
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1986 – 91

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, November 11, 1986.

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

PRESENT

His Honour L. A. Weekes, (Speaker)

Rt. Hon. E. W. Barrow, Q.C., B.Sc., LL.D., (Prime Minister and Minister of Economic Affairs)

Hon. L. E. Sandiford, B.A., M.A., (Econ.), J.P., (Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Education and Culture and Leader of the House)

Mr. D. A. C. Simmons, Q.C., LL.M.

Mr. O. S. Arthur, M.Sc., (Econ.)

Mrs. M. Barker-Welch, (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Employment, Labour Relations and Community Development)

Mr. C. V. Walker, (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education and Culture)

Mr. L. L. Brathwaite, J.P.

Mr. E. Bourne

Mr. C. A. Neblett, B.A., A.C.M.A.

Mr. R. L. Morris, B.A., Cert. Ed.

Mr. P. J. M. Miller

Mr. R. P. Byer, LL.B., L.E.C., (Chairman of Committees)

Prayers were led by Rev. Father Ivan Harewood.

Mr. SPEAKER: The House is in session.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, November 4, 1986.

Mr. C. L. TROTMAN entered the Chamber and took his seat.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, the Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday November 4, 1986 have been circulated, and I beg to move that these be confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings on that day.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I beg to second that, Sir.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN entered the Chamber and took his seat.

Mr. SPEAKER: If there are no observations or corrections, let those Minutes stand confirmed.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE entered the Chamber and took his seat.

PAPERS

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Sir, on behalf of the Honourable Minister of Finance, I am commanded to lay:

The Customs Tariff (Amendment) (No. 8) Order, 1986.

And also, Sir, on behalf of the Honourable Minister of Transport, Works and Telecommunications, I am commanded to lay:

The Motor Omnibus Terminals Regulations, 1986.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of:

A Resolution to approve of the publication of Notice of Abandonment of the acquisition of land situate at Fairfield, Black Rock, St. Michael.

I am also to give notice, Sir, of:

A Resolution to grant the sum of \$20 400 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1986–87, Part I – Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1986–87, No. 9 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

NOTICES OF QUESTIONS

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for St. Andrew. His question is: Soil erosion in the Scotland District.

Mr. C. A. NEBLETT: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following questions:

To ask the Minister of Transport, Works and Telecommunications:

1. Is the Minister aware that underground water is the principal agent of soil erosion in the Scotland District?
2. Will the Minister state (a) the amount of money spent by Government from 1978 until now in combatting soil erosion in the Scotland District, and (b) the degree of success achieved in that exercise?
3. Will the Minister state whether Government has commissioned any studies or other programmes to identify all the underground water sources in the Scotland District?
4. Will the Minister also state whether Government has any plans for dealing with surface water drainage in the area?
5. Are there plans by Government to implement a comprehensive drainage scheme for the Scotland District by, for example, (a) the provision of new drainage paths, (b) maximising the use of existing paths, and (c) increasing the use of excess water for irrigation purposes to enhance agricultural development in the area?

Hon. E. E. GREAVES and Hon. W. W. HALL entered the Chamber and took their seats.

Mr. SPEAKER: By the same honourable Member, heavy rainfall at Mount Hillaby, St. Andrew.

Mr. C. A. NEBLETT: To ask the Minister of Transport, Works and Telecommunications:

1. Is the Minister aware of the difficulties which the residents of Mount Hillaby, Saint Andrew, encoun-

ter in getting to and from their homes after heavy rainfall because of flooding near the junction with Hillaby Main Road?

2. Will the Minister state whether Government plans (1) to improve drainage in the area of Mount Hillaby and the Hillaby Main Road, and (2) if it is feasible, to raise the level of the road in the area of the junction?

Mr. SPEAKER: By the same honourable Member, to the Minister of Transport, Works and Telecommunications: deterioration of road surface at White Hill, St. Andrew.

Mr. C. A. NEBLETT: To ask the Minister of Transport, Works and Telecommunications:

1. Is the Minister aware of the rapid deterioration of the road surface at White Hill, Saint Andrew and will the Minister state what plans Government has for remedial action?

Mr. SPEAKER: By the same honourable Member, to ask of the appropriate Minister permission for residents to effect home improvements.

Mr. C. A. NEBLETT: To ask the Minister of Housing and Lands:

1. Is the Minister aware that applications by some residents of Isolation Road, Saint Andrew to the Chief Town Planner for permission to effect home improvements have been refused while similar applications by other residents of Isolation Road have been approved?
2. Will the Minister state whether the reasons for refusal were based on the results of tests by the Soil Conservation Unit or other Government agency showing that parts of the area are unsuitable for the purpose in the applications including for sanitary or structural works?

ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, we have one item of Government Business on today's Order Paper.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: At this stage, I wish to move the suspension of Standing Orders Nos. 6, 16, 18, 20, 42 (5), 43 and 44 for the remainder of the day's sitting, subject to the customary rights of the Opposition.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question that the relevant Standing Orders, as outlined by the Honourable Leader of the House, be suspended for the balance of the day was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN entered the Chamber and took his seat.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, we are considering Order No. 2. Order No. 2, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 2.

Order No. 2 was called – To move that the House resolve itself into Committee of Supply to consider the grant of sums of money for the service of this island.
12.25 p.m.

On the motion of Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, seconded by Hon. M. A. KING, Mr. SPEAKER, left the Chair and the House went into Committee of Supply, Mr. R. P. BYER in the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1986–87 No. 8 – \$651 804

HEAD 15 – CABINET OFFICE

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 15 stand part.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I beg to second that, Sir.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I wonder whether the Honourable Minister will let us know what claims have been settled, referred to in the note to the Addendum of Subhead 1 of Subhead 15 of Personal Injuries and Compensation on account of personal injuries which have rendered the vote inadequate and what the amounts are for which they were settled?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, the original vote was \$100 000, and it was supplemented in August 1986 by a sum of \$60 000. I think that the honourable Members will remember that there was one substantial claim in respect of a lady who recovered a substantial sum, almost in the vicinity of \$100 000, having wrenched her ankle in an open grading somewhere in Broad Street in the City of Bridgetown. I cannot remember the lady's name. Anyhow it is immaterial.

What I find very interesting is that I know several persons who have wrenched their ankles and sprained their feet generally, but it always take somebody from outside of Barbados to make people realize that they have claims against the authorities for nonfeasance or malfeasance in respect of the repair or non-repair of highways. Be that as it may, the claim was upheld by the court in respect of this non-Barbadian person, and that alone was of the magnitude of \$100 000 or pretty close to it. It was over \$90 000 when costs were considered. I am speaking purely from memory of the previous Resolution because strangely I do not have a breakdown of the actual claims which were settled under this Head.

I will continue to look backwards which I really do not consider my duty but that of the people who submit in the Ministry the files for reference in the House of Assembly to set out clearly in some succinct way the number of claims which have been settled.

But the total amount of claims here for which have been taken care of both in the original vote and under the Supplementary in August would have been in the magnitude of \$150 000 and \$160 000, which I do not consider excessive, considering the possible claims that could have been filed against the Government for the matters of nonfeasance and malfeasance which I am personally aware of.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is that

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Sir, I note that the second part of the Head raises the amount of money which will be voted for the office of Ombudsman. I am wondering whether the Minister could give us any more details concerning the proposed salary for the post, whether it is being equated with the office of a Judge of the High Court or Permanent Secretary, and the sort of level of staff which is going to be provided in this department.

As you know, Sir, this House in November 1980 passed the Ombudsman Bill, and it is pursuant to that Bill that the office is being established. We welcome the establishment of the office, but we would wish to know how heavy the department is going to be staffed at the beginning, and we assume that the money is coming out of the Consolidated Fund that there will be a procedure for the appointment of the staff of the Ombudsman. Could the Minister tell us something about that Sir? Are provisions being made in that regard?

The note says that the office will be established I believe, Sir, from the first day of January, 1987, and I assume that the full vote of \$74 500 is for the year of which \$42 647 is Personal Emoluments. Is that only for the person holding the office, or what staff will be provided for the holder of the office in that regard, Sir?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I think that the honourable Member for Christ Church West should, when he gets an opportunity, inform his colleagues in the journalistic world that there was an Act which was passed by this House in 1980. Because I was astounded to read an editorial written in one of our daily organs that the Government should state what the duties of the Ombudsman were expected to be, and the Act itself which was passed by this House clearly sets out the duties of the Ombudsman — where he is in power to initiate investigations upon the receipt of written complaints submitted within twelve months of the date on which the complaint arose, or the person first knew of the facts giving rise although the Ombudsman may extend the time outside of which such complaints may be submitted.

Basically, the whole concept of Ombudsman — and this is not a Second Reading speech — but since the more enlightened Members of the journalistic community do not appear to be aware of the debate which took place in this Chamber way back in 1980, the concept was one which originated in the Scandinavian countries of having someone who would look into matters which aggrieved citizens might consider to be breaches of faith on the part of the administration or malfeasance or nonfeasance, to borrow two expressions which I used in another context for which redress to the courts of law would not necessarily be the most appropriate or the cheapest means of redress.

This principle of administrative law, if we may call it law, spread rapidly to places like New Zealand and Australia and to other countries in Europe, and that is why we get this peculiar and English term to describe an officer or a person appointed in a prescribed manner, and on that I will be consulting the Leader of the Opposition in accordance with the provisions of the Law, although I think he may have a pretty shrewd idea already without pre-empting his consent.
12.35 p.m.

He may have a pretty shrewd idea as to the person on whose appointment I will be addressing him in due course. The reason why I have not done so yet is, of course, because there was no provision in the Estimates which were passed earlier this year for the payment of the necessary emoluments to the Ombudsman and his staff.

To answer the honourable Member's question, he asked me whether the Ombudsman will be remunerated at the same level as a High Court Judge, and I should like to inform him that the salary that we have fixed is in the salary group S.1 or equivalent to the salary group S.1, which is \$63,000 per annum. The High Court Judge receives a salary of, as far as I can remember, \$65,520.

Hon. B. M. TAITT entered the Chamber and took his seat.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Now I am the first person to admit that I am a bit of a cheeseparing kind of person when it comes to public expenditure. I am not very lavish in dispensation of my own funds, but particularly when it comes to public expenditure I tend to be a bit tight-fisted, and I had recommended to the Cabinet, as far as I remember without telling any secrets, between \$30,000 and \$36,000 a year, and the other members of the Cabinet asked me if I was joking.

Their argument, to which I eventually succumbed, is that you do not have to look at the requirements of the particular person you have in mind, but you have to look at the office, and while I think that I would have been able to persuade someone of the necessary ability and qualifications to accept \$36,000 a year, subsequently probably you will not be able to persuade somebody else to accept the salary, so that the salary we have agreed upon is just below that of Puisne Judge, something like \$200 a month less than a Puisne Judge, which I think honourable Members will not probably say is overly generous, but certainly should be able to get the support of someone of the necessary ability and qualifications.

Then we propose to have, if you will excuse me, Sir, an Investigations Officer who probably should be a legally trained person at a salary of \$39,396 and an Executive Officer — that is the salary scale S.6 — and I think you will find that the Senior Parliamentary Counsel or someone in the Attorney General's Department, as far as I remember, which is bracketed somewhere close to that of a Senior Parliamentary Counsel. I am subject to correction because I know it has something to do with Parliamentary Counsel, whether it is precisely the Senior Parliamentary Counsel I am not quite sure, but the idea is to be able to recruit someone with some legal background to assist the Ombudsman in the discharge of his duties.

Then an Executive Officer in the salary scale Z.16 — Z.11. That will be \$20,244 to \$23,892, one Secretary in Z.23 — Z.14 salary scale, a Driver/Messenger and a part-time Cleaner.

The total amount, therefore, which we would require between the 1st January, 1987 and the 31st day of March in the same year will be the sum of \$67,699. That amount would not only cover the personal emoluments but also the provision of office furniture and equipment such as duplicators, photo copier, filing cabinets, calculators, chairs, books and a book shelf.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, on a related matter, I wonder if the Honourable Prime Minister without necessarily replying would give consideration to

providing secretarial assistance for the Honourable Leader of the Opposition and that office.

