people are paying doubly for their health service here in Barbados and they are getting no returns for it. A programme from the Inter-American Development Bank, as far as I remember, predicates the spending of about $30 million or $40 million – I cannot remember – which is three times as much as the Queen Elizabeth Hospital cost to complete in 1964. The total cost of building the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, as far as I can remember, if you go into the main entrance of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital on the far side where you go up to the pay ward – the elevator there is one which I normally use because that is the end where I normally go in even if I am going into the C Ward – you will see there on the right hand side the cost of constructing the Queen Elizabeth Hospital was something like $8.538 million, less than $9 million.

What you need is service. They now are going to spend a fantastic amount of money doing something and creating a lot of confusion, saying they are extending the Casualty. But that is not going to prevent people, like the late Mr. Cooke, from being neglected if you do not have properly trained and highly qualified staff. A Casualty should not be treated as somebody's kitchen back door, as it is being treated now in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: The doctors are provided.)

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: The doctors are provided but there is somewhere in Shakespeare – I cannot remember whether it was Midsummer Night's Dream or the Tempest in which somebody boasted how they could call up this and that and the other. But one of my colleagues, the late Mr. Selwyn, said in relation to civil servants once – you can call them up but will they come. You can have doctors on call, but if you do not have the machinery for having those doctors promptly respond to the emergencies which arise in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, then people will be dying unnecessarily. And people are not taking the Casualty as the most serious part of hospital admission, because all your emergency cases, all of your impact surgery comes through there, all the collisions, all the accidents, and when they cannot get a doctor outside, that is where they go.

It is true that prior to certain reforms – I do not know how well they are working people used to go in there to get repeat orders of aspirin tablets and that kind of thing. Well, I think the polyclinics probably have relieved them of that kind of thing. But we are concerned. We in St. John – the people are still grieving over the unnecessary loss of that very popular and very efficient public officer. I understand that when his

personal physician went in, he collapsed. Well, that was no good. They could not save him at that time, and I know that if it were in the United States of America a malpractice suit for a few million would have been applied against the Government and his private advisor.

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I would like that to happen and make them pay.)

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: There is a popular superstition in this country – I have a long list of cases now of people who cannot get compensated for their land. They cannot sue the Government. I think that when I came for the money for what then became the United States Naval Facility it was the last time somebody tried to get money from the Government through the machinery of the law, and then somebody brought a case against the Government for compensation for Graeme Hall. We could not agree on the price and we agreed that we should use the Arbitration Act in order to get proper compensation. But a lot of people have been out there two and three years waiting for compensation instead of taking them to court. In the same way, people who get injured at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, I feel they should take the Government to court and then they will straighten up, because the Ministers themselves will then turn around and see that the people who are supposed to perform those functions perform them.

We are in the unfortunate position now in the Caribbean, and Barbados in particular, where we are spending money on the education of doctors, as we do on other people, at the university level, and we cannot recruit them into the Government Service and we have got to send to Korea, Gujerat and other obscure places like Bombay and bring some of the surplus doctors in here. I have had people report to me that some of the doctors in there do not have English, and that is bad, because when you go and you are suffering from some pain – those of us who can talk when we get to that, Sir – and you try to speak to a doctor and he asks you where the pips are and you say you do not have any pips, and it turns out that he means where the pain is you are in trouble. This actually happened to a friend of mine. This doctor asked this friend of mine where were the pips and there was no way that they could communicate. That is the level to which we have come. That is something which has to be looked into, because if you are going to put people in the Casualty who cannot understand the English language – I can only speak about English, because that is my mother tongue – you are looking for trouble. I do not blame the Government for having recruited people, but when you recruit them, let us make sure that you have people who are properly trained and who understand English, because that is essential if there is going to be a proper communication between the doctor and the patient.

4.00 p.m.

I am glad that the Prime Minister agrees with me that some mal-practice suits should be brought against some of the people here in Barbados. There are some dedicated doctors in this country. I am not going to say anything about the rest of them. There are some of them who are not so dedicated. I have not yet met a doctor who is a vagabond. I have not yet met any doctor who had been prosecuted, any member of the legal profession who has been prosecuted under the Vagrancy Act and deemed a rogue and a vagabond, and I know no doctor who has had such a sentence imposed on him, so I cannot say that, but I will say that some of them are dedicated and some of them are not dedicated. We have trained a lot of dedicated people, but, unfortunately, most of them have practised their dedication outside of Barbados. Some are using their buildings now to build up the medical services in the United States, in England and in Canada. Therefore, we should try to repatriate some of those people, but not by necessarily offering them the kind of conditions in Barbados that would encourage them to come back here.

I have a concept about this country. We are far from the sources of our tourist trade. We are supposed to be a destination, but we are like the far pavilion for some of the people in North America, particularly the west coast people, and people in parts of Europe. We are the far pavilion, but every hotel in Barbados could be full for 365 days a year if we develop health spas in this country, providing the medical services, having the equipment, not every day selling equipment, but at least two centres where you get things like Catscans and the NRN scans, which is the French equivalent or improvement on it.

They have a Catscan machine in Trinidad that does not work. They do not have any technicians to repair it. We have probably some of the only qualified people right here in Barbados who are capable of repairing and calibrating cobalt machines and things of that kind. Our Hospital Director is one of them and there is another gentleman called Mr. Agard. Why don't we use all the resources that we have and try to develop Barbados as a health centre?

I will tell you why. The average hospital cost in the United States of America is about $700 a day. There is no hotel in Barbados that charges U.S. $700 a day, as far as I know. I heard the Prime Minister talk of one having a U.S. $300 a day. In other words, you can easily spend $400 in our convalescent homes with ordinary things, nurses and doctors and so available, not in each and every one, because if you have two or three hotels next door each other you could afford to have the pool of doctors serving a group of hotels and the pool of nurses. You can pay them a little more and have paramedics and so working with these places. We will never have an empty room, because people will enjoy a holiday and at the same time

have their Blue Cross or whatever medical scheme they have, paying at a cheaper price than what they have to pay in the United States.

I think that all of us here would like to have proper access, we are paying too much money and getting too little for it. We are paying once, twice and three times. I do not know what we are producing.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD (St. Michael South): Mr. Chairman, I would like to intervene in this debate and I would like to make just a few observations. First of all I want to ask a specific question. Some time towards the end of last year, probably late November or early December, there was an issue raised by, I believe it was the local pharmaceutical distributors, that the Government, through the Drug Service, was owing some $2 million or so for drugs to the local pharmaceutical distributors. I would wish to know what is the position, if those reports were accurate, and if so, whether those local distributors have been cleared of the money owing to them. I think we should get some information on this, because it touches the whole area of the efficiency of our health services when those who are supposed to distribute the drugs, which are essential for the care or cure of patients, are prevented from providing as efficient a service as possible through a lack of money owing to them. I believe the Government should make some statement as to whether this matter has been cleared up, or indeed whether the reports were true. I believe the reports appeared in the local newspapers.

Mr. Chairman, I wish to make this point. It is the inescapable duty of the Opposition in this Parliament to point out any deficiencies in the services provided by the Government, in the hope and expectation that bringing to the public attention and to the attention of the Government deficiencies in the provision of public services would lead to an improvement in those services and hence to better provision for the people of this country, and in no area is that more true than in the health services.

Now, we heard a presentation here earlier today from the Member for St. Michael South Central (Dr. R. C. Haynes), who is himself a distinguished medical practitioner, and an attempt was made to indicate that some of the statements which he was making were untrue. I am not a member of the medical profession, but I am saying that it has come to my knowledge that some time in December – let me say, since you want dates and so on, late December, I believe it must have been the last Sunday in December – someone attended what was called the Casualty Department – I believe it has another name, the Accident and Emergencies Unit, or Department, or a style somehow like that – feeling very ill. That person went to that department about 3 o'clock in the morning, by 7 o'clock in the morning – this is what was reported to me – had not been seen and then, soon thereafter, saw someone, and was asked if he had not gone to a polyclinic. On a Sunday morning! Dissatisfied with that kind of treatment, or lack of treatment, that that individual was getting, the person left the Casualty Department, went to a private doctor, and the illness was diagnosed as bronchitis. That person is dissatisfied with the kind of treatment that they got at the Accident and Emergencies Unit or Department of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

4.10 p.m.

What I would say is that when instances or examples are brought from this side, it is not necessarily to pull down a particular institution, but it is to point out that there are many deficiencies, and that for the kinds of money we are paying in this country, we deserve a better health service. And if we do not put our heads together, and if we do not go down this long road of partisan politics, believing that anything said by this Opposition is necessarily obstructing, I do not believe that we are going to get the kinds of improvements that we should get.

I am going to make a statement here. I am going to say that the change of Government in 1976 has set back the development of the Health Care Services in this country by almost eight years. I am going to make that point boldly, because it was not in 1981, it was not in 1985, or now in 1986, that the proposals for an Accident and Emergencies Unit, for revamping of the Casualty Department of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, were proposed. The Democratic Labour Party enunciated that particular line of development way back in 1976, and it has taken almost ten years for the Government to get on with these kinds of developments.

Let me indicate from the manifesto for that particular year of 1976, because people do not believe unless we quote chapter and verse, and I am quoting chapter and verse in respect of a statement made and a bold public proposal put forward at that time. We said then that we would:

> ".... maintain and improve the efficiency of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital as the major curative institution at which our people are treated when acutely ill. The management services will be further streamlined."

– this is it, Mr. Chairman –

> "The services in the Casualty Department will be restricted to determine serious accidents and other conditions requiring immediate medical attention thereby reducing waiting time."

I think that particular process is known as triarzine, I believe, is the technical term that is used.

We continued:

> "A parallel development of a separate outpatients' clinic for the treatment of non-emergency illnesses will take place."

So, the point I am making here is that what is now taking place ten years down the road, the clear policy directions were set out long ago.

It is the fact that we have a Government which operates purely on words, and whenever it comes to the matter of raising problems and deficiencies, their answer is that we have the best medical services, or the best educational services, or the best transportation services anywhere in the Caribbean, and if you give them a chance, they would say the world as well. But that is not the issue at stake. The issue is whether we are getting value for our money and whether we are getting the most efficient services in relation to the resources we have at our disposal, and from this side we say "No," and we say the policymakers are at fault. I am not blaming any civil servants in this particular regard. It is the politicians that must take the blame, and specifically it is the Ministers of Government.

Just as we can document dissatisfaction among the people about the service that they get in those institutions, there is also dissatisfaction about the service that they get in the polyclinics. There is dissatisfaction about that, but that would happen. When you have established polyclinics, or multi-purpose clinics as we call them, – and sometimes it is forgotten that the pioneers of the multi-purpose clinics in this country were Dr. Rameses Caddle, and myself, following upon him – I opened the first one, so I would know about them – and when you go and close down a clinic within a prevailing health climate and send the persons to other health clinics before the services are actually in place, and when there was a great demand for those services right on the doorsteps of people, you would get those problems in the polyclinics as well, because you closed it down against sound advice and against good advice. You would run into difficulties with the medical and the health services, because enough attention is not paid to the matter of clearly formulating the policy and then going about an efficient implementation.

