
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1986 – 91

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, October 21, 1986.

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 12.20 p.m. o'clock.

PRESENT

His Honour L. A. Weekes, (Speaker)

His Honour J. J. Payne, (Deputy Speaker)

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

Hon. H. deB. Forde, Q.C., M.A., LL.B., (Leader of
the Opposition)

Hon. Dr. R. C. Haynes, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.P.
(Edin.), (Minister of Finance)

Dr. D. G. Blackman, B.A., M.A.

Hon. N. K. Simmons, (Minister of Health)

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 Com-
munity Development)

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

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

Dr. E. A. Simmons

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

Mr. C. L. Trotman, M.A.

Mr. P. J. M. Miller

Mr. R. P. Byer, LL.B., L.E.C.

Prayers were led by the Rev. Father Ivan Harewood.

Mr. SPEAKER: The House is in session.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of the meeting of
Tuesday, 7th October, 1986.

*Hon. E. E. GREAVES, B.A., Ed.M., (Minister of
Trade and Commerce) and Hon. B. M. TAITT, B.A.
(Hons.), M.A., LL.B. (Hons.), (Minister of Tourism and
Industry) entered the Chamber and took their seats.*

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to
move that the Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday,
October 7, 1986 be confirmed as an accurate record of
the proceedings of that meeting.

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR

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

MESSAGES FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Mr. SPEAKER:

"MESSAGE NO. 2/1986

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL
TO

THE HONOURABLE THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

His Excellency the Governor-General has the
honour to inform the Honourable the House of Assembly
that, accompanied by Her Excellency Lady Springer, he
will be absent from the country during the period 25th
October to 11th November 1986, on a private visit to
Britain.

2. Under the provisions of Section 29(1)(b) of the Constitution, the Chief Justice, The Right Honourable Sir William Douglas, K.C.M.G. will perform the functions of the office of Governor-General.

HUGH W. SPRINGER
Governor-General

GOVERNMENT HOUSE
BARBADOS.
21 October, 1986."

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN, B.Sc. (Econ.), (Minister of Housing and Lands) entered the Chamber and took his seat.

PAPERS

Hon. Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the Consumption Tax (No. 4) Order, 1986 and the Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 5) Order, 1986.

Hon. W. W. HALL, (Minister of Employment, Labour Relations and Community Development) entered the Chamber and took his seat.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation for the year 1985.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer for the year 1984.

Hon. M. A. KING, Q.C., LL.B., (Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs) entered the Chamber and took his seat.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

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

A Resolution to grant the sum of \$22,536,024 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1986-87, Part II - Capital as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1986-87, No. 6 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

A Resolution to grant the sum of \$8,883,744 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1986-87, Part I - Current which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to indicate at this stage that I was proposing to adjourn the House after today's sitting for a fortnight, but these two Resolutions are important Resolutions and I will be having discussions with the Members of the Opposition to see whether we can reach agreement on doing these Resolutions today.

As you know, Sir, we are meeting under difficult conditions in this Parliament because of the construction work in progress, and even today we have indicated that lunch will not be available on these premises, because of the construction work in progress, and we want to give the team carrying out the construction sufficient time to schedule their work, and if it is at all possible we will wish to deal with these Resolutions in all of their stages today with the leave of the House, but I will be having further discussions with the Opposition on this matter.

Mr. E. BOURNE entered the Chamber and took his seat.

NOTICES OF QUESTIONS

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for St. Thomas on Government Debentures, Treasury Bills, Savings Bonds, etc.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, to ask the Minister of Finance:

Will the Minister please state the following:

- (a) the total value or amount of Government Debentures issued since May 28, 1986;
- (b) the total value or amount of Treasury Bills issued since the said date;
- (c) the total value or amount of Savings Bonds issued by the Government of Barbados since the said date; and
- (d) the total amount of money which Government has agreed to borrow from sources outside of Barbados since May 28, 1986?

Mr. SPEAKER: From the same honourable Member, his question re excess funds in accounts of statutory boards.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, to ask the Minister of Finance:

In relation to the Statement and Budgetary Proposals made to this Honourable House by the Honourable Minister of Finance on July 15, 1986, will the Minister state each and every Statutory Board which had excess funds in its bank account

as of May 28, 1986, and the amount of funds standing to the account of each said Statutory Board?