I am told that there is a vote, but there is no person in the job — a Secretary to do some typing and so on — because I do not feel that the Honourable Leader of the Opposition should be in a worse position from the Ombudsman in terms of necessary support staff for the office.

The Honourable Leader of the Opposition has a constitutional role and function, and we have found tremendous difficulty in the last six months in getting any secretarial assistance. So I just ask the Minister without necessarily replying, to look into it and see if he can assist us at the same time as he has made the provision for the assistance of the Ombudsman.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Having occupied the office of Leader of the Opposition for a few years, I am surprised to hear that there is no Secretary, because the late Prime Minister himself when I made representations to him about the need to have secretarial assistance, apart from an Executive Officer, which is a slightly different thing, promptly came to the House and out of a temporary — did not come to the House, out of a, I suppose you call it a temporary vote, paid for a Secretary and then in the Estimates in 1985, as far as I remember, provision was made for a Secretary and I did have a Secretary, as the Honourable Leader of the Opposition well knows, because he has had to visit my office from time to time in the course of his duties as a member of the Committee of Public Accounts and as an attorney-at-law, and he would be aware that I did have a Secretary, a Messenger and an Executive Officer.

I am surprised to hear now that the services of a Secretary have been withheld from the Honourable Leader of the Opposition. Maybe the honourable Member has spoken to the wrong person, but I am sure that provision was made in the Estimates for a Secretary. The person who was Secretary there is working with me now in a different capacity, and therefore the salary should be available to the honourable member.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I too do not quite understand what this particular problem is. It was the previous Government that made provision for a Secretary — I understand a temporary officer or temporary post — for the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, and it is appropriate that secretarial services should be available to the Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

There has been no change on the part of the Government in terms of withdrawing the provision or the arrangements relating to the post of Secretary to the Leader of the Opposition, and if some problem has arisen we will certainly try to rectify it, but to the best of our knowledge there has been no change in the arrangement

and therefore the Honourable Leader of the Opposition should be free to recruit whomever he would wish, to carry out those services for him. That is the position as we understand it.

The question that Head 15 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.
12.45 p.m.

HEAD 16 — PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE — \$2 950

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 16 stand part.

Hon. M. A. KING: I beg to second that.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I just want to make a quick comment on the Central Emergency Relief Organisation and its functioning.

I believe, Sir, that at this very early stage of this new administration, we ought to look very seriously at the Central Emergency Relief Organisation and the way in which it functions in emergencies, whether these emergencies are to do with hurricanes, floodings or what have you.

I have had the experience during the last week, during these heavy rains to really see CERO functioning, and I must confess that I have come to the conclusion that CERO.....

Asides

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: I understand that. I am indicating that we have now to reorganize the whole organization of CERO at this early stage. I think we ought to look at it very clearly, at least, to give it more clout and one of the problems which seems to develop is the fact that the organisation itself is unable to make the kinds of demands on the various Government Departments that are necessary in order to get its works done, and I would hope that the Honourable Prime Minister when looking at the reorganizing of CERO would certainly recognize this, because I am satisfied that CERO has a role to play, but we would certainly have to look at ensuring that it is re-organized to function in an effective manner to deliver the services which it is supposed to produce.

The question that Head 16 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 44 — MINISTRY OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE — \$24 405

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 44 stand part.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I beg to second that.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, it is a pity that I think this must be the first occasion since the elections that we have had, starting slowly and quietly to build, perhaps, to crescendo at an appropriate time, but after May 28, we have had a new Ministry to the administration of Government in Barbados created in the shape of the Ministry of the Public Service, and I am a little disappointed that the Honourable Prime Minister did not take the opportunity, perhaps, to outline for our benefit how this new Ministry is going to function, and what are its parameters of operation, for example, *vis-a-vis* the Public Service Commission, because one can envisage certain jurisdictional problems between the new Ministry and the Public Service Commission.

It is true that on two successive Sundays the gentleman or lady who writes Douglas Leopold Phillips,.....

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: sometimes it is a lady did take the opportunity to publish the speech delivered by the Honourable Minister of the Public Service, I believe, to the NUPW, and from that one has gleaned that the Honourable Minister conceives his function and that of the Ministry as coordinating and reforming the administration of the Public Service.

Now, to that extent, the Opposition has no quarrel with the desired objectives of the Ministry of the Public Service, because Members who were in the House between 1976 and 1981 will recall that two backbenchers, Johnny Cheltenham and myself, moved a Resolution calling on the then Government to establish a Commission, a Committee, or whatever, some body, to investigate the functioning of the Public Service, and to make recommendations as to how best the efficiency of the administration of the Public Service could be enhanced in the future.

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

I think a golden opportunity was presented to the Barbados Labour Party Government at the time to try and modernize the Public Service, and it was the one occasion between 1976 and 1981 when the Government was defeated that we had to enlist the support of the then Opposition, because the front bench refused to support the back bench call for a Commission of Enquiry.

Whether the present Government intends during the next five years or whenever to have an ongoing assessment and evaluation of the Public Service with a view to its ultimate modernisation is a matter about which we would wish to hear perhaps from the Honourable Prime Minister, but suffice it to say that any attempt to look

critically at the role and function of the Public Service after twenty years of Independence is a worthwhile venture.

The new Ministry, however, seems to have been functioning less than satisfactory in the performance of its duties. There is clearly, from your information, an overlap between the jurisdiction of the Public Service Commission and the function of this Ministry. Perhaps time will resolve the jurisdictional conflicts that may appear at the moment.

I am not sure, from anything I have read in Douglas Leopold Phillips whether the Ministry of the Public Service is to have an all pervasive function in relation to the other Ministries that make up the Public Service.
12.55 p.m.

These are matters that we would like to hear about. What we do know is that all is not well in the Public Service of Barbados, not necessarily the Ministry. We are aware of massive lay-offs in the Public Sector.

We are aware that one of the Ministries, for example, the Ministry of Transport and Works has stopped all overtime.

Aside

Laughter

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Money gone? No money is coming in. Do you mean that in three months you are \$38 million out on current account?

We are concerned about the functioning of certain of the Ministries in the Public Service which are critical to the development of Barbados. We see, for example, the Ministry of Tourism as critical in terms of not only bringing tourists to Barbados but providing the necessary foreign exchange that helps to keep the foreign reserves in a state of good health.

We recall that when the now Government was in Opposition, it and its spokesman called for the establishment of a separate Ministry of Tourism; so important did the Democratic Labour Party consider tourism when in Opposition, to the general health of Barbados.

(Aside: Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Because the Minister could not handle it then.)

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You will hear how the Honourable Minister is handling it if you give me a little time.

Laughter.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The now Minister.

Aside

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: We have to carry this thing until 2.00 o'clock at least, and I cannot speak for all that time under the Rules.

We note that there has been a Ministry of Tourism and Industry, but you have Information tacked on, and the Ministry of Trade is a separate and distinct Ministry from that of Industry. And there have been conflicts in the minds, for example, of manufacturers who have problems in knowing which of the two Honourable Ministers to go to in respect of certain.....

Aside

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Yes, you have.....of their problems.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You have the Export Promotion Corporation under one and the IDC under another.

Aside

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: There are certain problems in the public's mind. There is certain confusion in the public's mind.....

(*Aside:* Hon. B. M. TAITT: That is nothing to do with us.)

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS:.....particularly, in the manufacturer's mind, because when we think of tourism, nothing substantial has been put in place since May 28. Do you still have a Statistical Department, or is that abolished?

(*Aside:* Hon. B. M. TAITT: What is he saying?)

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You do not even get..... Do you still have a Statistical Department functioning in the Ministry which will produce statistics on a quarterly basis or on a monthly basis? You have a chance to reply. I am asking because the public wants to know.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: That is a function of the Public Service.

You have problems with the Ministry of Tourism and Industry. Recently, the Honourable Minister of Tourism went and talked to Condor, German airline people, and put one case; and then the Honourable Minister of Finance talked to them later, and he put a different case.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: But they are not putting a co-ordinated policy. Two different Ministers but they should have a settled policy, and should be speaking with one voice.

(*Aside:* Hon. B. M. TAITT: But you must not mislead the Honourable House.)

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: If I have misled the Honourable House, Sir, I apologize. It is not intentional. The Honourable Minister will have every chance to reply and give the information.

(*Aside:* Hon. B. M. TAITT: I do not want to interrupt.)

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You do not want to interrupt but every week you see yourself as a heckler.

Laughter.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I hear about Sparrow, Arrow, Shadow, Swallow, the Minister of Tourism can be well classified as the "Mighty Shallow" or the "Mighty Dove", rhythm, no lyrics.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Nobody is interfering with me. I am not even attacking today. I am asking questions.

Asides

What have we got out of the Honourable Ministers, Sir?

In January this year, the Barbados Labour Party when in Government gave the manufacturers a 20% reduction on rents in the estates. But soon after he became the Minister responsible he promised another 20%. Has it been implemented yet?

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. I do not wish to interrupt the honourable Member, but the honourable Member is lying to the House, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: He is misleading, not lying.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: If he tells lies, that is misleading. I beg your pardon, Sir. The honourable Member is misleading the House.

At no time ever, since I became Minister responsible for Industry, did I promise a 20% reduction to anybody in anything. And I do not think that the honourable Member needs to go down the vein he is going. That is the second time he has misled the House in the short speech that he has made.

The Honourable Minister of Finance has had no discussions with the particular airline he mentioned.

If he is going on a fishing expedition, let him ask questions. But he has no right to come and mislead this Committee, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member has another three minutes to wind up.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Yes, Sir, on this first speech. If the word, "lying" is in the Records of this House, Sir, I object to that word remaining in.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I think that he corrected himself.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Did he withdraw it, Sir?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I think he corrected himself. He substituted the word, "lying" from his speech.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: He can substitute. Let him substitute, Sir. But he must withdraw, "lying", because I do not believe that any honourable Member in this House, Sir, can say that I have deliberately ever lied to the House. That is a serious charge. One which calls for resignation in some Parliaments and one which should be adhered to.

The Honourable Minister has not told us whether he promised a reduction of the rent, Sir, subsequent to the one that was given in January of 20% or if not, when he intends for the manufacturers.....

Laughter.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS:.....to get a further reduction, Sir. That is what we want to hear.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: It must not be presumed that I am like certain people in here.

But, Sir, we are concerned that since there has been the Ministry of the Public Service, there has been such

public disquiet as to move the leader writer of, I think it was the *Advocate* newspaper.....

(Aside: Hon. E. E. GREAVES: You mean Nigel Barrow.)

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I do not know. I do not know who is the leader writer, Sir to refer to three cases in which public servants, two of long service have been very badly treated. In the one case, one person had been sent on special leave, having worked with the....

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Right having worked with a number of Prime Ministers.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I said

Mr. CHAIRMAN: One minute to go.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: two persons with long service. In another case we are told that a position which was recommended by the Inter-American Development Bank at the hospital, and which recommendation had been accepted by the hospital director that that position is to be abolished, or has been abolished; and these cause insecurity in the minds of the Public Officers.
1.05 p.m.

I am not dealing at this stage with the Honourable Minister of Health. Why won't he keep quiet when I am speaking? Stick to the Rules. Keep quiet when another honourable Member is speaking, otherwise we will talk about how you dismissed the Ambulance Officer.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time! Time!

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I am very glad the honourable Member said "time" because I think the honourable Member's concern about what goes on the record — and I did hear some statements about "keep quiet" very loudly said, and I do not understand how one honourable Member can be telling the Chairman of this Committee to keep quiet. Sir, I do not think that it is in keeping with the dignity of this Chairman that any honourable Member should be telling you to keep quiet.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I did not hear him, Sir.

Laughter.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Oh, you did not hear him, Sir. Alright.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member for St. John.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I recognize that the honourable Members on the other side must find some point from week to week to let the general public know that they are still alive if not functioning.

The honourable Member has asked what the functions of the Ministry of the Public Service would be, and he himself answered the question because he reminded those of us who were in here at the time that he and the former Member for Christ Church East had been very vociferous in their Resolution asking for a Committee or Commission — I cannot remember which at this point of time — to look into the functioning of the Public Service in Barbados. I cannot remember if I voted against it. But I just want to say that I voted with the honourable Member, because from my experience having set up training schemes for Public Officers both at home and abroad, having taken the trouble to send a gentleman who now rejoices in the name of Sir Carlisle to the University of Sussex along with another senior Public Officer, Mr. Layne, to help establish the Organization and Methods Department promptly to have it dismantled on the accession to office of my successor, I was not therefore surprised that even back benchers in the Government of 1977 felt themselves constrained to draw it to the attention of the general public the very sorry condition into which the standards of the Public Service had deteriorated.