Then, we say there is definitely too much interference ....

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: By whom?)

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Politicians like yourself. That is the problem. That is why we do not have a better health service. When persons who have been working, let us say, on call, or on a temporary basis for years in certain of the departments of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, and then because of a change of Ministers, or a change, whatever kind of change there may be, persons from a particular parish or a particular constituency come now and get preference over other persons who have been working there for a long time, you will have problems. It is that kind of interference in the personnel administration of the hospital, not allowing the administration to get on with their work, that is causing a large amount of problems. So we have got to get down to this matter very seriously and consider the real issues involved, and it is that the policies must be clearly formulated, that Ministers must realise that they should not interfere in the day-to-day running of that hospital or of the health services, and I am accusing you and your team ....

4.20 p.m.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: On a point of order: If the honourable Member can get up in here and make a bold statement that he is accusing me and my side of interfering, I must ask him, in all fairness, in all decency, to give me the particulars of the interference, the day, when and the time, otherwise stand condemned as a reckless .... I will stop, Sir.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: We are not taking you seriously about calling for information. This morning the honourable Member for Christ Church West Central (Mr. M. A. King) gave information, presented whatever he felt like, and you said strike it from the record. You did not want that information. We are going to present information to the people out there.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: The honourable Member must be out of order now. I submit that the honourable Member must be out of order. He cannot make an accusation against me of breach of constitutional propriety. That is what the accusation amounts to. When I asked him for particulars, he says that the honourable Member for Christ Church West Central gave the particulars and I struck them from the record. In other words, what he is saying, Sir, is that you, the Chairman, who ruled that it was improper and contrary to the rules, was wrong, and that you prevented the particulars of my breach of constitutional propriety from being placed on the table. Now he is not only attacking me, he is attacking the Chairman. I will see whether you will take that.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I have not attacked you. The exact words that I said were that the Honourable Prime Minister, the Member for Christ Church East Central, said that the information should be struck from the record. That is what you said. I did not say you struck it from the record. You do not have the power to do that in here.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: With all due respect, Sir; you must rule, because we cannot have these wild accusations in here. We must break up Parliament if we are not going to comply with the rules.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, order, order.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Did you say it should be struck from the record? Did you or did you not say so?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please. The Honourable Prime Minister drew to the attention of the Chair what he considered was a breach of the Standing Orders of this Chamber. The Chair accepted that and ruled on it, but it was, in fact, so. Now the honourable Member is reflecting on that ruling. Impliedly, the honourable Member for St. Michael South is bringing into contention the ruling of the Chair.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Sir, I respect your ruling in that Chair and I obey your rulings. I am simply saying what the Prime Minister said this morning. He said so.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: But you are commenting. I cannot have an honourable Member commenting on a ruling of the Chair because that is in fact what you have been doing.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: With all due respect, I did not make any comment on the ruling.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am bound to be advised on this.

(Mr. Chairman consulted with the Clerk at the Table.)

Aside.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: If you want to break up Parliament, break it up. It is within your power to break up Parliament. If you are going to break up Parliament, break it up.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, order.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: It is now within your power to come in here and be nasty. That is your problem. Your true self is being shown in here today.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Never mind my true self. You look after your true self. Whenever you are on the losing end of a debate, you refer to *argumentum ad hominum.* You are now calling me nasty. I am not getting into that debate.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, order.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: It is nasty to seek to do what you tried to do.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Both honourable Members must take their seats.

I would like to know from the honourable Member for St. Michael South if he, in fact, was attempting to challenge my ruling. I do not regard it as a challenge.

Continue.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: I thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: On a point of order: I must ask you for a ruling on the point. You have ruled on one point. My original point is that the honourable Member said that I was guilty, me and my team, he pointed specifically and said the Honourable Prime Minister and his team – was guilty of political interference with the administration of the health services, and I asked you to rule whether the honourable Member is entitled to do that without providing particulars. He then said that the particulars that he was providing were the ones that the honourable Member for Christ Church West Central has provided and that I asked for that to be struck from the record. I asked Your Honour to deal with that point, whether it is proper for an honourable Member to give particulars of a justification of a false accusation by reference to matters that you yourself, as Chairman, have ruled are improper.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: You quote the Standing Order for the guidance of the House. Which Standing Order am I breaking?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. The Chair, in this instance, finds that the allegation by the honourable Member for St. Michael South with respect to the Prime Minister and his colleagues and political interference to be out of order. That is my ruling.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: I said I abide by your ruling.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please carry on. You still have about four minutes more debating time.
4.30 p.m.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, after that procedural interruption there, I accept your ruling on this particular matter.

(Aside: Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: I bet you do not have anything more to say. Let us have a tea break. He has a blank.)

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: The point we are making from this side is that there must be a clear objective for our health services in this country, and that is, that we expect that there should be health for all, that we should seek to bring the best possible health care to the people of this country within the resources available to us in this

country. And what we say is that, on any objective analysis, we are not achieving that at the moment, and that we tend to turn a blind eye to developments in the services simply by excusing our deficiencies. That is what the Government is doing, excusing the deficiencies of the Government by saying we have a better service than any other country. If we look at the different departments.....

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You go ahead.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD:....There is dissatisfaction, as we understand it, in certain of the departments, and there are disputes, as I understand it, in, let me call one department, perhaps the X-ray department. That is what I have read in the newspapers. I do not have any other source of information in respect of that. You cannot deny that, that there are problems there. It may be that the level of health care to be provided is not at its optimum because some of the tests and some of the information which should be available may not become available on a timely basis, or at all, and that is bound to affect the efficiency of the service.

What we say is this, that the Government must get its act together, because our health services are too important for the development of this country to wallow in inefficiency as a result of what is going on at the present time.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS (St. Thomas): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the honourable Member who just sat down read a number of statements platitudinous from his manifesto in 1976 and, like all of the statements they have made in here, there was no indication of specifics. There was no indication as to how the matters that were broadly mentioned could possibly be implemented. But he continued to criticize the Government, because, like other Members on his side, he is saying it took the Government ten years to have the National Health Service introduced in Barbados. The spokesman for health at the back is saying the same thing. The burden of their argument today was that the introduction of the National Health Service has taken ten years and that the present level of service delivered.....

(*Aside:* Who said that?)

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You, Richie, all of you.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, in the interest of accuracy, I do not think I made any reference to a National Health Service....I made no reference at all to a National Health Service.

(*Aside:* Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You said nine years.)

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: I was not referring to a National Health Service. I was referring to the establishment of the Accident and Emergencies Unit, the expansion that is taking place at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the so-called out-patients, whatever it is, department.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Certainly, Sir, the honourable Member for St. Michael West and the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central — I made notes — have complained that it has taken, one said nine, the other said ten years to get the National Health Service, which was promised in 1976, to the stage that it is at today. The second major, broad criticism has been that the existing services are deficient or defective in many specific areas which they mentioned. So that they are asking that the service should be perfect and that the service should have been delivered a lot earlier.

I do not want to dwell on this business of manifesto promises, because if we get into the area of how long it takes to implement a manifesto promise, we have had the Drug Service in being, I believe since 1981 or 1982, and the other bits and pieces, the ancillary services to the National Health Service have been gradually introduced. But for 15 years, the people of Barbados waited for the DLP to hold elections every three years. Never came! Waited for them to have a flour mill. Never came! A cement plant. Never came! Shoes at six shillings a pair. Still waiting! All those are promises made by them in 1961....So do not let us get into this. The poor workers are still looking for the beach houses that you promised in 1961, and when you went out in 1976 not even one had been built. At least we have implemented the Drug Service and have started the provisions of free medical care for the under-sixes, the aged and indigent.

Sir, it is unreasonable to expect that a health service, as wide ranging as that that has now come into being, can start off by being permanent. The reason why others on this side have paid attention to the level of health services in other islands in the Caribbean is to say that we know that there are problems, but at least we are better than others. It is not to convey the impression that one is derrogating from a pursuit of excellence and resting on one's laurels. Obviously one will try to achieve what is excellent in the health service, but it will take time, Sir.

I hear complaints that somebody died, Mr. Cooke. I regret that that has had to come into this debate. The Right Honourable Member for St. John as a lawyer, if he is convinced that there was neglect or negligence on the part of the hospital authorities, should sue me. Sue the Attorney-General. It is well within his competence as a Q.C. to file the writ. What he said in here today shocked me, because Mr. Cooke was a friend of mine, a close friend, and I am very disturbed that now, so many

months.....But this is just another rumour. I believe this is just another rumour.

(*Aside:* True.)

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am sorry that Mr. Cooke's memory has been dragged into this debate by way of rumour. I mean, other rumours went around about being poisoned. I do not know if there was a post mortem. When the late Prime Minister died there was a great call for a post mortem. I do not know if there was a post mortem in that case, but there were other rumours apart from the one that I heard today. But assuming that there is substance in the rumour today, it behoves the Leader of the Opposition to marshal his facts and fight a case.

Attempts have been made for years in Barbados to fight malpractice suits against doctors. In virtually every case, those suits come to naught, because you have to rely, in a small community, on the expert evidence of another practitioner within the system who feels beholden towards the person who is being sued. There is great difficulty in getting the evidence. I have had to bring Professor Golding from the University of the West Indies in Jamaica to give evidence in a case here. You have these problems, but he must try, Sir. If Mr. Cooke was allowed to walk around the hospital for two hours in the Casualty, or whatever, and nobody attended him and he was given an injection at the wrong time or in the wrong place, he might have a case. I want to see a suit filed. I want to see the specific allegations of negligence.
4.40 p.m.

Now, Sir, it seems to me that Members who have spoken in this debate have failed to pay regard to the results of the recent opinion poll that was taken in this country, because what you heard from the other side today, if that poll is correct, bears no relationship to the public's perception of the contribution that Government has made to the delivery of health care in this country. One of the questions that had been asked of the interviewees was who was better able to deliver health care. The vast proportion, if the poll is correct, or for all its short-comings, voted heavily in favour of the Barbados Labour Party. So that there is a public perception, backed by the actual fact of observers' works, that the Government has been able to deliver health services of a quality satisfactory to the general mass of the population. Now we must not forget that this matter was put to the test, to accord, and the overwhelming evidence is in favour of the Government having done a satisfactory job. I just want to record that.

Sir, there are problems in the hospital. Years ago, I had to wait many hours one night with a friend from Blades Hill, who had got cut. I am told that that is not the case today. I am not in possession of the facts that say that the waiting time is three hours. The officials have given the Prime Minister that information and I cannot challenge it. I have to rely on the accuracy of public information like that.

I want to draw to the House's attention something that has bothered me. I do not know if the officials from the Ministry are here, and the Hospital Director. In December, by a Civil Establishment Order, we established, I believe, 150 positions of Staff Nurse at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Up to now, March, not one has been established. There is unhappiness and disquiet, because within the last week an exercise has been taking place which has proven to be unsatisfactory to persons who are legitimately entitled to have their positions established. I have the names of four persons that I will be writing about next week, four persons who ought to be in the zone for establishment but are being superseded and got around. I am glad the honourable Member for St. Philip North has had similar information. I do not come in here and make up things. I have four cases and I am going through some exercises now that are going to create problems, because it is not fair. What is happening is not fair. Persons who are specifically entitled to be established are being bypassed, and I give you that warning today, that it cannot continue, and fairness must prevail in the question of establishing those 150 positions. That is all I am saying, Sir. I will give the Hospital Director the four names that I have. They are not from St. Thomas. I just want the Ministry to ensure that fairness prevails in the question of those appointments.