Mr. SPEAKER: And from the same honourable Member, his question re the reduction in Current Expenditure and reduction in Capital Expenditure of each Ministry.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, to ask the Minister of Finance:

In relation to the statement and Budgetary Proposals made to this Honourable House by the Honourable Minister of Finance on July 15, 1986, will the Honourable Minister state in respect of each Ministry of Government:

- (a) the precise amount of the reduction in current expenditure, and
- (b) the precise amount of the reduction in capital expenditure, identifying the items or projects which have been reduced, suspended or abandoned to accommodate the reduction in capital expenditure?

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for St. Thomas will also ask a question about persons whose services have been terminated at the Transport Board and their severance pay.

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

Will the Minister please state:

- (a) the number of persons whose services with the Transport Board have been terminated between May 28 and October 17, 1986, and
- (b) the total amount of money paid to the said persons by way of termination benefits, severance pay or similar compensation?

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for the City of Bridgetown, question re harassment of wayside hawkers and vendors.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: To ask the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs:

Is the Minister aware that the police are harassing wayside hawkers and vendors working in the streets of Bridgetown?

If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, will the Minister please indicate whether the legislation could be changed to stop this harassment?

Will the Minister examine all relevant legislation to ensure that these citizens are allowed to continue to make an honest living?

12.30 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: The same honourable Member his question re the denial of the rights of self-employed persons to ply their wares.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: To ask the Minister of Employment, Labour Relations and Community Development:—

Is the Minister aware that there are a number of self-employed persons lawfully plying their wares as wayside vendors in Bridgetown who are now being denied the right to work?

Is the Minister further aware that the initiative taken by the wayside vendors is one way of alleviating the rising unemployment?

If the answers to the above are in the affirmative, will the Minister please indicate what steps his Ministry will take to correct this serious problem?

Mr. SPEAKER: And your final question re the issue of permits to persons to sell within prohibited areas.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: To ask the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries:—

Is the Minister aware that the Superintendent of Markets is the authority who issues the permits to sell within prohibited areas?

Is the Minister aware that permits issued by the Superintendent of Markets may allow a vendor lawfully to sell outside of the terminal markets at Fairchild Street and Cheapside?

Will the Minister state the criteria for the granting of such permits?

Is the Minister also aware of the extreme difficulties vendors are encountering in obtaining permits?

Will the Minister take steps to correct this problem and once more allow these small business people to earn an honest living?

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for St. Michael North East his question re the condition of certain roads in St. Michael.

Mr. L. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, to ask of the Minister of Transport, Works and Telecommunications:—

Is the Minister aware that driving on to the Spooners Hill and Codrington Hill Roads is very hazardous from roads such as Bow Road, Paradise Road, Butlers Avenue, Accommodation Road, Promenade Road, Long Gap, Thompson Gap. Cr. Whitehall and Mahaica Road?

If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, will the Minister cause some measure of improvement to this situation to be effected?

Will the Honourable Minister consider the use of

- (a) widened corners,
- (b) traffic mirrors?

Mr. SPEAKER: The same honourable Member his question re ancillary services for Exchange No. 3.

Mr. L. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, to ask the Minister of Transport, Works and Telecommunications:—

Is the Minister aware that a road and ancillary services promised by Government some fifteen years ago for Exchange No. 3 have not been established?

Will the Minister state what is the possibility of immediate relief for residents of that area in these matters?

Mr. SPEAKER: The same honourable Member his question re Friendship Terrace Development.

Mr. L. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, to ask of the Minister of Transport, Works and Telecommunications:—

Is the Minister aware that residents of the Friendship Terrace Development in Green Hill, St. Michael, have been complaining to Government for a long time of the dire need for:

- (a) adequate street lighting, especially in the section between its beginning and the telephone booth in Friendship Terrace,
- (b) another road to facilitate entry or exit, should there be any problems on the existing road,
- (c) the return of the bus service which was discontinued shortly after the 1981 General Election, and
- (d) a properly prepared recreational area for the use of the residents of the development, especially children who presently use the main

road for recreational facilities thereby attracting the hazards of vehicular traffic?