To ask me for a job description is unnecessary in those circumstances, because I would say that the purpose of the office of the Ministry of the Public Service is to give the importance to administration that an administration, in a small country like this that is spending \$600 to \$700 million of the taxpayers money must have, if we are to have an efficient Government.

Nobody worried to ask what was the function of the job description of the Ministry of Information established as a separate Ministry or the Ministry of Energy established at great expense and at an initial loss before it even functioned of \$200 million. Nobody worried to ask because all of us knew that they were only finding places in the sun or out of the rain for two persons who were and will continue to be unsuccessful parliamentary candidates.

On assuming office, these redundant Ministries were put into limbo, and we established a separate Ministry of Finance because the burden of the duties which fell upon the shoulders of successive Ministers of Finance, thereby replacing one of the Ministries with a Ministry of Public Service. We have not increased the number of

Ministers. Now if we have not increased the number of Ministers, that is probably my fault, because no one will gainsay that the work-load in the Ministry of Finance is such that one Minister cannot adequately look after economic development, organization and methods, services commissions, defence and security and deal with the matters which from day to day are the immediate concern of the Minister of Finance. I still feel that we ought to have a separate Ministry of Tourism. Some people in our party have very strongly felt this for a very long time. But what we are trying to do at this juncture is to keep the number of Ministries to a minimal.

I was very horrified — let me choose a more neutral expression — I was astounded to learn that in the neighbouring independent country of Antigua, there are no less than eighteen Ministers. As a matter of fact, it appears to me that they have more Ministers in Antigua than they have Members in the Lower House.

I do not know if there is any such thing as an optimum number of Ministers. I think the number of Ministers that you have depends on what you have to do at any particular juncture in your constitutional and economic development.

It is very clear to me that all of the Ministers who have been appointed under this dispensation are fully extended. They are so extended that I am thinking seriously of curtailing attendances at conferences and so on because when they get back they have such a heavy work-load that they immediately report for a couple of days recovery because of the heavy work-load that they have to face.

Also we find civil servants, one of the problems we are looking at, sitting on fourteen or fifteen different boards. I do not know how for instance the Director of Finance and Planning is able to function as a Public Officer, having to sit on a lot of boards.

I feel we should bring in people from outside who would report to the Minister from time to time rather than having so many civil servants sitting on boards, and I think sometimes when we bring people from outside they are able to bring into the deliberations of that particular organization or parastatal organization or whatever it may be the kind of insight that an over-worked civil servant cannot introduce.

1.15 p.m.

There is no fear that there will be any overlapping between the functions of the Ministry of the Public Service and the Public Service Commission for a very simple reason. The Public Service Commission is the creature of statute. It has an independent role to perform under the

Constitution; the provisions for its appointment, re-appointment or otherwise are entrenched in the provisions of the Constitution of Barbados; and the Public Service Commission is serviced by an officer of Permanent Secretary rank in the person of the C.P.O., the Chief Personnel Officer. The Chief Personnel Officer works closely with the Establishments Officer and the Public Service Commission in the discharge of its function does not have to consult with anyone except to make recommendations to His Excellency the Governor-General of the island.

I consider that the work of the Public Service Commission is going to be primarily involved in training and efficiency of the Public Service of this island; two matters which are very, very important.

The Ministry of Public Service is also concerned with such matters as the duplication and proliferation of computers in the Public Service and in para-statal organisations. What actually happens is that although I initiated, I introduced computers, I took several senior Public Officers not only from Barbados but from the CARICOM area, officers of the level of Financial Secretaries and so on, to Mexico to attune them into the cybernetics age, so that as managers of the Public Service they would understand the importance of computers.

Any salesman can go to any Government Department or any Statutory Board and tell them that they must have a computer, which is a lot of foolishness, because we have a main frame computer. I am not the expert on computers, it is the Parliamentary Secretary, the honourable Member for St. George North, who is our computerologist. I am a pigologist and things like that; I know about raising animals; I am not a computerologist.

But any salesman can go to a Government Department or a Statutory Board and say you should have a computer, and then the next thing you know they will buy a computer which is grossly underused when we have a very expensive, probably fourth generation main frame computer in the National Insurance building which could probably if properly organised, do all the work not only of Government in Barbados, but by time sharing we could probably sell time to a large majority of the private businesses in Barbados as well, without losing the confidentiality which is essential for such organisations to have.

They do not have any concept of utilisation of the tools and the technological changes which have been made in the past twenty years, and so the Honourable Minister himself is now conducting an assessment of the computer utilisation in order to save Government and these Government and para-statal organisations capital expenditure and also a more efficient use of their manpower.

I do not think that the honourable Members on the opposite side, since they call for a Committee on Commission of Enquiry, really feel that we do not need a Public Service Ministry. There may be confusion in the minds of the unenlightened writers in the Press and some people in the public as to the nature of the duties as to whether the Honourable Minister will be appointing people to the Public Service, and while I am on that point I should like to say this: It is a great pity that people who are involved in media and information services do not go back and do some research.

In the Press a few weeks ago it was stated that the Prime Minister was given authority to appoint people to temporary posts. Now I am having an investigation done; it goes back a long time. What happened was that there are certain posts which are in the — let me say — gift of the Public Service Commission; any established post in the Government Service under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Public Service Commission. What was discovered was that the machinery for getting people appointed at short notice in the Public Service Commission did not lead to that kind of flexibility which is desirable in a proper administration.

At the time when the Constitution was amended, for which there was a great hullabaloo, all that happened was that after nearly ten years of operating the Constitution from Marlborough House, I wrote around to all the Government Departments and asked them how did they find the Constitution working and in what respect they considered that improvements could be made to the Constitution, and I would say that without a single exception all the amendments

Aside.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: 1974, about eight years after we had independence. Every one of the amendments to the Constitution were amendments which came out of the various Ministries, invariably under the hands of the Permanent Secretaries, but what is more interesting, not a single one was initiated by the Government as a political party, and members have had a great opportunity in the nine years and months that they were in office to go back and check this, and that is the reason why perhaps they, having been the greatest objectors to the constitutional amendments, did not find it either advisable or convenient to revert back to the pre-existing situation before the amendments of 1974. I want to get that on the record.

I also want to get this on the record. I frequently find myself as a Minister of Government taking part in a debate in which I disagree with the things that the Government is bringing forward. I do not have to jog the memories of honourable Members here on the question of

raising overseas loans. I still do not believe in it; I still do not feel it is necessary, but the people who have put us in this predicament have managed to brainwash certain people in the community and in the ministerial benches that we have to rush off to all kinds of places raising money. Barbados has more money now than it ever had in the history the liquidity of the banks is so high that the banks are refusing to take deposits, that the Central Bank has over 37% of all the demand deposits and the Central Bank is not paying the commercial banks any interest on it.

It is true that we are short of foreign exchange, but from time to time you are going to find me coming in here and disagreeing with the conventional position. Even Bills that we are asking you to agree to, I will vote with it but I will tell you that I disagree with it.

Aside.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Yes, I have to vote for it, but I can still express my opinion as a taxpayer.

I am telling you now, and you can go and check the debates at the time of the Constitutional amendments, I was the only person who objected to large numbers of the Public Officers being taken from out of the Public Service Commission and put under the Permanent Secretaries, and I said so here on the floor of the House when I introduced the Bill. That is the strange thing about it.

1.25 p.m.

I introduced the Bill and then objected to it, but I objected as a citizen of Barbados, so do not let anybody tell you that the Prime Minister wanted power and that kind of thing, because in truth and in fact that power is exercised by the Permanent Secretaries, and I upgraded it. I can only call it upgraded because I did not mince matters.

The organisations who were representing the workers, particularly what evolved into the National Union of Public Workers, they were so intent on trying to embarrass the Government as saying that the Constitutional amendments were wrong, that they did not pick up the point that 30% of their membership were being subjected to the whims and fancies of Permanent Secretaries and the Permanent Secretaries advanced that — and I am not going to call any names — on the grounds that it is better to let them have the flexibility of making these temporary appointments than having to go through the procedure of the Public Service Commission.

What I am saying here now is something which you can check in the Debates of the House of Assembly. Send for them now and check it; that Errol Barrow was the only person who spoke against the Constitutional amend-

ments, whoever he is. I do not know who he is because you are not supposed to call people's names inside here. The only person who objected was the Member for St. John and now they are saying that we put this power in the hands of the Permanent Secretaries. What happened is that subsequently it was taken away from the Permanent Secretaries and exercised by the Prime Minister, but not in my time.

Laughter.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: As a matter of fact, it went so far that you could not get — these are not temporary, these are permanent jobs now, this is a fact — a position in the Barbados Defence Force as a Private, and these were permanent jobs, or semi-permanent, unless you passed through the hands of the Prime Minister because the Defence Force tended to act as an Independent Republic, and the Public Service Commission had nothing to do with the appointments of members of the Defence Force, but every single person had to pass through the hands of the Prime Minister.

I remember one occasion in which the Staff Officer told me that a young lady with plenty of "O" levels and a few "A"s as well just liked soldiering, and she applied to be a member of the Defence Force and that the Prime Minister sat down in his presence and crossed out her name and said that her father is a supporter of Dr. Haynes and there is no way that I will have her in the Defence Force, so this was a personal thing that the Prime Minister had up there and now you understand my feeling about that group of people.

I am not going to send them home. You have too much unemployment already, but I am not recruiting anymore, either personally or through the regular channels so nobody need apply because we are not replenishing and gradually we will cut down on the expenditure.

I just want to get the records straight, because there is so much disinformation published in the Press in this island about the Prime Minister. I have never appointed anybody in my life. I am not interested in that kind of thing.

As a matter of fact, I had a complaint today which I levelled at the Honourable Minister of Education that a young man was acting in a job in St. John: He lived next door to the place where he was watching, and they sent to St. George and brought in a man who had another job, and put him to act as the watchman of the school. The Honourable Minister of Education knows about it. It is that bad in St. John.

It is that bad in St. John that this may look like a criticism of the Public Service Commission, that any-

body who was applying for a job from St. John, I do not care how many "O" levels and "A" levels they had, had to give an address in a constituency of a member of the Barbados Labour Party although they may not even know the member in order even to get a reply. That is a fact.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order!

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW because the Public Service Commission personnel, I am not saying the people, I am not saying Sir Carlisle Burton, I am not saying any of the members of the Public Service Commission itself, but the people who were in there felt themselves constrained not even to reply to the letters because they knew that directives would come.

So when things come up now in our regime, and I hear that the nephew of one of the most respected citizens in St. John, a high ranking public officer, his own nephew who had been acting in a job, they brought in a man from St. George. I do not want to call any names; a man who was so taken up with his other work that he could not turn up on Saturday because he said he had to do the other job — on Saturday the 8th of this month, two day ago, already in a job.

There is a case down in St. Andrew, in Orange Hill, a similar situation where the honourable Member for St. Andrew is under a tremendous amount of pressure now. The people want to know how it is that the Democratic Labour Party is in office and a man who is working with C.O. Williams Construction Co. is doing a job watching the Social Centre, or whatever it is down there and getting \$173 a week for not turning up to work. It is that bad and then you talk about tribalism? We want a little more tribalism and then we would be able to employ some of the young people, not people holding down two jobs and then laughing at you. That is what is happening in this country.

I am really getting worked up about this, so I am going to sit down, Mr. Chairman, but I only want to assure honourable Members that it is not the purpose of this Government to use the Ministry of the Public Service to undermine the Public Service Commission or any part of the Constitution of Barbados. We have too much restructuring to do in the Civil Service to be indulging in any practices of that nature.

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

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I really must accept — I promise the honourable Member that if he wants Christ Church West he can get it in 2025.

(Aside: Hon. E. E. GREAVES: The last man that made a boast in here you know what happened to him).

Laughter.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: We lost St. Lucy and he is fortunate to get back in here again.