I think that we have heard all the negative aspects of the health service today. We have heard all the negative things about the Minister of Health and Welfare, and we even heard the honourable Member for St. Michael South deliver himself of something that had ultimately to be struck from the record — quite out of character and clearly a symptom of a man under great pressure and struggling for his political survival.

(*Aside:* Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: Don't bother with that.)

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, let us look at some of the areas of positive activity and contribution by the Minister of Health and Welfare to the enhancement of the quality of life for Barbadians.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What is the point of order?

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: I think this Attorney General said that something I said had to be struck from the record. What was that? I do not recall that.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Was it not struck from the record what you said about the Prime Minister? They left it in?

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: No, no! Nothing was struck from the record.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: It was said to be out of order.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: It was what the Prime Minister said about me that was struck from the record.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: This is election year 1986. But for the period of January — December 1985 just done, 529 welfare houses were repaired in this country — not an election year, please — in 1985, 529 at the cost of $1.4 million. The Ministry of Health and Welfare will get no credit for that programme that has brought relief to so many ageing people in need of house repairs.

The Home Help Service, Sir. Five hundred and seventy persons received the benefit of the Home Help Service, another scheme introduced by the Barbados Labour Party.

Asides.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Do not go to that little piece of blue foolishness you have there. You will not find it in there, man, Sandy. Five hundred and seventy, Sir!

(*Aside:* Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: It may be there.)

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: In the area of drugs, I do not know if the facts have been given, Sir, but the public ought to be aware that the following categories of persons are eligible for free or subsidised drugs under the special benefit service:

(1) persons 65 years and over

(2) children under 6

(3) persons who receive prescribed formulary drugs for the treatment of chronic diseases like high blood pressure, diabetes and cancer.

Those are some, I do not know if they are all, Sir.

4.50 p.m.

Within the Department of Health and Welfare, the National Insurance Department administers for the 258 000 people in this country the following benefit schemes:—

Sickness — 9 schemes of benefit —

Maternity, funeral, invalidity, old age contributory, non-contributory old age pension, survivors', employment injury and unemployment.

I like to read "Men and matters." The author of that column keeps saying that we need to give back to the people all this money we have taken from them in taxes. What are the facts, Sir? Up to the 31st December, 1985, in respect of those many benefits, one or two others added together, the payment of benefits under those respective Heads amounted to $92 million — $92 116 648.29. As to unemployment benefit alone, a scheme that was not in the contemplation of the Democratic Labour Party and for whose introduction this Government takes the credit, the Ministry of Health, through the agency of the National Insurance Department, paid out in benefits for unemployment $4 668 809.16.

These benefits haave been enlarged, expanded, increased and improved from time to time. Take, for example, the funeral grant. In April 1981, it was raised from $200 to $350 and further increased to $450 in April 1984.

When one looks to the question of the payment of utility bills, it is fashionable for the Opposition to make wild statements that people do not get their electricity and water bills paid. What are the facts, Sir? During the fiscal year 1985—86, $128 000 was allocated for the payment of electricity bills and $280 000 was the contribution towards the water bills of the aged and the indigent, and we intend this year to spend $300 000 on water bills and $130 000 on electricity bills.

Welfare grants. Ten thousand one hundred and twenty five persons.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: One minute more.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: All right, Sir. I can't get in all, but I will get in most.

Ten thousand one hundred and twenty five persons benefited from welfare grants during the year 1985 at a cost, for the calendar year January to December, of $3.5 million. I don't speak of the contribution to the provision of legal services by the Welfare Department, the 64 people who were helped to bring cases, paternity suits and maintenance suits by women, or the 17 who were assisted to bring divorce actions, or the total amount for lodging fees of $11 601. I don't speak of those things, Sir.

I wish to finish. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition said that Barbados could enhance its tourism by the development of health spas. We are glad that he is a convert to that idea. On December 17, 1985, during the debate on the St. Joseph Hospital, I quote the Prime Minister, Sir, who said then: "Booz Allen Hamilton has said, 'Barbados has a golden opportunity to provide services to sick people from the United States of America.' " and the Prime Minister goes on: "I believe in that. I also believe this."

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I was only able to get the first two copies, but I then went on, Sir, and took up the thread during my speech in the same debate and said all the Blue Cross, Blue Shield talk came in here from this side. The Blue Cross, Blue Shield talk started on this side, Sir. I am going to finish it up by quoting what I said in that debate:

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I was not aware of the phrase. This is what I said, Sir: "I did not know the technical phrase overseas convalescent patient, but, as I am informed, Government is looking very closely and actively at encouraging overseas insurance companies that have patients who are in need of further treatment in a climate such as Barbados to come here and, as I am informed, it is a million dollars business in Italy."

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until 5.15 p.m. today.

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

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

ON RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed.

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

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I beg to move that Head 78 stand part.

Mr. L. A. WEEKES (St. Michael North West): Mr. Chairman, I think quite a lot has been said on this Head in respect of the health services, and since it forms a very high proportion of expenditure this year, one would expect to hear the general concerns in respect of this Head. I would not want to repeat much of what has been said before, but just to respond to the Members opposite and look at the whole debate against the background of what has been happening before the present Government took up this department.

In 1976 we heard much about the health services, and it stirred many people, because the Government put out the idea that they would provide a service better than what was going, at least, and certainly it would be of no cost at all. Surprisingly enough, I have heard a second Minister from that side actually agreed that that was not true. It was probably a move to lead the electorate into feeling that they would enjoy a better standard of health services. So I think it is important to look at the comments made on this side to see if they were justifiable in respect of the expenditures to date.

It would have been a good thing if we could look at the Chief Medical Officer's Report for the year 1976 when the Democratic Labour Party went out of power. This would give you some idea as to how we were thinking the health services in this country should move. The expenditure on this Head accommodates the polyclinics as they are in the newer form, the new method of providing out-patient clinics, and if you look at page 29 of that same report, I will give you some idea as to how out-patient services functioned then:

> "Out-patient Services are provided in the main by the general hospital, the mental hospital and the district maternity hospitals. In addition, clinics in the eleven parishes are held by District Medical Officers for patients who are unable to pay for medical attention."

So that, in truth and in fact, what was happening in 1976 is that the service that was implemented was already providing, not what the Honourable Member for St. Andrew said could not be free, "for patients who are unable to pay for medical attention." If you cannot pay, it

means you are getting it free, so that the idea of a free National Health Service to the people of Barbados meant that it was going beyond this, because they were so getting it.

It went on to say in another section "another health centre was opened to function as a multi-purpose clinic. All types of services would be provided". It is from here, Mr. Chairman, then that I take up the whole discussion. Had they continued with this kind of programme, we might not have had the problems and the complaints that we are getting today. All that has happened really in terms of the service — I do not know why we call it a National Health Service because we have already had a service that was national to serve the whole nation, nothing new — to me, it was a sort of misnomer, a way of leading people into believing that something new was happening, and certainly, from what I have read since 1976 that is not true – is that since 1976 new buildings went up and you provided the same out-patient services.

The quality of the services, then, is what most of us are concerned with. We are still getting the same complaints, and I anticipated that in those clinics where overcrowding or overloading have occurred, as we are hearing today, because of the inadequacy of the medical staff to deal with the number of people who were likely to attend the clinics, that certainly would reduce the quality of service. I, no doubt, share the view of my colleague that the private practitioner obviously will start to pick up again because, as has happened in the past when they had this overcrowding, overloading, people sought services elsewhere, and it is because of that that the medical practitioners obviously wanted to make serious inputs into the development of this service that was to be expanded.

Since 1976 we have collected a lot of dues, and we have also invited consultants to give us some idea as to what we should do. After eight or nine years, I have not heard from the other side whether the consultant services were useful in setting up this service. That is an additional cost which appears to us to have been unwanted, because, all along, those people, the people who ran the service, had been saying that they could assist the Government in providing the kind of service that would be beneficial to the country.

Now, we are at crossroads. What is happening? The Government itself seems to be confused as to what to do. The Minister responsible has said Model A is out. If I understood what the Model A meant, then it would mean that the whole service would have been thrown out. So we are not operating on any model at all, no more than what they found in 1976.

We also heard that the Government had sent its board members abroad to look at another system. But where are we going? What kind of system are we operating? Are we just going along in an *ad hoc* manner hoping that we will find a solution to the health service problems in Barbados or are we waiting until it gets a bit worse, when people would have a little less confidence than they have now in the service?

The numbers that the Minister read out today in respect of people attending the clinics is nothing unusual, because since 1976 the people had accepted that that service was a very useful service, and I would say this as well, too, that during that time we used to have Saturday clinics as well, but I do not know if the polyclinics open on Saturdays. I do not know if they do, but certainly in those days we used to have that kind of service.
5.25 p.m.

If you look at the numbers that were attending the clinics in the districts themselves, you will see that that numbers turning up at the polyclinics today are really no big revelation because people had always been accustomed to using the district services, as they were. What they are concerned with, or what they are a bit confused about, is that whoever promotes the polyclinics seems to promote the polyclinics as alternatives to the Casualty, and some people, finding it difficult when they need the services of this institution, are not sure whether they should go for polyclinic aid or to the Casualty. They get the impression that they cannot be served in the Casualty as it used to be, and this is partly so, but we still have a main problem of getting people to accept what is the main purpose of these clinics.

Mr. Chairman, I have heard complaints. I have heard some say that they have not been able to see the doctor because the numbers had been allocated for the day. I do not know how true that is, but that is also a possibility, because if you have one practitioner or two practitioners working at different points in the day, it is almost certain, from my experience, that they can only attend to a limited number. These little problems tend to make one believe that the service is not really serving the purpose as it should.

We have all heard about the old age pensioners. Again, if you look at the Kaiser Foundation Report, that told you that all these old age pensioners, and, as the honourable Member for St. Thomas mentioned, the instant poor all qualified to get free medical care. So the real problem is why are we getting the same thing or getting a similar service at a bit of a disadvantage, and, as one of the Ministers said, at additional cost? Because of the levies obviously. But all of that was done without any additional levies.

There are a few complaints as well, Sir, in respect of the Drug Service. I am not again going to repeat some of the things I have said in the past in respect of that, because I suppose one will come to the conclusion that

there may be some difficulties from time to time. But the cost of drugs has nothing to do with serving people, it is just that the cost of drugs has gone up and we have to pay the additional price for them. And I will say this, too, the Drug Service does not present any cheaper medicine to some people, because those people who are not 65 years old and go to the Drug Service and try to get medicine have to pay the same price. There are no benefits for that kind of person.