Will the Minister state what action Government proposes to eliminate the complaints?

Mr. SPEAKER: The same honourable Member re problems encountered in the St. Michael North East Constituency.

Mr. L. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, to ask of the Minister of Transport, Works and Telecommunications:—

Is the Minister aware of problems encountered in the entire of St. Michael North East Constituency due to the following needs:

- (a) proper positioning of suck wells,
- (b) proper maintenance of existing wells, and
- (c) effective clearing of drains leading to the mouths of the said wells?

Will the Honourable Minister state the intention of Government to remedy these problems without delay?

Mr. SPEAKER: The same honourable Member his question re the need for repairs to Stadium Road.

Mr. L. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, to ask of the Minister of Transport, Works and Telecommunications:—

Is the Minister aware that the Stadium Road, St. Michael, from its junction with the Bush Hall Main Road to its junction with the Waterford Road, is,

- (a) Without any street lighting, thereby posing great danger to residents who have to travel after nightfall, and
- (b) in need of substantial repair, as it relates to its surface maintenance, and proper drainage, especially when there is heavy rainfall?

Will the Minister give the assurance that the users of this road will be relieved of this problem without further delay?

Mr. SPEAKER: The final question concerning worsening conditions of the roads in the Piedmont Park Housing Area.

Mr. L. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, to ask of the Minister of Transport, Works and Telecommunications:—

Is the Minister aware of the rapidly worsening conditions of the roads in the Piedmont Park Housing Area?

Will the Honourable Minister undertake that Government will give their earliest attention to remedying this serious concern of the residents and users of this area?

ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Standing Orders Nos. 6, 16, 18, 20, 42(5), 43 and 44 be suspended for the remainder of today's sitting, of course, subject to the rights of the Opposition being preserved.

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

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Order No. 1.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 1.

ROAD TRAFFIC (REGISTRATION FEE) (VALIDATION) ACT, 1986

Order No. 1 was called – To move the Second Reading of a Bill to validate the collection of registration fees respecting certain motor vehicles.

Hon. Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, once again I rise to defend the integrity of our legislative system and to correct the errors of omissions of the previous administration.

Heaven knows that we have had to spend a lot of time correcting the errors of commission but we shall patiently, as they come to light, bring to this House of Assembly the numerous errors which have been made over the years, particularly as they impact on the citizens of this country.

Indeed, Sir, when one considers the much vaunted legislative and administrative ability of the "Great Combination" which has now been split up, one begins to wonder what was the basis even of the assumption of any

kind of administrative competence on the part of the last Government.

In these circumstances, I am constrained to move the Second Reading of a Bill to validate, that is, to make lawful, the collection of registration fees respecting certain motor vehicles.

12.40 p.m.

The following are the circumstances, Sir. In the budgetary proposals of 1984 there were new rates for the licensing and registration of private motor cars and motor cycles. It was intended that the new rates should become effective from April 17, 1984, the date on which the proposals were announced in the House of Assembly in accordance with the provisions of the Provisional Collection of Taxes Act, Cap. 85. However, Sir the effective date was never announced. The relevant authorising legislation, the Road Traffic (Road Tax, Registration Fee and Permits) (Amendment) Order, 1985, was not made until March, 1985. In the meantime the Licensing Authority had collected sums estimated to be about \$1.6 million in respect of the licensing and registration of the private cars and motor cycles.

The Provisional Collection of Taxes Act, Cap. 85, was amended in June 1984 to extend the period during which the appropriate enactment for the imposition of a tax or for increasing the rate of the existing tax may be made. However the extension only applies in cases where a date has been specified by the Minister in the budgetary proposals, and as I mentioned earlier, the effective date was not announced at that time.

Therefore, Sir, in order to make the situation lawful, the collection of approximately \$1.6 million, one was faced with two alternatives; either to refund the money to the owners of the vehicles or to bring in validating legislation.

After due consideration and looking at the kinds of problems which had been raised – as a matter of fact these problems were raised even before we assumed office but nothing was done about it – on balance I think that the best thing to do was to bring in validating legislation. It was the clear intention of the former Minister of Finance to introduce this measure, and it would appear that there has been some administrative omission.