Anyway, I must accept the Honourable Prime Minister for the last statement which he has given, as he has given it seriously to the Committee, but I want to say that I agree with the honourable Member for St. Thomas that I would have hoped that on the first occasion on which any discussion concerning the Ministry of the Public Service arose in the Honourable House that the Honourable Prime Minister would have led off without having to be prodded into a speech concerning the Ministry of the Public Service.

I accept that it is within the Honourable Prime Minister's authority and sphere of operation as Leader of the Government, to appoint as many or as few Ministers as he wishes, and to distribute the portfolio in the manner that he considers would lead to the best form of Government, but I also have to remind the Honourable Prime Minister that the Government, when it was in Opposition, said to the public of Barbados quite clearly that there was the greatest need for a separate Ministry of Tourism, and in distributing his portfolios I would have expected him to have borne that point in mind.

I am surprised to hear him say that the Ministers are so over-worked now that he is thinking of grounding a few of them from travelling as much as some Ministers have travelled and for as long as some Ministers have travelled since May 28 — that is my addition to it — so that they would not come back so tired, and I would expect that it is not only the travelling, but in the case of the Ministry of Tourism, I would have expected that there would have been a separate Ministry of Tourism in preference to a separate Ministry of the Public Service.

I would have thought that the Ministry that has the greatest impact at the moment, given the economy of Barbados, in creating employment and improving the foreign exchange of which the Honourable Prime Minister admits that we are short, I would have expected that that Ministry would have had, perhaps, its own separate Minister to deal with the problems, and grapple with them.

Perhaps the honourable Member for St. Thomas did not make it as clear as he wanted to, with the honourable Member for St. Michael West starting his interruptions, that we are concerned to know if the Ministry, the various branches of the Ministry that come under the Ministry of Industry and Tourism with Information,

have been given by the Public Service Ministry the staff which it deserves so that it can function.
1.35 p.m.

We do not want a Public Service Ministry in which there is an overall Minister merely because he is in the Prime Minister's Office. He must not believe that he can lord it over his other Cabinet colleagues. He must not believe so. The Honourable Prime Minister should make that clear where it is necessary. There must not be a starving of staff so that they cannot function. There are not only the things that a Ministry of the Public Service can do. There must be things that a Ministry of the Public Service should not do. And in fact, in co-ordinating the work of Government, a Prime Minister has to have no favourites among his Ministers, when it comes to making sure that resources are available to the Ministries that matter to carry out their work. And I would not like to think that in this case, because the Ministry of the Public Service is within the Prime Minister's Office that it sees itself as overlord of any other Minister, not even on the personnel questions.

It must learn, and the word should go forth that if we find that it is not learning, that it cannot starve Ministers, it must learn that it must make the resources available in a proper manner so that they can be dealt with. And they can do as much looking for duplication of computers as possible, but we must make it possible that the staff is there and available for the Ministry.

So we have concerns. We have concerns of one Honourable Minister probably being overloaded, and we want to know why there is not a regular publication of the tourist statistics that we have seen. I want to know if the Honourable Minister has got all the staff that he has asked for. I want to know that. I mean, the Minister is free to talk. The Honourable Prime Minister, when he disagrees with his Cabinet colleagues, he says so openly, despite the fact that he may collectively support the measure. So what I really want to know is whether he is getting his staff. Is the Public Service Ministry starving him and the Minister of Finance starving him of the staff which he wants? That is one area, Sir. The co-ordination of these things.

But also, Sir, I want to say that the Ministry of the Public Service, whilst it can perform a useful function, also has its dangers. And it has its dangers in small communities such as ours, Sir. And I do not think that we can get away from this by saying that the 1974 amendments allowed temporary appointments to be made.

I think one has to look down the road at the overall position as a whole. I think one has to recognize that.

I recall that when the present Minister was head of the NUPW, he paid me the honour of asking me to address then a meeting of the NUPW, and one of the subjects that I spoke on was the need for a Public Service Ministry, and I came to the conclusion then, years ago, long years ago that there was need for such a Ministry in a developing country. And I referred to some of the publications on this subject put out by the UNDP in which there has been a tremendous study of Public Services in developing countries. And there are a lot of advantages, a couple of which the Honourable Prime Minister has underlined, but there are also certain disadvantages. It is the overlordship that I am speaking about, Sir, and also the need to keep a balance between the relationship between the Public Service Ministry and the bodies of appointment.

Now, Sir, disquiet has been voiced in Barbados during successive Governments about the degree of political interference there is in appointments. Various Ministers in successive Governments have held various views as to who should make appointments and how they should be made. The changes to the Constitution of which the Honourable Prime Minister spoke, 1974 changes, gave greater strength to the politicians to directly intervene in appointments in the Public Service. That is a fact. At that time we said that there were dangers there. And I do not believe that anything that has happened since, including a change of Government on May 28, 1986 makes that statement incorrect. I am not, for one moment, going to accept that since the change of Government on May 28, 1986 that PSC5 forms do not get into the hands of Honourable Ministers. I do not accept that.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I never saw one. I believe the honourable Member did. But there are Honourable Ministers in the present Government who see them. And I am not so jejune to accept either that Ministers of Government do not know when there are vacancies within their departments and have not got a manner of impressing on their Permanent Secretaries who should be appointed. I am not so jejune as to accept that either. The honourable Member may speak that for the press and for the public. But, Sir, I know that this is not accepted by the Public Service itself, if you ask around.

It is obvious that everybody who is a Member of Parliament want to find a job for the myriad of people pressing on us. And it is obvious that they are going to get the ear of their Ministers. What we have to ensure is that in the process, we do not penalize anybody who is deserving of a job because of a political affiliation or what we conceive to be their political affiliation, Sir.

I am really not satisfied, in my mind, that since the last Election that some people whether mistakenly or right feel that they still are not getting a fair break.

The honourable Member spoke about one or two posts, Sir, and I want to say that in one, I am concerned, very concerned, by the manner in which a temporary post in the Ministry of Health is not being renewed. I am not sure that it is based on a proper organization and management study of the need for that post to have abolished the post. And I rather believe that there is something personal in the manner in which one has gone about in dealing with a public officer who has obviously performed well, in circumstances where the post is strongly recommended and where the post has shown that there is justification for the post and it can pay for itself.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The post of Assistant Hospital Director, for the Prime Minister's information.

I do not believe that we should listen to rumours that any particular officer's husband let off a gun or some foolishness like that at ambulance drivers who went to the home, because the Ministry's files will show that that is not true. That is the point I am making.

Asides.

(Aside: How did that get on the file?)

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The Ministry's file will show that that is not true, Sir. The Ministry's file will show that the Hospital Director himself investigated that allegation and apologies were given. That is how you would know it would get on the file. The Ministry will know, and if the Minister believes that, he will believe anything. I have been in politics long enough to know that some of your best supporters bring you information that you could ignore sometimes and will best be ignored, and that when you have an officer who performs well, that you cannot because you may think the officer is sympathetic to another Party and I am speaking this because nobody can say that I have ever seen a PSC form or dealt with them. So I can speak from that position of strength in this debate.

(Aside: Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: What is wrong with that?)

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I am saying nothing is wrong with that. But even to that extent — I am not saying anything is wrong with that for the honourable Member for St. Michael East — I am saying what one must be sure about is that you are not going to be recommending abolition of posts merely because you want to settle scores.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member has another two minutes.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Alright, Sir. I think we have to go on with this debate a little bit longer.

So one must ensure that there is a balance brought because we are a small community, a very small community. There are members of my family, as you would know, Mr. Chairman, Sir, if you do not know, you know now, who are high ranking members of the Democratic Labour Party who have never betrayed the trust of the Democratic Labour Party to me. And I would not like to think that we are beginning merely on the basis of political persuasion to look down the line at how people get jobs. I would be as concerned about what the Honourable Prime Minister said if I believed it completely, about what he said about St. John as I am concerned about some of the things that I am hearing at the moment, and that is why I am making the statement. And one has to say very loudly so that it gets into all of the corridors of Government in this country that when you hear a cry of tribalism it is not just political mouthing, Sir. I have to consider very carefully a lot of the complaints that I get as Leader of the Opposition sitting there, people writing to me — a lot of them anonymously — who feel threatened whether it is in a Statutory Board or otherwise by actions and it is no justification.

1.45 p.m.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The honourable Member is going to say "Henry", Sir. One has to.....

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: It does not matter whether it is the last party or this party. You are the Government now. You do not answer it by saying it is the last party. You cannot do the same! That is the point if it has been done, and I am quoting from the honourable Member who frequently said so when one made these statements, Sir.

So I want to make the point very clearly that in the Public Service I get concerned if the Public Service Ministry sees itself as out on a limb in order to create a certain image, Sir.

Now Sir, I want at some stage in this debate to come back to the role of the Public Service Commission, because one of the things we are going to have to do to prevent these allegations whether they come from our side or the other side when we are in and out of power from occurring is to make sure that we begin to look for mechanisms.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Alright, Sir. I will continue my speech afterwards.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I think that the debate needs to focus somewhat on the reason for the Resolution, and I would like to move away for a little while from the partisanship which is in danger of being mummified. If one listens to the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, one will join the ranks of the believers in the revisionist history that is being written in the last few weeks. But I am going to deal with that on another occasion. I think we need to examine why there has been a Public Service Ministry.

The history of administration in Barbados, Sir, can be put into three broad areas. The early period when the colonial office administered Barbados when basically all that was required was that certain taxes or tariffs be collected and that a measure of order be kept. And so administration was confined basically to housekeeping and so-called law and order and in that regard persons born in Barbados were not considered to have the capability and/or the breadth of experience to do any administration that called for thinking. Hence, one joined the police force or some relative agency and progressed through the ranks until one reached the point of sergeant or one become a long grade clerk where one did the necessary housekeeping for maintaining a tidy arrangement for when the colonial hierarchy came out to inspect the colony.

Then in the mid-50's we got a measure of self-Government and we got experimentation in the ministerial system, and we started moving towards a broader area of administration for the "natives". That is why — and within that system we had the growth and development of what can be called the classic Civil Servants. There have been and there are still some classic Civil Servants who learned their crafts in the context of a system created in the United Kingdom and held to be existing at the time where the classes were very clear. You either belong to the executive class which was the very small tiny group at the top or you belong to the broad Civil Service class which also participated in the housekeeping duties. We had some experimentation and that is why people when discussing the Civil Service in Barbados tend to think of it in terms of the British Civil Service.

Now Sir, in the 1960's when Barbados became independent there were some substantial structural changes which occurred in the administrative system and the administrative fabric of this country and necessarily there will be after twenty years of Independence a need to examine the structure and the system to see where it has progressed or if it has progressed.

But if you go back to 1966, Sir, suddenly we had need for a Foreign Service. Except for a few persons who had journeyed out into the world, there was no experience in Barbados for the Foreign Service and, therefore, a new cadre of persons had to be trained and a new cadre of persons had to be drawn upon. Concomitant with that with the ministerial system coming to its full potential where Barbadians were making decisions for and about Barbados in the fullest sense of the word, it became necessary to create departments of Government to deal with the growth and the development of the country. And at the same time in the 1960's it was important to recognize the need for modernization of Barbados, modernization of the system. Not only the Civil Service *per se* but the entire structure of Barbados cried out for modernization and hence we had a tremendous growth in the first ten years after Independence of the administrative system in Barbados.

One of the ways in which we sought to solve the problem was the creation of Statutory Boards. Statutory Boards were designed to marry the concept of the private sector swiftness for doing things and the solidity of the Civil Service, the Public Service so called. We also got an Independence Constitution which sought to give us a certain measure of our own capability. So when you put on these things together, Sir, we are bound to have conflicts, and we are bound to have pressure, and we are bound to have difficulties.

Mr. Chairman, the Constitutional function which we were called upon to perform and which one would have thought that the honourable Member for St. Thomas would have been so careful and knowledgeable about that in a debate such as this he would have brought the necessary astuteness to allow him not to mix up the Constitutional function with an administrative function. But, Sir.....

Asides

Hon. B. M. TAITT: You are in opposition now. You were in Opposition when Tom was Prime Minister too.