We have also found that the formulary sometimes may not carry a particular drug which may be expensive, and the patient will probably have to go out and buy the drug. But, Sir, I suppose that is the normal course of events with things like drugs, and I do not think there should be any shouting about a free drug service, because these were things that were done for people who could not afford them in the past, and I believe, Sir, that to have an effective Drug Service there are two things that must be done as of now. There seems to be a shortage of pharmacists in some of the polyclinics. Added to that, you are placing on the pharmacist an additional duty which he is not equipped to do, because some of the polyclinics carry a cash system and you have old people getting medicine free. The pharmacist cannot do clerical work as well as dispense his medicine properly, and I would suggest that that aspect of the Drug Service be looked at, and that additional staff, particularly in the polyclinics, be given so as to speed up some of the necessary work that has to be done there.

Mr. Chairman, I very well understand the Government's position on this matter. I know that they wanted to use it as effectively as they could, but in the long run, I think the efficiency of the service is the most important thing that we should be considering in the light of the whole community.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, this Government is so committed to propaganda that they believe that when they say that this is the case, then it automatically happens, and I cannot but support and reinforce the very valid point made by the honourable Member who just spoke on the question of the denial of access of people to drugs in the dispensaries of polyclinics, largely due to the fact that they have to wait unreasonable lengths of time. The facts are that the dispensers are understaffed in relation to the demands made on them for the drugs that people need, and persons have been known to wait several hours and to go repeatedly in order to get their drugs, and when they get fed up, they tend to drift off into Bridgetown and get their prescriptions filled. That is a fact. You have heard that now from someone who practises the discipline of pharmacy and from someone who practises medicine on a daily basis in Barbados.

Sir, there is a myth abroad, that the Barbados Labour Party has, for the first time, made free drugs available to the people in this country. There is nothing farther from the truth. The fact is that without any levy, under the Democratic Labour Party and under the previous Barbados Labour Party, every single patient attending a public institution in Barbados got every single drug that they wanted free of cost. That is an absolute fact. Every single person attending any Government institution for any health purpose got every drug, every appliance except one or two orthopaedic appliances, free of cost. As a matter of fact, Sir, even private patients in Government institutions, whether they were in the mental hospital or in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, got every single drug free of cost. Now, for the first time, patients who were once eligible for totally free drugs have to pay a fee for those drugs within the present system.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: The honourable Member has given way. I really would like the honourable Member to specify these people who are eligible for free drugs who now have to pay within the system for the drugs that they were eligible to receive free. I really would like him to specify that.
5.35 p.m.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Patients who were eligible in the past for free drugs now have to pay a fee. Let me give you an example. You take, for example, the diabetic service at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. It was possible in the past for a diabetic to attend the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, be so diagnosed, be given a prescription by the consultant, be given a recommendation of referral and for that patient to come back repeatedly and have that prescription filled, free of charge, emanating from his own doctor, once he had that referral note. Now that same person would have to pay the prescribing fees and so on. So you have taken away from many people what they once got for free.

I wil concede this, that there are some people who would have been ineligible in the past because they never came in contact with the public institutions, and that those persons....

(*Aside:* Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: All diabetics.)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: .....depending on the drugs that they use, will get the drugs at a lower cost and would only have to pay the prescription fee.

(*Aside:* Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: All diabetics.)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: There is a prescription fee. You cannot get it in your head? You do not pay for the drugs but you have to pay a prescription fee within the system.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Sorry, Sir. The honourable Member again says — I want to get it clear, because I am going to reply — that there is a prescription fee. Where? At the polyclinics? Do they charge people who go to the polyclinic pharmacies?

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: At the polyclinics, there are certain categories of persons who have to pay a...

(*Aside:* Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: No.)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: ...That is a fact. Up to last week they were doing it, unless they changed it this week....limited sum, I agree, for the drugs that they get. Certain categories of patients. Outside of the polyclinics, there is a prescribing fee, a professional fee.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: If the honourable Member would give way, because we are trying to get the facts, my understanding is that there is no charge for special benefit patients, for over 65s, indigent people or people up to 16 at the polyclinics in respect of any drugs. If you are over 65, a special benefit case or up to 16 and you go to a private druggist, you have to pay, I think it was $5.00, and from the 1st April that $5.00 will be removed.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: The honourable Member did not realize that the 1st April has not yet arrived. That is the problem. What I am saying is that those same people would normally, within the system that existed, be getting their drugs free, because what would have happened in those cases is that their doctors would have been able to make the drugs available for them through the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. That is the point I am trying to make. You do not see the point.

(*Aside:* You mean get it illegally?)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Not illegal. There was nothing illegal about it. It was on referral back from the consultant to the general practitioner. The patient visited the hospital periodically and he was able to get his drugs free. I know, I established the diabetic service.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Just one minute. You seemed to have established a system where private practitioners could get prescriptions filled publicly free. That is what I am telling you. That is exactly what I am telling you, because, as I understand it, if you were a consultant — I am trying to get the facts, that is all I am trying to get, Sir — in your time at the hospital and somebody referred a patient to you who had diabetes and the doctor confirmed the diagnosis, sent them back to the GP, the GP could prescribe periodically that they go back to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and get the drug free, the GP gets the fee and the Government pays for the drug. Is that what you are telling me?

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, the honourable Member does not understand what was going on in health before he came along. That is your problem. There was a continuing programme for chronic diseases in Barbados prior to the Barbados Labour Party coming on the scene in 1976. There was a programme which involved the District Medical Officers at that time, on the one hand, and also general practitioners. The patients remained patients of the consultants in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, but in the interim, say between annual visits or half yearly visits they were able to visit their general practitioners. That is the point I am trying to make. You will find that many of those patients have to pay the $5.00 now where they did not have to pay it before.

Worse than that, all Barbadians are taxpayers...

(*Aside:* Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Agreed.)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: ....and we in this country, under the Democratic Labour Party, always look at private medical care as a situation where everybody was entitled to a basic facility in the QEH and you only paid the additional cost for a private room as distinct from a room in the public ward. Since you all came into power, what have you done? First of all, you have increased the fees that people have to pay. But you have done something even more serious than that. Patients have to pay for every single drug they get in the hospital now, they have to pay for every single drip of fluid they get in the hospital now, when in point of fact they should be entitled to all these things free. That is what obtained in the hospital for donkeys years. The only difference between a public patient and a private patient was that you paid the assessed differential between a public ward and a private ward. It is not fair to have placed those additional impositions on many people who need private care; not because they are elitist or anything like that, but because of the nature of their conditions they elect to have private care. As a matter of fact there were some cases, Sir, which we would in those days put in a private ward because of considerations of insolation or other considerations, certain types of operations that would be an embarrassment to the patients.

So if I am a Barbadian paying taxes, I am entitled, like any other Barbadian, to everything that is offered at the QEH. If I would like to have a private room, the only thing I should be charged should be the difference in price between the average cost of a public bed and the average cost of a private bed. And it is completely wrong to be charging me for drugs and charging me for drips and those things, when, in point of fact, those elements of cost can be very, very excessive.

The third point I want to make, Sir, is that I can see why this Government sometimes comes up with positions which they do not quite understand. I saw the Prime

Minister today allow himself to be bamboozled when someone gave him figures saying that 100 people attended a polyclinic six months ago and 500 attended six months later. What he does not understand is that it is the nature of medical practice that you can probably have 500 attendances out of 75 patients rather than 100 patients, that there could be a fall-off in the number of patients but more attendances. That is the wrong statistic. The only correct statistic you can use is the number of new attendances. If the rate of new attendances remain the same, that is the important thing; then you recognize there is growth in your service.

I left here earlier this afternoon, Sir, and went to check that fact in my office. I was looking at a book on medical economics and they pointed out quite clearly that if a practitioner is so foolish as to look at his current attendances in his office and does not look instead at the increment in the new patients at his office, he might find that after three or four years he has no practice at all. It is a fundamental thing in medicine. I am not quarrelling with anyone who gave you the statistics. I am quarrelling with you for not using your mind in interpreting the statistics. You have a brain – use it!

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: How do you mean, "What foolishness!" Use it! It is pretty fundamental. I will show you what I am talking about. Fifty diabetics might come in and those diabetics require regular blood tests and regular investigations and so on. You might see, in a week, those same 50 diabetics 300 times six weeks or eight weeks down the road, when in point of fact you have the same 50 patients, alright?

(*Aside:* Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: The average patient is entitled to four visits a year.)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I am telling you that is a fact.

(*Aside:* Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I am not going to bother with you. I am going to reply.)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: You are going to reply? I know how you are going to distort. You do not reply. You set up your own hypothesis and then deal with your own hypothesis, because you cannot deal with mine.

The other point I want to deal with is the question of maintenance at the QEH. There has been a very significant deterioration of the maintenance of the QEH plant since 1976.

(*Aside:* Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: You said that.)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I have not addressed that matter. It is something that we really have to deal with, because one of the prides of Barbados was the way that hospital was kept. For some reason — I do not know whether it was inadequacy of the amount of funds made available or whether the problems occurred at plant level – the place has gone to the dogs. Just look at the floors, look at the tiles, look at the condition of the walls, look at the condition of the ceilings and you will see how that plant has deteriorated over time. This is a serious matter. 5.45 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Two minutes.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: There are some beds inside that place if you take off the sheets and look at the beds, you will vomit. It is really disgusting to see how you all have allowed that plant to deteriorate over the years. We have had to make a big row inside here two or three years ago when the operating table collapsed with a patient on it. We have had to struggle to get proper maintenance of the air-conditioning equipment in the operating rooms at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. You can go out there on the platforms, you can go on CBC, and you can go talk all kinds of foolishness, but when you come inside here your statements will be subject to scrutiny, and let that be clearly understood. When you come and make your initial propaganda statement which you have organized with the Press to carry on the front page tomorrow, we hope that the criticisms and the lashes that you got inside here will also be carried in the papers. We are going to deal with you point by point and we are going to take you down the road. If you believe that the National Health Service is a winner for you, I tell you it is a loser because of the dissatisfaction out there in the community, because of your failure of the difference between performance and promises. You have misled an entire nation in a vital area of their lives, in the area of health, and now shamelessly — you have no shame — bold face you come inside here now saying that you have delivered what you promised,.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES:.....encouraging people that you even promised a free National Health Service. Are you not ashamed? Read your 1976 manifesto. Go out there and apologize to the nation.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time. Time. I am informing Members of the Committee that at 7 o'clock I believe the guillotine will come at that time.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Don't mind the guillotine, Sir.

In the face of such provocative and politically abusive language on the part of the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central.....

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir: The honourable Member is reflecting on you, not on me, when

he accuses me of abusive language, and really, for the protection of the dignity of this House, Sir, and your dignity — the dignity of the Chair — I would suggest that he is out of order, that he should withdraw the remarks and that they should be struck from the record of this distinguished House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Sir, let me deal with this clearly. I must thank all honourable Members on the other side, particularly the last honourable Member, as to the revelations as to how he in particular was able to utilize a public institution for the benefit of his own practice, and the practice of other specialists, by using the public.....