Laughter.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, it falls to reason, therefore, that when we are looking at the position of Barbados twenty years from 1966 and especially in light of the agreed call not so long ago as referred to by the Right Honourable Member for St. John that we should examine our system, that a Public Service Ministry would seem a natural in the circumstances. If you look at what the Public Service Ministry can do, you will find that there has been a Public Service Ministry in Britain for years; there has been a Public Service Ministry in Jamaica; there is a Public Service Ministry in Trinidad; there is a Ministry

for Mobilization in Guyana. In almost every progressive country to say nothing of New Zealand, to say nothing of Canada, there has always been a Ministry that takes care of the housekeeping areas of the Government and also the three fundamental areas of training, recruitment, establishment, personnel management, training, etc. All of these tend to fall into a broad category of manpower management and a Ministry dealing with manpower services, therefore, is a natural. But Sir, in Barbados we have some difficulty with things that are new.
1.55 p.m.

The fact that the Ministry, which has always been in existence, which has always been in existence under the Prime Minister from the time that we have had Independence and before this Ministry was in existence, it fell within the portfolio of our respective Prime Ministers. That is all. But we have seen a situation where the present Prime Minister determined on the basis of historical experience to have a Minister that is going to be responsible in a more definitive way for the Public Service functions, and when we come here today we get questions being raised as if the Ministry of the Public Service was something that was put together by the Democratic Labour Party for purposes of misleading the people or brutalising the Civil Servants.

Of course, Sir, the Honourable Leader of the Opposition is leading a party that is an expert in the field of brutalisation of the Civil Servants, and therefore one would expect him or his party to assume that a Government that takes over from the Barbados Labour Party would be interested in perpetuating that kind of system.

It stands to reason that the 1974 amendments are going to be a point of controversy in this country for a long time, but the last people in the world who have any moral right to discuss that matter are the members of the Barbados Labour Party. In that respect they form what can only be described as the most fraudulent political party that has ever been anywhere, because they walked around this country and they told the entire community that those amendments were the worst infliction on the people of Barbados, and they should be amended. They led the campaign and they promised the people that they would repeal them. Nine years, six months, twenty days and four hours later we stand in the same condition as we were when they became the Government, spearheaded by no less a person than the distinguished former Secretary General of the National Union of Public Workers. A more deceitful deceiver of public persons has not yet.....

Aside

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I cannot call him a deceitful deceiver? But the Prime Minister, his Prime Minister, said he was, but the world knows that he came and told the Public Servants that they should follow him. Now is not

the time to deal with him, Sir. I am dealing with the Barbados Labour Party and how it continues to mislead the population, even now, talking about massive lay-offs. The honourable Member for St. Michael East, while being a member of that party, told the population of this country about the decision of the Barbados Labour Party to lay off people.

(*Aside: Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: When did it happened?*)

Hon. B. M. TAITT: In the MTW. The honourable Member for St. Michael East, now sitting in his seat.....

(*Aside: Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: 1981, seven hundred persons.*)

Laughter.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Sir. I want the honourable Member to say whether in 1981 seven hundred persons were sent home by the Barbados Labour Party.

(*Aside: Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: No, I stopped it!*)

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Otherwise he would be telling a lie. Both he and the honourable Member for St. Michael East.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order! Order! Order!

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: He could not stop it!

Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: On a point of order, Sir. At several meetings to which the honourable Member for St. Thomas was not privy because at the time he was abandoned to the periphery of the Barbados Labour Party. At that time he was in punishment in purgatory, placed there by the late Prime Minister, and therefore he could not have been aware of the evils that were being hatched in the mind of that man for the workers of this country at that time.

I was approached.....the point of order is this. I was approached, there were attempts to twist my arm, threats were uttered. I was invited to the Ministry of Finance, and I attended a meeting at which present were the Director of Finance, Steve Emtage, an authority.....

Aside

Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: He is Director of Finance, and an assortment of other high paid economists, and at that time when I was pressed to lay off seven hundred persons and asked for a rationale, I proposed that the high priced economists who had misled the Government should themselves be laid off first. It is I who stopped

them in their tracks. I threatened to resign, and make it a public issue.

Aside

Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: I stopped it! I do not care what you say, I stopped it. I stopped the wickedness that the then Minister of Finance with the acquiescence of other Uncle Toms had planned for the people of this country. Seven hundred people.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I take it that the point is made.

Hon. B. M. TAITT rose.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You have three minutes to wind up your contribution.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, as I was going gently along, minding my business, as I was saying about the honourable Members in the Opposition, they are the least equipped to come here and take any high moral position on this issue. That is the point I was making, Sir, and the point has been so ably put in the record by the virtual complainant himself. Sir, I will take the last three minutes just to touch on the question.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The last two minutes.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: You called me the mighty heckler? This is the mighty heckler up here, you know. It is an aside, a loud aside.

The point is, Sir, the honourable Member, the Leader of the Opposition, is asking about statistics in the Ministry of Tourism. The fact is that there has never been a Department of Statistics in the Ministry of Tourism. The same Department that did the statistics before is doing them now, that is, the Statistical Department in the Government Service.

What has happened is that instead of the Minister responsible for Tourism announcing from on high the statistical result every month, we have decided that it is not proper; that we would announce the statistics on a quarterly basis, because you can only pick up trends properly if the information is spread over a period like three months. That information is still available and the Press publishes it because the Statistical Department sends it out, but you do not hear the Minister prating as the Ministers of yore used to do.

On the question of staffing, the Ministry of Tourism staff has in fact been enhanced in so far as the tourism plant is concerned. If you wish to raise questions about the establishment in the Ministry of Tourism and Industry, the fact is that it is a new Ministry and an establishment has been asked for and it is in the process of being supplied. The honourable Members know, having served as Ministers, that you can ask for

staff on a given day, but that it takes time for such staff (a) to be established, (b) to be recruited, and (c) to be put in place.
2.05 p.m.

The Ministry moved from Culloden Farm to where it was in a mottley little place down to the Post Office which had to be re-arranged at the top where the Postmaster.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Let me finish the sentence.... where the Postmaster's office was converted by a previous Minister into the offices where the real genuine work is coming forth as indicated by the statistics that tourism is on the move.

I will come back, Sir.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I think that this is an appropriate note on which we should suspend for lunch.

I therefore beg to move that you do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: 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. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until 3 o'clock today.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I beg to second that.

The question that the sitting be suspended until 3 o'clock was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.
2.10 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed. When the Suspension was taken, the House was in Committee of Supply. To that it shall now revert.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and Mr. CHAIRMAN resumed the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. CHAIRMAN: We are still in Committee.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Mr. Chairman, the Public Service is, in a small country like ours, a very important employer. It conducts the business of the people of Barbados, and I think that is one of the reasons why this party moved ahead to establish a Ministry of the Public Service, and also to put on a new footing the Unit of Organization and Management, and I think the Government has to be complimented on taking this particular policy position.

Now, I support much that has been said by other speakers in discussing the matters under this particular Head, but I believe that our Public Service tends to employ some of the better brains in our country.

I think it is true to say that our private sector has not taken the kind of lead in employing highly trained and skilled personnel in the kind of way that I myself would like to think should be the practice in the private sector.

I believe that if we are to forge ahead as a nation we have to ensure that the best possible use is made of our human resources, and I am not always confident that the private sector establishes the kinds of models in terms of training and recruitment at any position that would help us to forge ahead into the 21st Century.

The public sector, therefore, becomes almost the last resort for our qualified and trained persons in Barbados, and it is because of that that we can build up highly trained person in that public sector. I think there is always a need, when we bring these people together in that institution to ensure that their services are used most effectively, and I believe that the Organisation and Management Unit will be, as it should be used, I am sure it will be used under this Government, as a Unit that will bring together the best trained minds of technocrats and technicians in the public sector in order to bring high levels of efficiency to the operations of the public sector. In fact, I would like to see that Organisation and Management Unit do more.

There was a time when we felt that the private sector might have been the best example of managing business in our country. I think that belief is being shaken these days, not only in Barbados but elsewhere in the Caribbean and other parts of the world where people that we thought were good managers, all of a sudden find that they cannot cope with the problems of the day, and a lot of business go into redundancy and so on.

On the other hand, some of our private sector organisations have been holding their own, and I believe that the Organisation and Management Unit will have the function in ensuring not only high levels in the public sector, but, perhaps, it can be used to do an auditing function in the private sector, and by auditing function I am talking here not only in terms of the normal financial

audit; I am talking about the kind of audit that will examine business in terms of market strategies, in terms of the investments, all of the particular areas that will ensure the viability of a business and will give advice to these businesses in terms as to whether they have to change their whole character and attitude.

I believe it has to start within Government first. The Organisation and Management Unit must start within Government first. The Organisation and Management Unit must start within Government but I hope that over time we will build up the fund of expertise that they may be able to move outside the parameters of the Public Service and be of some use in the private sector. As a matter of fact, it is still one of my beliefs that there should be that interchange of skills between the private and the public sector.

There is need for some experienced and qualified private sector managers to be able to come into Government into positions where their skills can be used in the same way there is need for persons in Government in the public sector to be able to go into the private sector and to bring those particular skills and so in that kind of interchange and I daresay that also the academic sector, the university has been able to lend to the public sector and to private sometimes those skills, a mix of which their interacting can do nothing but good for our country and, therefore, I applaud Government for coming with the idea of a Ministry of the Public sector, private services as well as making sure that they are trying to re-organize the structure and give strength too to the Organisation and Management Unit.

Now, there is much criticism that has been levelled at the Public Service over time. I myself am concerned about the whole question about recruitment into the Public Service, and I am not trying to cast aspersions on the Commission or on individuals. I am not trying to make political points here, but as a teacher over many years at secondary school, at university and at the Community College, I also have to be interested in placement of students. I am aware when students come back to me five years after graduating from university to tell me they have not had a job yet or they have left Community College and they have to study something more because they have not been able to attain a job.
3.05 p.m.

But I know that some of these students have registered at the Services Commission, and I know that people less qualified than them have been able to get jobs over time. Now that is a matter of concern to me. It has nothing to do with politics. But if we have a system of recruitment into the Public Service in Barbados where people who are qualified, who have the requisite 'O' levels et cetera can sit down for five years and more and never even get a call for an interview for a job, that is a matter of concern for me.

And I believe that what we have to do is to audit all those people who have applied to the Services Commission for jobs. I believe this function will have to be computerized anyhow. We are going to have to put on that computer the years in which people applied for the jobs. If people applied in 1980, 1981 and they have the qualifications, put them in order of the years when they applied and once they are equal in terms of qualifications, the person who came first should get an opportunity.

Aside

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: As a matter of fact, I fear that some persons have gone out of the job market, because they have applied at Services Commissions for so long and have never been called that they just are not asking for a job again. I believe that our Public Service Ministry will be looking at that kind of question. I have no doubt that they will be able to do something about it, because I believe that something must be wrong in the system. You have actors within the system and some will try to utilize the system in various ways; some will use it for political purposes and some low officers will use it for other purposes than politics. But that is not what I am talking about.

Now one of the areas in the Public Service that has always caused some problem, some concerns is the question of regradings. Now I believe, Sir, that a great deal of damage was done in the Public Service in recent times when the former Administration, I believe it might have been the former Prime Minister, Mr. Adams, when he attempted a regrading exercise within the Public Service.

Now regrading, as we all know, is a highly technical exercise and is one which you enter in with caution because, as soon as you start moving a small number of people or positions, posts, you are bound to interfere with the wider scheme of things. We have examples now of several anomalies existing in the Public Service because of ill advised attempts by the last Administration to tamper with regradings in the Public Service.

I think the Honourable Minister of Education will support me that he might be getting problems with his education officers, his senior education officers, his school attendant officers because of certain tamperings now, these people find themselves in a situation — a very anomalous situation — that the persons whom they have to supervise and the persons over whom they have some authority and therefore should have some measure of control are enjoying salaries which are better than those which they enjoy. Now that is what, I am sure, the Honourable Minister of Education will be addressing in time. I am sure that he has good grounds for it. But that can happen when persons attempt to do things that do not have the proper scientific analysis and foundations

for it. And now we are faced with a situation....If there are — I understood the honourable Member for St. Thomas to say that there are signs of disquiet in the Public Service. I just want to point to him what the roots of these signs of disquiet were. It started a long time ago.

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

Is the honourable Member referring to the question of regrading, Sir? If so, he must say whether his union accepted the regradings when they were done by the Barbados Labour Party.

Aside.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Let me say, Sir, that in fact

Asides.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: It is not a point of order but for his information there was no consultation with any union. That is the problem involved here. There was no consultation with any union at all. And while I am not in a position to speak for the other union

(*Aside:* Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Are you saying the union is incompetent then?)

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: We are talking about a situation where the former Minister of Finance decided that he would use his power, as the Head of Establishments, to use the heavy hand to tamper with a system that has been existing for years without full enough information or knowledge. They like to defend the indefensible.

But I am saying that that is a question that has, I think, to be addressed as soon as possible, and I have no doubt that where injustice is done that we will get support from both sides of the House in trying to rectify that particular problem.

There is one other matter, Sir, I should like to raise. The Right Honourable Prime Minister raised the question of computerization, and I think we do not have to be computer experts to agree with him that you do not need this necessary duplication of computers within the Service. But I have one point, one reservation which I should like to make and that is that in computerizing the information in the Service that a lot of thought be given to the whole question of computerizing personal files, the files of individuals in the Public Service, because we know the dangers where personal information is put on computers, how it can lead to the exposure of the careers and other information about individuals. We would have a concern about how far computerization should be carried, in terms of putting information on files in the public sector.

And one last point I should like to address again to the honourable Member for St. Thomas, Now he did mention that there is a certain lady who is on suspension or something like that.

(*Aside:* Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Special leave.)

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Special leave. A lady whom I think is a member of my constituency. And I can assure the honourable Member that I wear two hats. I am a trade unionist and I am also a Member of Parliament.

Now a lady in a similar position in my constituency who found herself without a job just after May 28 wrote a letter to me — a very decent letter coming from one of my constituents — and she made the claim, "Sir, you are a Member of Parliament, you are also my representative and you are a trade unionist." She recognized that I occupy a dual position, and she felt she could approach me. And I discussed the matter with the right person, and I was able to tell her that she was a Secretary in the Civil Service when in fact she should not have been a Secretary, because the post was never advertised; she never came through the Public Service Commission and therefore, she lost her job after May 28. She should recognize what happened and she recognized that.

Now in the case of the other person.....

(*Aside:* Hon. E. E. GREAVES: She was not a real Secretary.)

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: She was not a real Secretary. So the problem was not in getting her to lose the job, the problem was in how she got in in the first place. And in the case of the other lady, the lady on special leave, I can ask you, Sir, to take a message to the lady, I am willing to represent her as a trade unionist and as her constituency representative. She can find me either at my place in Solidarity House or at my constituency office in Lodge Road.

Thank you very much, Sir.

Laughter.

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

Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: Mr. Chairman, there can be no doubt that in any well organized polity, there has to be a unit directed from ministerial level to operate the Public Service.

The Public Service represents a vast complex maze with its own interest, its own internal logic and to a considerable extent, its own dynamism. And that is precisely why in societies that treat seriously the delivery of Public

Services, the role of the public bureaucracy is constantly under scrutiny and analysis.

In 1966, a man called Annibal Escalante; he was a Cuban communist, but communists are human beings too, and if what he writes makes sense, it ought to be recognized as intelligent and examined on its own merits. 3.15 p.m.

Escalante was the author of a voluminous tract in which he addressed the practical problems of a public bureaucracy charged with the responsibility of carrying out the mandate ascribed to that political directorate by the people of the country, and he identified a large number of problems which, while they were problems in Cuba are problems common to men anywhere who seek to translate political programmes into actual policies that benefit the populace. And one of the things that Escalante identified as a particular problem of bureaucracies everywhere was the problem of the bureaucratic accommodation to changes in Government especially when the new Government is philosophically different in its attitudes to its predecessor.

Now I believe that the bureaucracy in Barbados is obsolete and the bureaucracy in Barbados is obsolete, because it is largely a colonial bureaucracy, and because I believe it is predicated upon assumptions that are irrelevant to Barbados.

The doctrine of an impartial Civil Service is a myth, and I think that policy makers in Barbados must come face to face with that myth once and for all, if we are to have an efficient bureaucracy in this country. It is a myth to talk about an impartial bureaucracy. In fact, it is a myth in any country to talk about an impartial bureaucracy even in Britain where this fairy tale was first conceived as part of its British or its Constitutional methodology.

Even if members of the bureaucracy are not political in the sense in the Barbadian context that they support "B" or they support "D", then of necessity they are still political because there is no man born of a woman who does not have a politics, if we define as politics "the pursuit and the promotion of one's interest", and Civil Service as a group constitute one of the most powerful and largest interest groups in this country. And it is, therefore, dangerous nonsense for anyone to assume at anytime that those interests whether they are pro "B" interests or pro "D" interests or probureaucratic interests, must always coincide with the wishes and aspirations of the political directorate of the day or with the masses that the bureaucracy has to serve. And this is the first thing that must be recognized, that the bureaucracy has interests of its own, whether the interests are in promoting the wishes of the Opposition, whether the interests are in promoting the aspirations of the Govern-

ment, or whether the interests are their own selfish interests or interest idiosyncratic of the bureaucracy itself.

Now in our electoral system when Governments are elected, they are elected to carry through certain programmes and policies that the majority of the people voted for and there are occasions, indeed the occasions are legend in my experience in Government and observing Governments in Barbados and elsewhere, when the problematic objectives of Government, the political directorate lawfully constituted and elected, are diametrically to those interests of the bureaucracy. Now whenever there is a conflict, then the political directorate clearly has an inescapable responsibility to the people who voted for it to take whatever action that is necessary, even if it entails removing the individual who does not share the same views as the Government itself and who is acting in a way to obstruct the execution of those policies.

I make no apology at all for asserting that Government has a responsibility whatever the outdated, irrelevant colonial notions of an impartial Civil Service may be, whatever British fiction in this regard we may have inherited, the Government of the day has a responsibility to the people who voted for it to remove this obstruction from its way, and to the extent that a Government does this, it is acting properly and within the terms of its mandate, and to describe such actions as victimization is in my view pure nonsense.

So the first myth we must dispose of once and for all is that in Barbados or anywhere in the society of man that there was ever anything in existence known as an impartial bureaucracy. They cannot be an impartial bureaucracy given the nature of human beings. There cannot be an impartial bureaucracy. We have members of the bureaucracy either supporting political organizations or supporting their own bureaucratic political aspirations.

Now I do not believe that a bureaucrat who supports the Barbados Labour Party ought automatically to be put out of employment. But if his allegiance to the Barbados Labour Party borders on the kind of fanaticism and misguided loyalty that would constitute him an obstruction to the execution of the policies that the people of this Government voted for them to execute, then the Government must do whatever is necessary in the interest of protecting the rights of the people of this country. I make no apology for saying that.

But over and above this, I find that in Barbados the most problematic area is not in relations between the bureaucracy and the political directorate, but the area in which there are the greatest problems centre upon the bureaucracy and its relationship to the people that the bureaucrats in this country have to serve. And the cases that are most egregious in this regard where bureaucrats

in some cases criminally violate the rights of the people that they have to serve are in cases where they have to deal with the poor in this country.

For a long time one of the biggest sores on the body of the bureaucracy in this country has been the Welfare Department. When I was Minister of Welfare sometime in 1981, the Welfare Officers went on strike against me, because I criticized the way in which they served the poor of this country. There is no doubt that any Minister who has been elected by these people is criminally guilty if he believes that he has a prior responsibility to pandering to the wishes of the people in these respective departments like Welfare Officers and the like over and above the legends of poor people whom they have to serve.

3.25 p.m.

The basic problem within the bureaucracy today is its colonial legacy, where we have inherited a tradition where Civil Servants were pushing paper from one desk to another and believed that this was productive work; pushing paper from one desk to another and then across the Atlantic to the United Kingdom.

There are many of those who have been trained in these traditions who believe that their work bears no relation whatsoever to the people whose taxes pay their salaries. They believe that after they move twelve files in a day that they have done a good job. "Oh, I have worked hard today," some of them say with Pharisaic satisfaction; "I have worked hard today, I have pushed off a lot of files," writing on them "noted, for your attention, please," and other cryptic but meaningless comment. "B.U." And there are people who feel that in addition to pushing papers and pushing dusty files from one part of their desk to another part of their desk, that they have in order to earn promotion to indulge in what I call "monkeyshine behaviour."

There are many Civil Servants in this country who do not earn the money which they are paid, and have risen to the top because of bowing and scraping to some figure in authority, behaving like women or monkeys, clasping their hands and bowing ten times before individuals in order to earn promotion, and when they are confronted by the people

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You have another three minutes.

Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: Only three? Already? I have now started, Mr. Chairman.

And when they are confronted by the people whom they are paid to serve, they are astonished when a representative of the people insists that they have to serve these people, because the colonial ethos within the

bureaucracy has been one in which they are taught that they should be respectful only to authority figures, respectful to authority figures and contemptuous to the masses whom they have to serve.

So, in dispensing with the mythological assumption of an impartial Civil Service, we must at the same time throw out unceremoniously through the window the notion of a colonial Civil Service with a concept of production based on paper pushing and an aversion to serving the people which these respective Departments were constituted to serve.

That is one point, Mr. Chairman. If there is time I will come back to the ten or so other points in relation to the bureaucracy that I have to deal with. Thank you.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, during the course of this debate the representatives for St. Thomas and Christ Church West made reference to the Ministry of Health, and to two persons who either worked there or are working there.

I would like to deal with one at a time and I prefer to deal with the gentleman from the constituency — he lives in the constituency represented by the honourable Member for St. Peter and I know that the honourable Member for St. Peter will be happy to hear what I have to say, because when the honourable Member for St. Peter was trying to gain the candidacy for that constituency the dear gentleman was his arch rival; and that he was compensated by the then Minister who did not gain the candidacy for the constituency.

As I understand it, a lot has been written in the papers, and quite frankly it was not my intention at this time to clarify matters because I wanted to give enough people enough rope to hang themselves, but I have been prompted by my other colleagues that at this time I should give an explanation.

On November 1, 1984 a temporary post of Ambulance Officer was created, grade Z.10-6. The post was never advertised, neither was any selection made among those persons working in the ambulance service. The gentleman referred to.....

Aside

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: I want you to listen to me. I would like the honourable Member for Christ Church West to listen to me because.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order! Order!

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: I want the honourable Member for Christ Church West to listen carefully because I do not want him at a later stage to say he does not know the facts, so I am going to be patient, as patient as humanly possible. Give the honourable Member for Christ Church West a chance to listen.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, gentlemen! Order!

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: After several verbal reports on the gentleman's performance by the Hospital Director to the effect that the gentleman displayed no leadership ability and rather than inspiring confidence caused a lowering of staff morale.....

Aside.

Laughter.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: I believe in some place or in some report it was said that he was the most qualified untrained person in the job. He was untrainable, could not be trained. As a matter of fact, they had to stop the training of the ambulance men, because the man in charge was incapable of absorbing the training. The ambulance men were more trained than he was.

Aside.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: That is not true! You listen to me, I have the facts. I have the file too, and you can borrow it if you want to.

A course was arranged for him in the United States of America and the Ministry could not allow him to go. He was then sent to England on a familiarisation tour of three months. In other words, he went from hospital to hospital to see how the ambulances were driven out of the garages and come back in the garages. That is what he went for, but he could not take it in. It was my intention not to say very much. When he returned, the Hospital Director had this to say: "From his performance since his return it seems evident that the officer made no significant gain from the course." Not me.

Laughter

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: I will go further. The last thing he did before he left the Service, was that a child of three days old was waiting for an ambulance to take her to the airport. At 3 o'clock the shift changed, the child was not ready, so the ambulance men went back to base. The child was waiting at the hospital. 3.35 p.m.

He sent the ambulances out and the ambulance that was to go for the child, he sent it for petrol, rather than send it for the child to go to the hospital, and that was the last straw with the hospital. The hospital said, "No more of this". If you want anymore, I can give you more. So if you think that is the type of person we want, you have him but we do not want him. He could not even sell nails out of Plantations properly.

I will come to the other point and this is more interesting. I do not even know where to begin. The Assistant Director — we were not in office on June 28, 1984 or August 8, 1984. A paper was put up for the creation of a post of Assistant Director. You see, some people say that it is personal. It must have been personal between that person and the deceased Prime Minister, because on the files it says, "Of course, refuse the request." I do not know who is J. M. A., but you might

know. I do not know. You might know the initials, and we were not in office then — “Of course, refuse the request.”