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, Sir. On a point of order, Sir! I think the honourable Member, Sir, is reflecting, by innuendo, on my personal character, and I think he should be asked to withdraw that remark.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Sir, the honourable Member himself said that he set up the system.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: To give service to the community.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Yes, Sir, he set up the system. I mean, you must not proclaim yourself as being the originator of a system and when the true consequences of the system are pointed out to you, then you deny the origin of the system. You cannot do that. No! You set up the system whereby if people are suffering from certain chronic diseases they are referred to a general practitioner after diagnosis by you and the general practitioner is able to refer them back to get free drugs. Then, the general practitioner plucks the duck of all the monetary feathers it has got on and sends it for the freeness in order for it to survive out of the hospital. Do you say that it is wrong? According to your standards, it is not wrong! Listen, I only wish to know when Cabinet made that decision and who made the decision, and when it was promulgated. I do not know — that is all.

What I am saying is that when we came in, we saw the indignities and the bending of the rules that occurred and we decided to formulate a drug plan which would ensure that everybody in Barbados who needed drugs would get drugs of potency and ethicacy, and at a price which was substantially reduced to the state and to the community. In the case of those people who we felt would deserve it, we introduced a free drug scheme, we rationalised, made it public, and we prevented practitioners from having to indulge in these schemes in order to cater to the legitimate illnesses of their patients. That is all we did. That is why the scheme is divided into the special benefit people, the over 65s and the under 6s at the beginning. Now we changed it from under 6 to 16, and what we have done, and what we will do from April 1, is that whereas before these people, if they went to the hospital or to the polyclinics, got their drugs free, we have extended that to allow them to go to any pharmacist in Barbados and, instead of paying the prescription fee of $5, to get it without the $5. That is all we have done. In short, we are trying to bring the totality of the manpower of the pharmacists to bear upon the delivery of health care.

Are you going to blame us for that? You ought to congratulate us for the fact that we have now decided that every citizen in Barbados can now get the drug free if they went to public institutions. That is a direct attempt to remove the problems that you have at some of the polyclinics where you have too few gates or windows, as they call them, serving windows. It was our experience that at Ladymeade, in particular, the designers who designed the place put in only two windows — this is what I am told — and you could not serve the patients as fast as the doctors and others could deal with them. So we want them to go to the private pharmacists. We will pay the private pharmacists. You do not have to go around to any back door. There will be no back referral, or cross referral and all of that. I would like to know how the honourable Member used to keep his books. When he was a consultant he used to refer them to Delaware and back.

Asides.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I deny the charge, quite naturally, that there is anyone who used to get free drugs legitimately, legally, and who is not now eligible for those drugs. I deny that charge, because the scheme has been extended to provide a safety net provision which is far wider than it was in the past.

On the question of the points raised by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, we agree on a lot of things, and one of the things that we agree on is the fact that the public purse pays a tremendous amount of money for health care in Barbados and we are not certain that we are getting adequate value for it. But that is not a problem only in Barbados, that is a problem worldwide. Health care is an industry that has defied inflation, the law courts, reasonableness, and any kind of economic predictions that state cost. That is a fact of life, and all over the world Governments are trying to utilize every resource, public and private, to try and bring a measure of financial sanity to the cost of health care in all kinds of schemes. There is no clear right or left scheme. You have to use a combination of the public and the private sector, and we recognize that. Luckily, quite clearly we recognized it for a long time, because the manifesto of the Labour Party never said that health care would only be delivered through public institutions. We always anticipated that there would be co-operation between the public sector and the private sector in the form of the

private medical practitioners. The problem is that the people who started to do the negotiations thought they were dealing with reasonable people, so instead of starting with the public sector first, they went to the private sector, and the private sector held them up for eight years.
5.55 p.m.

Aside.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: The attitude is again displayed. He is so conservative that he cannot contemplate a different system from what they have, so unless the private practitioners are the ones to deliver it, they are the ones to obstruct it, whether they are in Government or not. I know that is the attitude, but there are a sufficient number of public-spirited practitioners in Barbados and there is a sufficient surplus of doctors in the U.K. and in other parts of the world that you are not able to frustrate the Government in the effectuation of its objective.

Aside.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I am not declaring any war, I am just telling you the facts. Are you afraid of the facts? Don't be afraid of any facts, and those are the facts. The facts are that the polyclinics are seeing people with the attendances that I have mentioned. The facts are that on the 11th of February BAMP came to see the Ministry of Finance and made their position clear, and they set out what their position was.

On the 14th February, after a Cabinet meeting.....

(*Aside:* Dr. R. C. HAYNES: The Annual General Meeting is Sunday, hear!)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I don't mind when the Annual General Meeting is. You check them and ask BAMP to read the letters. They wrote the Ministry a letter on the 11th February in which they set out what their position was. We replied on the 14th of February.

(*Aside:* Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Read the letters).

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: You really want me to do that? I will not do it. Do you know why I will not do it? Because the letter is so devastating that BAMP has not even circulated it to its members. I do not want to do that. This is a matter of confidentiality. All I am saying is that they put their position. You are not going to push me in that. If you push me, I will send the two letters to the honourable Member to read for himself. I am not going to read them on the floor of the House, I am going to send them. Take them around for me. I want the honourable Member to see them, because I have nothing to hide.

BAMP set out their position, as I said in this House before, and they came to see us, and we said, 'look, this is the best that we can do. I have listened to your representations, I will go to Cabinet.' The last outstanding thing was paying an on-call allowance for the university specialists. At first they resisted it, I resisted it, because I wanted to deal with the university separately. When I took it to Cabinet we explained the position and reconsidered the position of the Government. We are not a hard-nosed, doctrineering, arrogant group of people. We reconsidered it and we wrote them and told them that provided there were rosters and they did additional work and made their services available, we would pay them upon the same basis, and we put that in the letter. To this day all the people do not know that that has been agreed to.

So, as far as I am concerned, the only outstanding matter between the Government and the doctors was that BAMP said that they did not want to have an agreement with the Government until the general medical practitioners had an agreement with the National Health Service Board. We had to point out to the goodly lady and the gentleman that the Government determines their position — you don't even know who I mean but you are saying they are bright - - with respect to civil servants, but I do not know how many general medical practitioners are going to join with the National Health Service Board. That is a separate thing, and that is all the row. Since then, the National Health Service Board has sent an offer with the Government's approval, which is a matter for the doctors whether they agree to it or not.

At this stage I can go to sleep happy at night, because I know that there is nobody in Barbados who can go to sleep ill and does not have access to a doctor either through the polyclinic or through the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. That is why I am so interested in seeing that the quality of medical service delivered either at the polyclinics or at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital is of the highest order, and that is why I still ask the honourable Member and the honourable Members on that side, as I ask honourable Members on this side, don't let us have any great divide on this. All of us are interested in seeing that doctors who are paid to do a job do it competently. If you have doctors and you know that they are not competent, let us use the machinery to get rid of them. If you have other people who treat the people badly, let us use the machinery to get rid of them. Those are the matters that I am interested in. You cannot accuse the Government of not trying, of not doing, not achieving; all the polyclinics are there. That is the position.

As far as the Government is concerned, the Drug Plan is in operation. The hospital specialists have been made an offer and we will see who does not draw the money at the end of the month. That is the law of the land. The law of the land as contained in the Civil

Establishment Order is that the specialists who opt not to receive it can draw that money.

(*Aside:* Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I can tell you not one of them signed the option form.)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: If they do not sign the option form, they are very right. You don't even understand they are very right. If they sign the option form it means they do not want to draw. Don't you understand that? You didn't understand that. Do you think they are foolish? You think they are foolish? All right.

The next point I want to deal with is the question raised, legitimately, about whether the people who supply the drugs have not been paid. I am told that there was an argument between the Drug Service and the suppliers. The suppliers forgot that they had agreed to give the Government 60 days' credit, and when they were challenged the Permanent Secretary was able to point out that the schedule of payments that they were saying was due and owing was due and owing but the time for payment had not come in accordance with the contract. All of the outstanding matters, I understand, have been cleared up by a Supplementary Resolution that this House passed. Remember, the drug bill is being financed out of the levy. The levy goes to the Health Service Board and the Health Service Board pays the pharmacists. It has nothing to do with us. Some of it has to pass through the Consolidated Fund because that is the law of Barbados, that the Government and the Hospital cannot spend money except it comes through the Consolidated Fund, but there is no question of the Government not paying the pharmacists. New contracts, I am told, have been negotiated with a shorter period of payment. That is all, Sir.

(*Aside:* Mr. B. M. TAITT: What was the significance of these two letters? I don't really understand.)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I am not in the slightest bit surprised! Without knowing the background and knowing the convoluted way in which negotiations take place between people who have to negotiate with doctors, you would not understand. It takes you a lot of time.

Now, Sir, I must finally answer this, because we are finished with this now — the question of attendances at the polyclinics. What is taking place at the polyclinics is being measured with the experience of the University of the West Indies' clinic, which is in a polyclinic but is also a teaching unit. The Government has been very generous. We have taken the public facilities they paid for and say, 'look, you want to teach community medicine, you want to establish what is a proper general practice unit? Take this, you staff it, you run it and you build up all the information.' They have a unit, there are 3 500 or 3 800 patients. It is run by a doctor who is a Senior Lecturer at the University, and he works up there part time; the rest of the time he works in his office, and things of that kind.

6.05 p.m.

We know the number of attendances.

(*Aside:* You are attacking the Barbados Labour Party).

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I am not attacking the Labour Party. We know the number of attendances that go there, and just as they use the statistics and show patient attendance, we use it, too. So we know what is the experience of the polyclinics and how many attendances a person makes per doctor per year.

We have had about six months of the polyclinics. We can say now how our ratios are working out in relation to theirs. It is either going to be 3:6 or 4:6. It cannot be much different. All of that we know, so the honourable Member — when we deal with attendances, we can divide it up and we can tell you how many numbers of patients there are, and we can tell you what is the experience at the polyclinics, what is the experience at the UWI polyclinic, what is the experience in the United Kingdom. I can even tell you how many referrals per thousand there are to consultants. I know. We have done this comparative study.

Really and truly, Mr. Chairman, I believe this debate has edified a lot of us and I am sorry about the incident that the honourable Member referred to, about the death of his great friend and colleague, and a great contributor to the Democratic Labour Party, and indirectly to Barbados. My examination of the facts and my information is that the gentleman was feeling unwell. He has spoken to his own practitioner, who happened to be a consultant, who told him to go to the hospital. He went to the hospital and something happened. I think there was a little tardiness in understanding at the hospital whether the doctor was going to come or not, and after a lapse of a certain period the doctor came. By that time he was in the ICU Unit or something like that. That is a fact, but the point is that he was referred to the hospital by a hospital doctor, so do not blame the Government on that.

I have just given a sufficiency of the facts having regard to the need for us not to prejudge any possible future course of action that may be taken. I am not that foolish. I am just giving you a little bit of the facts to let it be clearly understood that you cannot blame the lay people at the hospital for that.