Apparently he was out of the island at the time and the person acting said, “Please hold for the Prime Minister, I am not touching this at all.” You hold for the Prime Minister! I am talking about the Assistant Director, not me. You see, you are trying to make it look as though it is personal.

Do you know what was said as well? “The post was created for her to carry out functions that were done by the other two Assistant Directors.” So this was going on since 1984.

Asides.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: Yes, but the Prime Minister said “No” at the time, and he asked again and he said “No”, and I agree that there is no need for one.

I will tell you something further as well. Strange enough I saw in some place where they are saving us \$20 000 or \$60 000 a year in food bills. I say that if that is so, then she should replace the person who is in charge of the kitchen and not be an Assistant Director. That is no argument. All you are saying is that if A is not performing properly, and you bring in B, well B should replace A, not go as an Assistant Hospital Director and you are going to have A. You should fire the person who is not doing the job and put the person you want to do the job in that place.

I will say something more. Only yesterday the files came on my desk — talking about saving money — and they showed the food cost between April and September last year and April and September this year, a difference of \$382. That is the food cost you all are talking about, \$382.

Asides.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: A newspaper article.

Asides.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: You see, the honourable Member for Christ Church West would try to give the impression that it is something political. It seems to me that it is political, because somebody on that side wants to place somebody in the hospital for a job. But, I deal with principle. If I agree on principle, and this is the first time I must admit that the deceased Prime Minister and myself agree on anything, and I regret that. He said in 1984, not me, “Of course, refuse the request.” Foolishness in other words.

(Aside: What his successor did?)

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: The successor? The successor was not noted on this. The request for the post of a third Assistant Hospital Director, he did not want it, and I am saying this too that if the last Prime Minister wanted it, there would have been an established post. It was not an established post, so why quarrel with me if I agree that there is no need for it?

Let me say this to you as well. What is priority at the hospital? At the present moment at the hospital if somebody has a stroke, they have to wait three months before they can see the physiotherapist. Having a Hospital Director is more important than having a physiotherapist? If I had to spend the money of Government I would bring in another physiotherapist.

At the Psychiatric Hospital they have six hundred and thirty patients and one Director. At the Geriatric Hospital five hundred and thirty patients and one Director. You must tell me that you must have four Directors at the hospital for five hundred and thirty beds. If it is political, I am glad it is political.

Asides.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: If you want to ask a question later on, ask the question, I will give you more answers and when it comes up again, I will read the file.

(Aside: Hon. H. deB. FORDE: What did you tell the Hospital Director?)

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: What did I tell the Hospital Director? I told the Hospital Director that I agree with the Ministry and, furthermore, that the person is not suitable for the job, and I done with that. I do not see anything wrong with that. I said that the person was not suitable for the job.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order!

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: I will tell you why I said she was not suitable for the job, because the person was harassing the staff at the hospital because when she felt it was DLP she gave nothing but lashes and I said the person was not suitable in a Personnel Department. If you want to know, I will tell you that and if you want me to go further I will go further too.

So, Mr. Chairman, I just thought that I would explain a few things and these are the matters. It is not within the hands of the Democratic Labour Party.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member for St. Peter.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I recall that during the last session of Parliament, I used to be secretly

impressed with the criticism of the then Honourable Leader of the Opposition when he lamented the tendency on the part of some Ministers to introduce Resolutions and other matters and give but the scantiest of introduction on the subjects concerned, and I, therefore, find it very unfortunate on that particular matter and I, therefore find it rather unfortunate, Mr. Chairman, that in a matter of such importance that the issue has been introduced as scantily as it has been by the Honourable Prime Minister.

Indeed, Mr. Chairman, I do not believe that there is any issue which is more deserving of the consideration of this Parliament than the role of the Public Service and the means by which we should set about ensuring that the efficiency of the Public Service is improved, and that the Public Service becomes an even greater credit to the people of this country.

The Public Service of this country, Sir, as has been pointed out, accounts for over \$700 million of the public tax-payers funds, and it engages over fifteen thousand people in its employ and it seems to me, therefore, Sir, that questions pertaining to the effectiveness and the use of public funds and questions pertaining to the best allocation of the country's human resources are all caught up in the way in which we proceed in dealing with matters pertaining to the Public Service.

I do believe, Mr. Chairman, that there is an even deeper reason for the members of the Democratic Labour Party to put issues pertaining to the Public Service and to put a Ministry of the Public Service on their political front runner. It has to do with the fact that the Ministry of the Public Service may not only be called upon to lead an advance, or may not be so much called upon to lead an advance in the Public Service of this country, but it may well be called upon to plan and manage the retreat of the Public Service of Barbados, and I make this point in the light of the commitment already given by the Honourable Minister of Finance and Planning that he is steadfast in his position of cutting Government's expenditures to reconcile with revenues available.

3.45 p.m.

We would be foolhardy were we not to take cognizance of the fact that that position must imply a compression in the Public Service, a compression in its functions and a reshaping of it in accordance with the dictates of purely public finances. So that we must see the formation of a Public Service under the Democratic Labour Party, not only from the point of view of a desire to rationalize the Public Service with a view to making it more efficient, but with a view to planning and managing a retreat in the light of changing public financial circumstances; the retrenchment of the Public Service so to speak.

And therefore, Mr. Speaker, when we ask for a full debate on this issue, we ask for it with those kinds of considerations in mind. We ask for it, Sir — for a full debate on the Ministry of the Public Service — for the very reason that has been cited by the Honourable Minister of Tourism and Industry that other countries in the Caribbean, Jamaica and Guyana particularly have established similar institutions and these institutions have proven to be highly politicized institutions designed to serve purely partisan issues and purely partisan purposes.

And in the same way, Sir, that I must agree with the honourable Member for St. Michael East that there is no such thing as an impartial Civil Service, I must also urge upon the Honourable House that there is no such thing as an impartial political system and all of us in this Honourable House are political animals, and that a tradition has developed in Barbados where, unfortunately, Honourable Ministers are themselves seen as employment exchanges, week by week. And we would be less than frank to ourselves in this Honourable House, were we not to recognize that, week by week. All Members of this Assembly are flooded with requests by people who are seeking employment and seeking public sector employment.

And we would also be less than honest, Mr. Speaker, if we were not also to recognize that week by week as well, as the honourable Member for St. Lucy well knows, honourable Members of the Honourable House succumb to that pressure and make recommendations to the Public Service in support of political appointments.

In the case of Boscobel Boys' and Girls' Schools, as the honourable Member for St. Lucy well knows, the chief DLP canvasser in Boscobel has been appointed to a temporary position at the Boscobel Girls' School and one of your chief supporters has just recently been appointed to a temporary position at the Boscobel Boys' School. So that when you have this view about there being no political interference under the Democratic Labour Party, Sir, that is a holier than thou attitude which runs directly in conflict with the view that not only do we not have an impartial Civil Service but we do not also have an impartial political system as well.

I welcome, Mr. Chairman, the formation

Aside.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: So do not tell us that the Ministry of the Public Service is going to be above politics. It is going to be deep in politics.

Asides.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I welcome the formation of a Ministry of the Public Service

because the Barbadian Public Service — and I really must agree with the Honourable Minister of Tourism and Industry — has developed by accretion so to speak, and there are a lot of important issues to be addressed in relation to the present and the future of the Barbados Public Service, having regard to the manner in which it has historically developed.

One very important issue as far as I am concerned, Sir, which ought to be dealt with by the Ministry of the Public Service is the relationship that should exist and should be developed between the parastatal institutions in this country and the central bureaucracy.

I have already said on the Floor of this House that there are some areas in which there is need for rationalization. I have made the point already that, to my mind, I can see how the functions being exercised by the National Assistance Board could easily be undertaken by a properly organized Welfare Department.

Equally, Mr. Chairman, I really believe that we have to look carefully at the relationship between the Export Promotion Corporation and the IDC, and the relationship between those two institutions and the Ministry of Tourism and Industry. The relationship between the parastatals and the central bureaucracy obviously must be a consideration which the Ministry must get involved in as a matter of priority, because the changing emphasis in the delivery of Public Services in this country has been one whereby, to some extent, a degree of overlap has developed between some functions exercised by parastatals and some functions exercised by the central bureaucracy.

But Mr. Chairman, I think that the greatest service that the Ministry of the Public Service could perform on behalf of Barbados is not to get itself caught up in matters of recruitment, promotion and regradings which could be done by the Establishments Division and the Services Commissions. I believe that the biggest priority exercise that the Ministry of the Public Service should become involved in is an exercise designed to bring out the full professionalization of particularly the middle management people in the Barbadian Civil Service. I speak in this regard, Sir, as a person who has perhaps been a more recent member of the Barbados Civil Service than anybody else in this Honourable House.

I look forward to the day, Sir, when feasibility studies to be prepared on behalf of the people of this country can be prepared in their entirety by our Public Service. It would require that we put in place systems to inculcate cross fertilization between Ministries, a concept which perhaps has not been adhered to as much as it should be because there is a tendency upon the part of Ministers to state out their own special spheres of influence. That we will have, in this country, Sir, to

recognize that there is a lot of talent at the middle management level, and that this talent is in many respects being suppressed because the relationships in the Barbados Civil Service are still very hierarchical and they favour administrative responsibilities rather than performance of technical responsibilities, and that if the Ministry is to have a function, in my view, I expect that it would not be concerning itself indiscriminately with matters that the Establishments Division could deal with, but developing the technical capabilities within the Barbados Public Service saving this country a lot of funds, a lot of monies which we are now contracting to foreign expertise.

I also, Mr. Chairman, think that the relationship between the Public Service and the private sector is an issue that ought to exercise some consideration of any serious Ministry of the Public Service. And in this respect, I really must pick up a point that was raised by the honourable Member for St. Michael East. I can only say, Sir, that the way in which the honourable Member for St. Michael East believes in himself is very refreshing in these very atheistic days when many people believe in no form of God at all.

Laughter.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: We have been told that he and he alone was responsible for the construction of our social policy. That he and he alone was responsible for the so-called enlightened policies on housing welfare and the like. And today we have been regaled with tales about how he and he alone was responsible for saving seven hundred jobs that the former Prime Minister had been threatening

(*Aside:* Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: True. It is hard for you to swallow, but true.)

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: to dismiss.

Laughter.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, the background to that general issue concerns the point I am making in relation to the role that the Ministry of the Public Service must now concern itself with having to do with the relationship between the public and the private sector, because what the Prime Minister at that time had in mind was the need to privatise more of the work of the Ministry of Transport and Works, a process of rationalization which would call into play the roles that the Ministry of Transport and Works should play in construction in this country *vis-a-vis* the private sector of this country. The issue was not a spiteful issue of just dismissing workers for the sake of dismissing workers, but rationalizing functions that could be shared between the two different sectors of the Barbadian society.

And I want to impress this point upon the Ministry of the Public Service because this Government has committed itself ideologically to a position which says that the private sector must lead, and it would seem to me that that might not only imply the privatization of enterprises but the casting off of certain functions now performed by the public sector to be performed in the future by the private. In the same way that the former Prime Minister saw the need to privatize some of the functions undertaken by the Ministry of Transport and Works.

3.55 p.m.

It is not an easy issue, Sir. But those are the broad kinds of issues which I would have been glad if they had represented the subject of a study. Because even though we are being told that the Ministry of the Public Service is to have some broad functions in relation to improving the efficiency in the Public Service, we have not been told that anybody or any set of entities in the Ministry of the Public Service have been commissioned to sit down even before making policies or putting systems into place to examine what presently exist.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time. The honourable Member for St. Thomas.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am going to deal with the Resolution. I am going to be brief. I would not take all 15 minutes because I started. I just want to make a few points, Sir, in reply to various things that were said in the course of this debate which I am very grateful that I started being rather provocative.

I want to pick up the thread of the honourable Member for St. Peter, Sir. In the course of one of the honourable Members speeches today, there was an intervention on a point of order that the honourable Member for St. Michael East was responsible for the saving of some seven hundred jobs — he and he alone — and he keeps saying true, because as the honourable Member for St. Peter alluded, Sir, he probably finds an affinity between himself and God or at least on analogy and he can do no wrong; he must always be right. He took the opportunity to allude that in 1981 I was on the extremities.....