The other thing is this, let us understand it: the Government, as layman, can only provide the money and the facilities, and I dispute the fact that the Government

has not been generous in the provision of money for running health in Barbados. We have been giving a tremendous amount of money a month, a lot of resources in Barbados, for health care. I agree that we are not getting value for our money but it is a challenge to the whole world how to get these people you call doctors to understand the economy. That is a fact, because health and health care has defied any kind of prediction in any index, and whether it is in Barbados, London, New York or anywhere, that is the same thing. You must understand that we were dealing with a particular difficult lot, a typical example of which is the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central.

The question that the sum of $16 507 244 under Head 78, Ministry of Health and Social Security stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS HEAD 80 — CAPITAL

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $2 066 924 under Head 80, Capital — Ministry of Information and Telecommunications — stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 38 — CURRENT — MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $3 228 893, Current, under Head 38 — Ministry of Information and Telecommunications — stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 28 — AS AMENDED — MINISTRY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $2 495 493 under Head 28 — as amended — Ministry of Legal Affairs — stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

6.15 p.m.

HEAD 13 — SERVICE COMMISSIONS

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 13 — Service Commissions — be recommitted.

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

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

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $363 764 under Head 13 – Service Commissions — as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 43 — MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 43 – Ministry of Tourism and the Environment — be recommitted.

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

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

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $34 622 806 under Head 43 — Ministry of Tourism and the Environment — as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 75 — MINISTRY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 75 — Ministry of Legal Affairs — be recommitted.

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

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

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $5 146 632 under Head 75 — Ministry of Legal Affairs — as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 72 — DEFENCE AND SECURITY

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 72 — Defence and Security, be recommitted.

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

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

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $2 000 000 under Head 72 — Defence and Security — as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Right Honourable and learned Member for St. John has caught my eye.

Aside.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Something that you will never be.

Under this Head, Sir, the amount being requested is the sum of $2 million. Under Subhead 1, the explanatory note says "Purchase of Vehicles" and then it says "Provides for the purchase of a vehicle". The amount for the purchase of that one vehicle is $75 000.

I should like to know what kind of vehicle this is for $75 000. The last time any request like this was made to the House it was for the purchase of a Mercedes Benz bus, air-conditioned, and the House was informed that the vehicle was being purchased so that members of the House who might want to go to see the cave in St. Thomas would be able to travel in this air-conditioned bus. The bus passed me the other day, about two days ago, looking as if it had been struck by an iceberg, with a great big rip in its side, sauntering along or sailing along in majesty, and I want to know if this is for the purchase of another Mercedes Benz bus or for an armoured car, a troop carrier or what kind of vehicle. That is the first point I should like to make.

Now under "Structures" there is an amount of $1 million under Subhead 2. I have not come to "Professional Services," but in the note under Subhead 2 it says "to construct a Guard Room, repairs to Iron Barracks, West India Barracks, Headquarters Building, the Drill Hall and houses of officers, expansion to Fort Willoughby Dining facility, storeroom and also to complete projects started in the last financial year."

I should like to know, Mr. Chairman, whether among the projects started in the last financial year would be the tremendous structures going on at Paragon in the parish of Christ Church, which very few people seem to be aware of. I should also like to know the number of men being accommodated.

Anyone who is interested, without much difficulty can find out the total strength of the armed forces of the United States. You do not have to be in the KGB or Russian intelligence to find that out. The numbers in the armed forces of the Argentine would be well known, of the United Kingdom, of Canada, and everywhere else. At no time has the Government conceded information on the number of persons for whom we are paying a form of concealed unemployment benefit and where these people are deployed, the number of people in the so-called Defence Force of Barbados. I think that Members of this House are entitled to know how many people there are.

Aside.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: It is a matter for the Prime Minister whether he is going to be forthright with the people of this country, but I should only like to tell him, and I will tell honourable Members, that if you want to find out, any foreign Government in the world other than the Barbados Government can tell you how many people there are in the Defence Force in Barbados, but our own Government that we are paying have refused to disclose the number of persons in the Defence Force, and it is a very sinister matter.

(*Aside:* Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Where you got that from?)

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Every year we have been asking for it. But I will tell any honourable Member that if the Prime Minister does not want to disclose, he can go and ask any foreign Government; you do not have to go to them.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN (Christ Church East Central): It is surely unfair for the honourable Member to anticipate what I want or do not want to do. If he is asking a question, he will wait, in accordance with the ordinary custom of good behaviour, to allow me to answer. If I fail to answer, he is entitled to put such strictures on me as are within the parliamentary rules.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I am only firing a warning shot across the bow because every year we have

asked for the number of persons employed in the Defence Force and we have not been given the information. That is a simple fact. That is all I am saying. I am not anticipating the honourable Member, but if he does not care to give it today, I will tell honourable Members where to get the information. Ask any Government, ask the Brazilian Government, ask the Venezuelan Government, ask the British Government, the French Government; they will tell you, but our Government up to now has not vouchsafed the information.
6.25 p.m.

It seems a pity that the elected representatives of the people cannot be told how the taxpayers' money is being spent. Also, the enormous structures up at Paragon have never been the subject of a debate in this House, nor the need for such structures has never been explained to the Members in this House, on land which, I understand, they have not paid for up to now. That is under Subhead 2, Sir.

(*Aside:* Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Gerry Bull's land?)

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Maybe I would let the Honourable Prime Minister reply to that. I should like to know about the purchase of vehicles and what kind of vehicles are being purchased. There is a superstition that anything to do with the Defence Force is classified information. I am not asking about the codes that they might use. There is no code that they could use that I would not know already, so I would not have to ask that question. They do not have.....

Aside.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I was trained. So there is no code they would use that I would want to know or that I do not know already. That would be classified information. But as to the kind of vehicles they are purchasing with our money, whether they are really required or not; as to the weaponry, the amount of ammunition that they are buying which could be used for shooting down people here in Barbados, as happened in 1937, I would want to know about those things, too.

I will warn them about one thing. I do not think that the Defence Force should take the taxpayers' money and purchase ships to smuggle arms into Barbados beyond the reach of Customs. I know what I am saying, the honourable Member knows what I am saying, and if I am provoked, I would give the names, although I have not asked permission of the people by whom the purchase of illegal ships is being made, and give the dates and everything else.

Mr. B. M. TAITT (St. Michael West): Sir, I would like to ask a question on this Defence and Security vote. It is very difficult to extract from the vote, as it appears in the Estimates, what precisely is going on with our Army. But perhaps security requires that. However, Sir, it appears to me that we have a very strange problem with regard to the Defence Force. I wonder if the Prime Minister, in his capacity as the Chief of Staff.....

(*Aside:* Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I am not Chief of Staff.)

Mr. B. M. TAITT:.....I mean, as the General in charge of the Army.

(*Aside:* Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I am not the General in charge of the Army.)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Well, the boss.

(*Aside:* Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I am not the boss.)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Oh dear. Whatever you are, the person who will tell us. This seems to be the only army in the world that the top people are foreigners.

(*Aside:* Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: That is not true.)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Do you mean that they are not foreigners or that we are the only ones? When we were embryonic, when we were being trained, we had all the reasons why we were bringing people in to assist us with putting together our structures, to assist us with the training. I should like to know from the Prime Minister if the training has been completed, or if he is going to continue the policy of his predecessor, when apparently there was a studied and decided policy to have foreign persons at the highest level of our command, except for the Commander himself, the Colonel, I think he is the Brigadier now. That Brigadier concept is one which needs some explanation, too.

It seems that between the level of Brigadier and the next level of Barbadian command in the hierarchy, we have a number of foreigners, and it seems to me that the Notes in these Estimates cannot be right:

"The functions of this subhead includes:—

(a) defending the country from foreign invasion and attacks;".

If you have the army staffed with foreigners at the top, what foreign invasion are we going to defend against? We already have the foreign invasion in the staffing. It does not make a lot of sense to me. I just wish you to explain it, because there are a number of young officers who feel frustrated.

Let me say that they have not told me.

(*Aside:* Hon. L. S. CRAIG: How do you know?)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I wish to make it clear that no officer in the Defence Force has spoken to me. But unless they are abnormal people.....

(*Aside:* Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Tell us how you know. You are a son of a bitch.)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, do I have to be subject to this abuse that I can hear? I do not know if you can hear it from there, Sir, but I can hear it from here, where he is casting aspersions on my mother.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, order. Please carry on.

(*Aside:* Hon. A. TRUSS: Absolute nonsense!)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Do not tell me it is absolute nonsense. How can you stay in the back and tell me it is absolute nonsense when it is a fact that the majority of the senior officers in this Army are British? What are you telling me? Do not tell me that I am talking foolishness! Do you think that because the Barbados Labour Party says something it is so? These are facts! An officer in this Army has every right to aspire to the top like other officers. Furthermore, there is an officer in the Army who, because he raised these kinds of questions, was cashiered out and they gave him some high level post outside.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Truss do not get in this, man! We are talking about foreigners. Do not get in this! I do not want to talk to you about my Army at all! Do not talk to me! I am raising a question with the Prime Minister, man!

I am saying that it is not good for Barbados to have an Army in which all of the senior officers are British, and where the officers of Barbadian ancestry believe that they have no way to get to the top. And I want the Prime Minister to explain the policy so that we in this House and the Barbadians will understand what the policy is. Otherwise, we will believe that this policy is deliberately followed for reasons which have to do with not necessarily this Prime Minister, but a previous Prime Minister.

(*Aside:* Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Tell us about the frustration. You also said they did not tell you. Tell us.)

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Furthermore, they are treating the Barbadians with a certain measure of contempt. And, furthermore, you went out and recruited 22 persons who were Warrant Officers outside of Barbados. You went into Germany and you recruited them. There is no specific Order which comes before this House, and no doubt you will tell me that it has to do with the security of the country. This country's security cannot be any higher than the security of the United States, or Germany, or Italy, or China or Russia, and their Parliaments, either by way of a committee or by some other means, have access to certain sensitive information. If you can tell me that you have transmitted this information to the Leader of the Opposition but you do not wish it to be generally and universally known, I will sit down.

(*Aside:* Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I will reply.)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I am saying that you have recruited 22 Warrant Officers from outside. I am not going to say, as some important people in Barbados have said, that if they were not good enough to be officers outside they would not be good enough to be officers here. I am not going to say that, because I really do not know. But what I am prepared to say is that the policy needs explanation, because there are young men in Barbados who have decided that they wish to make the Army their career,.....

(*Aside:* Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Agreed.)

Mr. B. M. TAITT:.....and those young men have every reason to expect that they can aspire to the highest level in the Army if that is their career. Therefore, while the late Minister responsible.....

(*Aside:* Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: What are you talking about the late Prime Minister for? Let him rest in peace.)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I agree with you that we should stop moping about him. But we are not moping. We are saying that he had a convoluted reason for that convoluted policy. And I am saying from the floor of this House that I do not believe you are motivated by the same factors.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: All right. Well, explain to the deputy who is not a deputy, who sits next to you, that when we raise questions in here about the Defence Force, those questions have to do with how our lives are going. I have a vested interest in knowing where I stand. If I am going to be arrested, as has been said by the Defence Force, I wish to be arrested by a Barbadian Defence Force person. I do not wish any Englishman to arrest me in Barbados.
6.35 p.m.

So Mr. Commander-in-Chief, you may not have had the same need to manifest yourself as a Commander of the Army and, therefore, your policy and ours may be nearer to being *ad idem* than the previous policy.

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Sir, he was never a cadet — I do not think.

What is important is that we need to hear from you what the policy is, and I would like you to articulate the policy so we can have a non-partisan approach to the whole question of the Defence Force in Barbados.

I believe that persons in Barbados have felt a little easier about the role of the Defence Force ever since you have taken over as the Commander-in-Chief.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: What do you mean you are not the Commander-in-Chief? You are the Commander-in-Chief. You may not like the role, but you are the Commander-in-Chief. You don't understand that you are the Commander-in-Chief? The Defence Act says so. The Defence Act says that you are. I am going to give way to another honourable Member, because the only thing worse than having a bad Commander-in-Chief is having one who does not know that he is Commander-in-Chief. So I am going to give way.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Well, the Attorney General, who is sitting next to you, said that he is the Commander-in-Chief.

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Well, all right. I am sitting down, because I noticed he is sitting next to you for this Head and I did not see him sitting next to you at all for the whole Estimates. All of a sudden, when we start to talk about Defence and Security, he is next to you.

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: You are protecting him from me?

Mr. Chairman, I am going to give way, Sir.

Asides.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD (St. Michael South): I am no Shadow Minister. Do not come with that. I am just asking questions as a Member of this Honourable Chamber.

We believe that there are already visible signs of a shifting in policy in relation to the Defence Force. We believe that greater emphasis is now being placed on the volunteer element within that Force, and the recent promotions within that Force seem to indicate that there is a shift of policy.

Asides.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: That is the one they have to place emphasis on. There is a shift in the emphasis there.

I would like to find out from the Commander-in-Chief or Chairman of the Defence Force whether within his knowledge there was any accident involving personnel of the Barbados Defence Force in Grenada recently. I do not think that the public of Barbados has been given any information on this matter. But information emanating from Grenada seems to indicate that there was an accident, more or less serious, involving personnel of the Defence Force shortly before the arrival of President Reagan for the celebrations in Grenada, and I am wondering if the Prime Minister and Minister responsible for Defence and Security could give the public of Barbados and this Honourable Chamber any information on that particular matter.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES (St. Michael South Central): Two quick questions. I will be less than 60 seconds. Firstly, is the Prime Minister aware of an ad which appeared in a British aviation journal offering the Barbados Defence Force's aircraft, the Skyvan, for sale? Secondly, has the 20 000 Bolivar fine for violating some legal argument in Margarita been paid?

Hon. A. TRUSS (St. Michael Central): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am a little concerned about the comments raised by the Right Honourable Leader of the Opposition, the Right Honourable Member for St. John, in relation to the fact that he is worried about a Barbados Army killing Barbadians, and he referred to the 1937 riots.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: The honourable Member would not have been here in 1937. I do not know what part of the Soviet Union he was, or if he was born. But 58 people were killed in Barbados by Barbadians.

Certain remarks made at this stage by the honourable Member for St. Michael Central (Hon. A. Truss) and the Right Honourable Member for St. John (Rt. Hon. E. W. Barrow) were ordered by Mr. Chairman to be expunged from the record.

Hon. A. TRUSS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, for clarification, I am asking the question again, and I would like to have an answer. If I must go back from where I came from, let Peter Morgan and Leon Bernstein go back from where they came from. The real question is this. Where was the Democratic Labour Party, where was the honourable Member for St. Michael West, where was the

honourable Member for St. Michael South Central when they allowed a foreign company to come in and manufacture arms to ship to South Africa to kill black people? He has to answer that.
6.45 p.m.

Dr. Gerry Bull was subsequently put in prison by the Americans, but the Democratic Labour Party allowed him to come here, form a company, and manufacture arms in this country of ours. Sir, and it was so tight as far as security was concerned a Bajan could not go up there, and the DLP passed a law to protect the High Altitude Research Project, because when they were shooting the gun and it was breaking up all the houses.....

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order! Order!

Hon. A. TRUSS: Mr. Chairman, I am appealing for your protection. If you want to have a shouting match, I am younger and stronger than him, and I can shout louder than him.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: We are coming to the end of this debate.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I am on my feet. You sat down.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please! I must ask for order.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: The honourable Member sat down and he asked me something and I am going to answer. You don't want me to answer?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: He said I can't shout loud. Do you want to hear me shout loud now?

Hon. A. TRUSS: I don't want to get a heart attack.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: You will hear the spent force. I will shout you all the way back into the Ural mountains. When he takes his seat I will continue.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: How do you expect the Hansard Reporters to take this?

Hon. A. TRUSS: The Democratic Labour Party made it possible for HARP to function in this country, and when they tested their guns and they fired their guns.....

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order! Order! Order! Order! Let us get ahead with the debate.

Hon. A. TRUSS: When the noise of the guns that were fired at the very same Paragon — the site that now belongs to Barbadians, that was once the home of foreigners, sold by the Democratic Labour Party to foreigners, taken back by this Government and put in the hands of Bajans — and broke up houses, why did the Democratic Labour Party not stop it. Even when guns were fired and the noises from the guns were so loud that it destroyed houses in Wilcox Bay and all other areas around Christ Church, and people wanted to prosecute HARP, the Democratic Labour Party brought legislation to the effect that you could not prosecute HARP, the High Altitude Research Project.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order! Order, please! Order! Order! Please! These interruptions are out of place.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! I must ask the Prime Minister to reply at this stage. He has just ten minutes to do so.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order!

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW rose.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No, I cannot entertain the honourable Member.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I am not a Member of this House? What do you mean by you cannot entertain me?

Certain remarks exchanged at this stage between Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW and Hon. A. TRUSS were ordered by Mr. CHAIRMAN to be expunged from the record.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: It is now about seven minutes before the guillotine and I must ask the Prime Minister to wind up. You have only seven minutes.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: But how much time do I have? I was on my feet before him.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: In reply to the questions asked by the honourable Member for St. John, I am going to deal with them in detail. There are amendments to the notes, page 14 — it may have slipped the honourable Member's attention, but those notes have been amended to read as follows:

> "This subhead provides for the purchase of communication equipment for the Security Guard Service."

Barbados Defence Force, Subhead 2:

"(a) Provides for repairs and refurbishing of Cherry Tree Cottage, the Drill Hall, the West India Barracks, Officers' quarters and the kitchen and dining room facilities.

"(b) Provides for all expenses relating to loan service personnel and allowances for contract officers."

So that the note the honourable Member was reading from was in fact amended, the amendments were circulated, and I think it may have escaped the honourable Member's attention.

In respect of the number of the Defence Force, the Defence Force has already an establishment of approximately 1 000, divided between full time personnel and auxiliaries. The exact state of the numbers is a matter that fluctuates depending on how many people are in the reserves and how many people are recruited for the job. The totality of the establishment approved by the Defence Force is approximately 1 000. That is divided between the permanent and the auxiliary. That is the position.

Sir, the policy of the Barbados Government is to provide the maximum opportunity for Barbadians first, West Indians second, to fill the posts of the Army. It is clear that when you first start an Army, unless you had a tradition of an Army before, or unless your people were in other people's Armies, you would not have people with experience in the officer ranks to cater to the number of jobs at supervisory and at command level. In fact, in Barbados we have a Commander who served with the Jamaican Regiment.

As a matter of policy, we have been recruiting people and sending them abroad for training. We had a Coast Guard before we had a regular Army, and in fact some of the people who were in the Coast Guard have gone on training, and having got the training they have sufficient experience for them to advance in the Coast Guard Section of the Army at a faster rate than in the Army Section. In truth and in fact, recent promotions have indicated that Barbadians who have the requisite status, training and experience are receiving the promotions. I believe there were three or four promotions recently which would indicate quite clearly that that is the position.

In the meantime, Barbados, like other countries in the Commonwealth, makes use of offers that are made to contract officers from Commonwealth countries to serve in the posts while the Barbadians are being trained. We have a contract with the British Government to provide Loan Service personnel, and we have been trying, in addition to that, to recruit from abroad Barbadians who have been serving in the British Army in various areas. We in fact have been successful in recruiting what are called Barbadian officers who have served with the British Army and who are not necessarily British personnel. They are contract officers, they are Barbadians, they have retired from the British Army and we have brought them back home on contract. So we have three types of officers in the Army. There are Barbadian people who joined and reached officer status, mostly in the Coast Guard, but a few in the Army; then you have Loan Service personnel who serve as a result of a British agreement and then you have the Barbadians on contract who have served abroad, or you may have other West Indian people who are on contract, at officer level. I believe they are in the Air Wing of the Defence Force.

(*Aside:* Dr. R. C. HAYNES: So there is an Air Wing.)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Well, the section that is referred to as the Air Wing, but it is the post that we have. We have an integrated Army. You can be a Major and you can fly aeroplanes. So we have some of them who are from other islands in the West Indies. I do not think there is any big thing in this, because they have Barbadians serving in every capacity all over the world. That, basically, is the position.

Now, what was the third relevant question? I am not the Commander-in-Chief in any Army. The structure of the Army in Barbados is that there is a Minister of Defence, there is a Defence Board.....

(*Aside:* Mr. B. M. TAITT: Who is the Chairman?)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: The Minister of Defence is the Chairman of the Defence Board. There are other members of the Defence Board. The Attorney General is a member of the Defence Board. I am Chairman of the Defence Board and the Defence Board has statutory functions set out to them in accordance with the law establishing the Defence Force.
6.55 p.m.

What are the other questions?

Asides.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Oh, the accident in Grenada. It is a fact that two pilots and an officer who accompanied the pilots to Grenada were injured in a motor car accident. They were not driving.

While President Reagan's trip was taking place, the Defence Force plane had to come back to Grenada to pick up a couple of us who it took down. We chartered a Defence Force plane to go down. The Grenadian Government had designated a car to the Barbados delegation. The car was going for the Defence Force pilots from the airport, and while it was on the way down, another car swung around in

front of it, and the car that was being driven by a Grenadian hit the other car and caused an accident. As a matter of fact, there was a pilot, there was an officer from the Defence Force and an officer from the Royal Barbados Police Force. They were all passengers, they were not driving. The officer who had been assigned to me as my security officer was also in the car, and he got hurt. While we were having a meeting, we heard of this accident. I think one of the officers in the Defence Force got his hand broken.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: He had to be brought back. That is the position.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Our time is up.

Asides.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Aero Services Limited owns the Skyvan aircraft. That is a matter for Aero Services Limited, not us.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time. I cannot let you go any further.