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: He said periphery. I thought he said extremities. Periphery just as bad, Sir.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Right, purgatory and all of that was said, and I was not on the best of terms with the late Prime Minister Adams.

Laughter.

(Hon. B. M. TAITT: True or false?)

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I want to make a confession, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Feel free to come to the confession.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Yes Sir.

In March of 1981, the same year of the election, when I was Chairman of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation I took the decision that I could not carry out certain policy directives that were being forced upon me by the Minister, Mr. Nigel Barrow, at the time, and I had the courage to resign after the then Prime Minister preferred to give his support to his Minister and not to the Chairman of the Board, and I did not wait for the Prime Minister to die. I told the whole country, I told the House of Assembly and subsequently the Senate during the lifetime of Tom Adams, not after his death, the reasons for my resignation. It is in the records of this House.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Why should I go back over the past? Because I am only reporting — taking the rest of the time? — I am only reporting that as a matter of principle I felt that I had to resign, and it is true that for a period of time relations were strained.....

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: up until the death. You forget the letter that he wrote me. Honourable Member forget the letter that the late Prime Minister wrote me which was made a record of probably the Senate.....

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: No, no.

But the importance is that even though there were disagreements, I chose to do the manly thing in my view to come and let the whole country know while all the parties could face me, eyeball to eyeball.

I want to go further. It was alleged that there were seven hundred people at MTW in 1981 who were under consideration for termination. As I understand that, the Government was faced with certain fiscal difficulties as — certainly the Members of the front bench would understand — alternative proposals were put up for consideration, one of which was the possible retrenchment. The fact is that those seven hundred persons were not sent home. I know for a fact, and I will be man enough to have it recorded in here that the honourable Member for St. Michael East made vigorous representations of

which he told me to save the jobs of those people, but I refuse to accept, even though I recognize the part he played in his advocacy, that it was he and he alone who caused the people to retain their jobs. He was not the one to make the final decision. That was the Minister of Finance and the Prime Minister.

Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The honourable Member for St. Thomas must not continue to make statements from a position of monumental ignorance.

The Cabinet made a decision, and I believe I see one of the Public Officers within my area of vision. I see one of the Public Officers within my area of vision. The Cabinet made a decision which I was man enough to refuse to implement.

Aside.

Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: You can check it. You come in here and do not know what you are saying because you were banished. You were deemed *persona non grata* — banished, read out of the party after the Prime Minister of the day walked about and said that you were not to be a Member of the House of Assembly, and campaigned against you, and that is precisely why you left CBC not on any matter of principle but because the Prime Minister told Flemming in New York, the Chauffeur at the Consulate that he did not want you in the House of Assembly; that you had no contribution to make. You did not resign on any matter of principle. He said that he did not want you, and you cried.

Laughter.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The point of order is made.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Are you a madman or what? Mr. Chairman, Sir, let us get this straightened out. Who cried? Are you a madman or what? Have you ever seen me cry? You nuisance!

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order! Order! Order!

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The only thing I would cry about is if "COW" Williams had to say anything about me soliciting favours from him. That is the only thing I would cry about or Lloyd Alleyne at Shamrock.

(*Aside:* Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: Or your carrying away the National Housing Corporation's material to build the house you live in.)

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You are a blasted liar.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Alright gentleman. Order! Order! Order! Order! Will the honourable Member take his seat?

Asides.

4.05 p.m.

Mr. D. G. BLACKMAN: Let us get on with it. Tell lies? I will tell the truth. I am ready!

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Seven hundred people he is claiming he saved their jobs. I am not winding up, man! Foolishness! Four hundred and fifty nine have been sent home this year from MTW since May 28. The answer was given in here in relation to a Question, and he has not raised one finger in their defence, not said anything about them; same one. My accounts — let us get it straight now — the accounts for my house are available for anybody to see, including him. Lisle Odle built my house.

(*Aside:* Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: Where did the materials come from?)

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Nobody has ever made that allegation about me. It is deliberate nastiness! That is not true!

(*Aside:* Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: Try and find out and you will see who will get nasty).

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let us stick to the debate.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: When he was fired.....he come in here and say all kinds of foolishness.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the honourable Member take his seat? Just let me say something. This debate is due to be completed at 25 minutes past four. As it is we are getting out of hand and I would like us to stick to the debate which has to do with the Ministry of the Public Service. Let us stick to those confines. Let us remain within the confines of the debate and for the rest of the debate. We have fifteen minutes to complete this debate.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, I was dealing with the question of the MTW and overstaffing or the necessity to cut back because of an excess of employees, and my contention is that those who set themselves up as the champions of the working class and the down-trodden, and feel that they are the only people who have a social conscience, must tell us where was that social conscience when earlier this year under the DLP Government four hundred and fifty nine were in fact sent home, not threatened to be, from MTW.

Sir, one of the things I said when I first started today was the jurisdictional conflict that could come about between the Ministry of the Public Service and the Public Service Commission. There are problems that have arisen already since the establishment of this Ministry. For example, we know of a case of a recent appoint-

ment to a Government Department where the person is given the advantage of driving an MP car, and where the person does not even have the basic qualifications for entry into the Public Service, and is yet appointed to a senior position in the Public Service. These are the kinds of problems.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I will tell you later. I am not going to refer to Public Officers in here without giving notice.

We are concerned to hear the Honourable Prime Minister talking about persons who have jobs with C. O. Williams and still working at the Sports Council's place in St. Andrew. If that is so, it is something that should be investigated, because obviously in days of hard unemployment a job like that should go to someone who is genuinely unemployed. In the same way as we find it hard to accept the dismissal of a Manager from a para-statal organisation in this country, and his replacement by a teacher, a man who already had a job. It is not to say that he was really replaced by somebody who was unemployed and in search of a job; you brought somebody from the teaching profession.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: He was working before, yes. When Rockley closed down and made the workers redundant he was made redundant, so he was out of a job as Night Auditor. All I want to do, and I am glad of the debate today, is to draw to the attention of the Government and the Ministry of the Public Service the fact that there can be these problems. We will get information about them. It is a small society and you hear things, people give you information, and we hope that in the course of time these problems will be rationalised.

We are going to support the Resolution for \$24 405 because it is entirely a matter for the Government as a matter of policy for them to decide that they want to revive the O & M Department. I cannot criticise that, that is their decision. If they want to revive it, let them revive it. It will provide a job for somebody from Westmoreland, of course, and I hope that he has the ability to put some dynamism into the O & M unit, and make it function a lot better.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I want to remind honourable Members about the Standing Orders of the Honourable House. When an honourable Member is speaking, other honourable Members should remain quiet. The honourable Member for St. Peter.

Aside.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time. The honourable Member for St. Michael South, the Leader of the House.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, this debate is coming to an end, I believe there are just about ten minutes left for this debate, and I would like to respond to some of the questions which have been raised: one asked, I believe it was by the honourable Member for St. Thomas, if I am correct, about the role and function of the Ministry of the Public Service, and I would like for purposes of the record in this Chamber to indicate those particular functions, but first of all we must understand the scope of the Public Service in Barbados in its broadest sense which involves some eighteen Ministries and Divisions, fifty Departments, fifty four Statutory Boards and thirteen public enterprises employing approximately twenty-two thousand persons. That is the Public Service in its broadest definition, including not only the Departments of Central Government but also the Statutory Corporations and bodies related to those Departments.

Over \$350 million is spent on those particular Ministries and Departments, together with a further \$120 million, in terms of transfers from Central Government to some of the Statutory, or using the new-fangled term which I do not normally use, this para-statal organisation. I think it is of Italian origin, but I may be wrong. They like those kinds of terms.

4.15 p.m.

Asides.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: No. It is quangos. I have to be careful. We have some students in here and they have to be correct.

Asides.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I am speaking about the Leader of the Opposition.

Now, it is quite clear that with that kind of investment on the part of the country and with those kinds of numbers involved, and with the requirement for accountability not only on the part of public officers, but also in relation to accountability to the public, that there must be controls, and it is left to the Government of the day to determine how they organise the structure of central Government to render accountability in the areas that that accountability is desired and desirable.

The question of a Ministry of the Public Service or how the Public Service is controlled and directed, or managed, is a matter that varies from Government to Government and, indeed, within the same Government you may have different arrangements at different times.

When we look at the Public Service in Britain, for example, we will discover that since 1945 the Public Service in Britain, management of the Public Service has been under different arrangements. They have gone from being

directly responsible to the Prime Minister towards a separate Ministry and back again towards responsibility to the Prime Minister.

Here, in this country, the Government decided that it required a Ministry to be established because of the need to carry out administrative reforms; the need to ensure that management and organisation within the Public Service should be improved; the need to ensure that efficiency would be established and as much wastage as possible cut out; and the need to make sure that the broad areas of manpower management which my colleague referred to, both in terms of appointments, promotions, transfers, discipline, that all of that would be under some kind of ultimate accountability because in the last resort, in Parliament itself, we want to know, to be certain, that when we vote money for the establishment of a Government Department or for the expansion of a Statutory Corporation, that the money that is provided is used to the best possible advantage, and in this regard it was considered that political direction, responsible within the Cabinet system of Government, where we would all be collectively responsible, that there should be that kind of political direction at the top of the Civil Service, respecting, of course, the Constitution in terms of the appointments to the Public Service and in terms of appointments in other areas of the Service, not only through the Public Service Commission, but through the other Services Commissions as well. And specifically, the Department aims to streamline the establishment of various agencies; it seeks to introduce new and improved practices and techniques of personnel management; and to initiate and maintain a programme of administrative reform supported by organisation and management and other management services. Those broadly are the aims and objectives of the Public Service Ministry and the framework within which it seeks to operate.

In addition, it will provide consultancy services to the Statutory Boards. It will seek to manage a number of common services which are used by most agencies of the Government, but I would like to say this before closing. I would say like the honourable Member for St. Peter, he expressed a kind of secret admiration for the Leader of Government, the Prime Minister.....

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: On a point of elucidation. Mr. Chairman I said that I secretly admired the way in which he criticized a pattern in the past to introduce Resolutions without comment. That is an entirely different matter which would reflect in the records of this Honourable House that I admired secretly the Prime Minister of this country, and the honourable Member knows that he is warping the point that I made.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I cannot see how that can be a point of order anyhow. He had not completed his sentence.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: We will allow the secret admiration to pass by.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Just one minute to complete, Sir.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:.....including that interruption there, Sir.

What I would say is this, and I would like to make it absolutely clear that I am a believer in the principle and concept of the impartiality of the Public Service in this country as a concept, and I believe that if we try to depart from that we will seek and we will end up destroying one of the major institutions in this country, and I was a little surprised to hear my former student, I am referring to the honourable Member for St. Peter, apparently departing from that particular high principle. I would be glad if he gets up and says "No", that he believes in the concept of the impartiality of the Public Service.

I think, Sir, that we have had a fairly long debate on this particular matter, and I can give the Members of the Opposition this assurance that if they want a full-scale debate on the Public Service, that they are free to introduce the motion and I will give them, with the concurrence of the Honourable House, an early date for that particular debate, and just as when we were in Opposition we supported the call from the Opposition backbenches of the Barbados Labour Party Government for an investigation, or a Commission of Enquiry into the Public Service, the then Opposition supported it, but then the Members of the Opposition who were most vocal in calling for that investigation were sucked into the ministerial office and forgot the kinds of arguments that they used to advance when they were on the backbenches of the Government, and they forgot that the Civil Service might have needed such an enquiry. If they put it forward, they will find support from the Government for any such proposal, so long as it is put forward in good faith.

I think we will stop at that.
4.25 p.m.

The question that Head 44 do now stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On the motion of Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, seconded by Hon. M. A. KING, the Resolution was passed.

On the motion of Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, seconded by Hon. M. A. KING, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one money Resolution in Committee of Supply and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, seconded by Hon. M. A. KING, a Resolution for the sum of \$651 804 was read a first time, a second time and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD : Mr. Speaker, that brings us to the end of Government Business today, and I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, November 25, 1986 at 12.00 o'clock noon.

Hon. M. A. KING, I beg to second that, Sir.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly at 4.30 p.m.

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