The question that the sum of $2 000 000 under Head 72 — Capital — Defence and Security — stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 18 — AUDIT

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $272 020 — Audit — under Head 18 stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 19 — MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND PLANNING

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $5 083 297 — Current — Ministry of Finance and Planning — under Head 19 stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 20 — CURRENT — REVENUE COLLECTION

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $3 244 932 under Head 20 — Revenue Collection — stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 21 — CURRENT — STATISTICS

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $259 134 under Head 21 — Statistics — stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. A. TRUSS: I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 23 — CURRENT — LOANS AND ADVANCES

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $1 800 000 under Head 23 — Loans and Advances — stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 24 — CURRENT — PENSIONS

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $11 525 731 under Head 24 — Pensions — stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 73 — CAPITAL — MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND PLANNING

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $32 953 172 under Head 73 — Ministry of Finance and Planning — stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 15 — CURRENT — MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $15 563 498 under Head 15 — Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources — stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 27 — CURRENT — METEOROLOGY

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $1 172 332 under Head 27 — Meteorology — stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 74 — MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $29 862 310 under Head 74 — Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources — stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 29 — PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $66 362 under Head 29 — Public Prosecutions — stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 30 — CURRENT — POLICE

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $9 210 553 under Head 30 — Police — stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 31 — CURRENT — PRISONS

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $1 900 555, under Head 31 — Prisons — stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 32 — CURRENT — FIRE SERVICE

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $977 647 under Head 32 — Fire Service — stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 33 — CURRENT — PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $105 988 under Head 33 — Probation Department — stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 34 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE — CURRENT

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $82 539 618 under Head 34 — Ministry of Education and Culture — stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 36 — CURRENT — MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $68 113 637 under Head 36 — Ministry of Health and Social Security — stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 37 — CURRENT — MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND LANDS

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $6 373 723 under Head 37 — Ministry of Housing and Lands — stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 79 — CAPITAL — MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND LANDS

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $9 200 000 under Head 79 — Ministry of Housing and Lands — stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 40 — CURRENT — MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $8 561 347 under Head 40 — Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Consumer Affairs – stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 41 — MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT — CURRENT

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $9 098 105 under Head 41 — Ministry of International Transport — stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 83 — CAPITAL — MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $16 823 000 under Head 83 — Ministry of International Transport — stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

7.00 p.m.

HEAD 42 — MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND WORKS

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $45 842 673 under Head 42 — Ministry of Transport and Works — stand part of the Schedule.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division

HEAD 84 — CAPITAL — MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND WORKS

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $46 823 000 under Head 84 — Capital — Ministry of Transport and Works — stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 50 — POST OFFICE

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $4 621 173 under Head 50 — Post Office — stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 17 — DEFENCE AND SECURITY

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $20 476 056 under Head 17 — Defence and Security — stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

Clause 1 was called and passed.

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

Clause 2 for the sum of $560 751 940, as amended, was called and passed.

Clauses 3 and 4 were called and passed.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Your Honour do now report the passing of one Bill in Committee with amendments.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1985—86 No. 32

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN (Christ Church East Central): Sir, as the Honourable Minister of Commerce said, a request has been made for working capital for the Furniture Company. He explained it very carefully, that some was in this year's Estimates and some was in a supplementary. The supplementary is working capital, the money that is in the Estimates is for equity to allow them to buy more equipment, so that when you hear all of the talk that they can't pay their bills, we said "so what!" We knew that we had a Resolution available and we told them that. That is all, Sir.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1985—86 No. 33

HEAD 84 — CAPITAL — MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND WORKS — $574 519

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

On motion of Hon. L. S. CRAIG seconded by Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of two Resolutions in Committee of Supply, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On separate motions of Hon. L. S. CRAIG seconded by Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, the Resolutions were read a first and second time and agreed to.

COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT DRAX HALL, ST. GEORGE

Order No. 2 was called — to move the passing of a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Drax Hall, St. George for the provision of recreational facilities.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE (St. Andrew): Mr. Speaker, we have had a very long day and I do not know if honourable Members want to be burdened further with the taking up of more of their time. I think that this is really the time when people want to get home. However, I am not so tired that I cannot stay on my feet to be questioned on any matter.

This Resolution seeks to acquire 2.326 hectares or 5.74 acres of land at Drax Hall, a very populous area in Barbados. I am told it is one of the largest catchment areas in terms of population in the island, one of the largest plantation tenantries and what-have-you. For a very long time the folks in that area have been appealing for playing facilities, and the Ministry responsible for Community Development has decided to make provision for that, and therefore this acquisition is before this Honourable House.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

THE FACTORIES (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1986

Order No. 3 was called — to move the second reading of a Bill to amend the Factories Act, 1983.
7.15 p.m.

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW (St. Michael South East): Mr. Speaker, the amendment seeks to place within the Ministry responsibility for the total administration...

(*Aside:* Why do you not bring a new Factories Act?)

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW:....of certain responsibilities emanating from the Factories Act. I think it is very straightforward and I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

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

Mr. B. M. TAITT (St. Michael West): Mr. Speaker, Sir, just a short statement. I promise not to detain the House unduly, but it seems to me that it was only two years ago I heard from that side that an attempt was being made in the context of a new approach to industrial relations and the need for protection of the individual in the workplace, that we could expect a new Factories Act. We in Barbados have need for a new 20th century, indeed 21st century Factories Act, in which the inspectors are trained and are able to look at the new kinds of hazards which affect persons working in the environment in the industrial place.

I really believe that the Factories Act under which we labour is obsolete. There are a number of factories in Barbados, for example, that have their boilers and other dangerous mechanisms located in the wrong places. Now this might have been acceptable....

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I am sorry, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: No. I was not saying anything to the honourable Member.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: While this might have been acceptable — and I am not here talking about the sugar factories, I am talking about the other factories — at the turn of the last century and even up to the 1940s, the truth is that we have gone a long way in terms of the individual in the country and the worker in the workplace, and without being critical unnecessarily, I really think that the time has come for us to address our minds to a Factories Act that is more in keeping with the requirements of the 21st century. I think I have conveyed the views I have. I really do not wish to detain the House.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS (St. Thomas): Sir, I believe that in 1983, when I was in the Senate, a new Factories Act, a comprehensive piece of legislation which took years to work out....

(*Aside:* Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: Ten years.)

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: .....but was finally acceptable to the union, particularly, the Barbados Workers Union, was passed. That is the bit of legislation that provides for occupational safety, inspectorate and all of that, brought in as recently as 1983, and the union had no objection.

(*Aside:* Mr. B. M. TAITT: But we are talking about two different things.)

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: That is what was passed, Sir.

(*Aside:* Mr. B. M. TAITT: That is not what we are talking about.)

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

On the motion of Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW, seconded by Hon. A. A. TRUSS, 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 inclusive were called and passed.

The Schedule was called.

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: I beg to move, Sir, that the Schedule be the Schedule to this Bill.

Hon. A. A. TRUSS: I beg to second that, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is that the Schedule.....

Mr. B. M. TAITT (St. Michael West): Sir, let me get in a word. Since the Honourable Attorney General obviously misunderstood what I was saying, which I truncated, because, you know, we wanted to go home, what we are doing now is transferring the responsibility of the Factories Act 1983 to the Minister of Labour. But if you go through the Factories Act, 1983, you will see that in fact there are a number of areas which impinge on the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of the Environment and

the Ministry of a whole lot of other things. The question as to whether the Minister of Labour would be able to effectively, in the context of the 21st century, administer the Act is one which we are going to be examining even after they have taken over, because the machinery which we have for the Factories Act which we passed does not square with the kind of concepts which we need for the 21st century.

What I am saying is that we need another piece of legislation which really ought not to be called a Factories Act. Time does not allow us to go into details. But I think now the Attorney-General would appreciate the direction I am going in.

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Just let me respond here. Provision is being made for consultation, the sort of consultation that is necessary to assist in the proper administration of the Act.

The question that the Schedule be the Schedule to the Bill was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On the motion of Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW, seconded by Hon. A. A. TRUSS, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW, seconded by Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

ABANDONMENT OF THE ACQUISITION OF LAND AT QUEEN STREET, ST. PETER

Order No. 5 was called — To move the passing of a Resolution to approve of the publication in the Official Gazette of the abandonment of the acquisition of land at Queen Street in the parish of St. Peter.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE (St. Andrew): Mr. Speaker, in moving this Resolution, this is not the total abandonment of the land which we acquired. I suppose you understand it. This is just a small area of land that is left of what was originally acquired for the improvement of the road. The Government has decided that it should be abandoned and probably revert back to the owners if they so wish. It is just a small area of land. It originally was something like 2 903 square meters and this small portion is what is left back.

I beg to move, Sir, that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. W. O. FRANKLIN (St. Philip North): Mr. Speaker, there are some portions of lands to the back of Lady Adams' house that came before this Parliament at one time for acquisition, and I believe that the intention is to abandon the acquisition. Is the Minister up-to-date with this and whether or not this is a fact and how soon the abandonment notice will come?

Mr. SPEAKER: Is this to do with Queen Street, Speightstown?

Mr. W. O. FRANKLIN: Not really.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable Member's question is far out of Queen Street, if I understand him.

Asides.

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

MOTOR OMNIBUS TERMINALS ACT, 1986

Order No. 6 was called — To move the second reading of a Bill to make provision for the management, control and supervision of motor omnibus terminals in Barbados.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, this is very clear from what we have on the Bill, Sir.

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

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

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

On the motion of Hon. L. S. CRAIG, seconded by Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM, Mr. 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 — 8 inclusively were called and passed.

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. L. S. CRAIG (St. James North): Mr. Speaker, this brings us to the end of the debate on the Appropriation Bill, and it is only for me to thank the staff of Parliament, which includes the Hansard Reporters and the Clerks at the table, and also the Press, Mr. Speaker, and the police for going through these hours during the debate.

I normally would have made a comment, Sir, on the proceedings of the House, but I do not think it is appropriate for me to do so on this occasion. Personally, Mr. Speaker, I did not enjoy the debates in the House.

All I would like to say at this point and time is that I beg to move that this House do now stand adjourn until April 2, 1986 at 4.00 p.m.

It is on that occasion, Sir, that the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance will be presenting his Budgetary Proposals to this Parliament, Sir.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD (St. Michael South): I also wish, on behalf of the Opposition, to thank all those concerned, the Chairman of Committees, in particular, Members on both sides of the House, the staff of Parliament, the police, and all those who have been concerned with our work over the past week for the contributions that they have made to this most important annual event in the parliamentary calendar. The debate has been hard fought on both sides, and I think that it is our duty as Members of Parliament to ensure that the provision of public funds for the expenditure on services of this country should be examined in detail in relation to the amount of time available to this Parliament.

I, therefore, wish on the part of the Opposition to thank all those concerned.

The question that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, April 2, 1986 at 4.00 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

7.35 p.m.

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BOLDEN, His Honour C. L. (Speaker) (St. Joseph)
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BRATHWAITE, Hon. L. B. (St. Andrew)
BRATHWAITE, His Honour R. E. (Deputy Speaker) (St. Lucy)
CHELTENHAM, Hon. Dr. R. L. (Christ Church East)
CRAIG, Hon. L. S. (St. James North)
FORDE, Hon. H. deB. (Christ Church West)
FRANKLIN, W. O. (St. Philip North)
GREAVES, P. M. (St. Michael North)
HAYNES, Dr. R. C. (St. Michael South Central)
JOHNSON, Hon. V. L. (St. Michael West Central)
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SIMMONS, N. K. (St. James South)
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TRUSS, Hon. A. (St. Michael Central)
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