I believe that I have set out very clearly the circumstances which have led to the need to bring this validating Bill before Parliament. The matter was of course referred to the appropriate legal authorities within the Government, and I see that the matter had occupied the attention of my predecessor in office and the matter had in fact gone to the Attorney General's Chambers before we came into office on 9th May of this year in respect of

this particular piece of legislation. That is the present situation.

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

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I beg to second that and reserve my right to speak.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, just a brief intervention on this matter.

I am very pleased that the honourable Member towards the end of his speech gave what was perhaps a very measured and considered presentation, and indeed had his presentation been like that throughout the whole of his presentation, the Opposition would not at all have intervened in speaking on this measure. Sometimes however it is good to recap on things that have happened historically in this House.

The Provisional Collection of Taxes Act was passed in this House in the year 1967. It came about as a result of a series of articles in the *Advocate* newspaper drawing to the attention of the public that contrary to the view held in Barbados for several years, a Government could not merely impose legislation by its budgetary proposals unless it had in place statutory legislation that made those proposals valid from the date of the budgetary speech.

I recall very well in those days the surprise which came across the faces not only of administrators but of politicians that that was the legal position in Barbados, and we had to go back historically and correct this omission which had occurred. The assumption in Barbados up to then was that we had inherited the provision from the United Kingdom Parliament without recognising that that Parliament's legislation — their appropriate provision of Collection of Taxes Act — did not apply to us.

Now since then, Sir, the moment that a Minister of Finance announces budgetary measures, they operate to increase or reduce tax as he sees fit at least for the limited period of time allowed by the Provisional Collection of Taxes Act, and it has been my experience in both administrations that from time to time the administrative follow-up for bringing legislation before Parliament whether it is by way of subsidiary legislation, by an order subject to negative resolution, or substantive changes to the Bill have never come before the House in time.

The Democratic Labour Party administration had instances of these, what my friend has now called, administrative omissions, and certainly the Barbados Labour Party has had instances of this as well, and I think the fact that at some stage the omission is spotted,

as the honourable Member just drew to the attention of the House that this omission was drawn to the attention of the previous Minister of Finance and in fact before the dissolution of the House steps were being taken to remedy the omission, is evidence that there was no bad faith on the part of any member of the administration including the political directorate.

Only at the last sitting of the House two weeks ago we had a measure in which the Honourable Minister had to come once again, to use his phraseology, to correct an omission that occurred during the time of the Barbados Labour Party and also to correct an omission that occurred within his own Ministry in a short period of time in relation to the issue of debentures. Now it is a matter on which, taking the position of the over-all public interest, none of us made any exciting speeches nor shared any political lashes, and I would advise the Minister on these matters where there is no intention of administrators or politicians "to do in" the public, and where there is really no big fundamental political divide between the two parties, to come in here in measured and sensible tones rather than to try to score political points on issues such as this because the Minister well knows that all of his administrators are not going to be all the time 100 per cent correct. He has already discovered it in his Ministry. And he well knows that not every Minister has the penchant like the Minister of Education has. He carefully notes — and I have seen him, I have seen him both in the last Parliament when he was a Minister and now — he carefully keeps a note of every item that comes to his Ministry and does a follow up. I wish this could be said of all Ministers, but it is not done, and therefore you are not always in a position to check through in your Ministry to make sure that everything is done. In any event, I do not expect a Minister always to do that because if your Civil Service back-up is there, items like these will be drawn to your attention at an early time.

12.50 p.m.

Now I feel on very strong ground in making that statement for the fact that we are validating an Act that occurred between the Budgetary announcement and March, 1985. The period after March, 1985 was not affected by this measure. So that the legislation that must have come down — and I expect that it was subsidiary legislation, an Order by the Minister which was probably subject to negative Resolution and was not debated on the Floor of the House — that that legislation which came down really affected the measure as from April 1, 1986, unless there was subsequent legislation either increasing or decreasing it.

But when I look at the Bill, the Bill refers only to that limited period of fees paid between April 18, 1984 and ending on March 27, 1985. Perhaps the Minister would tell me when he gets up. I have not myself done

the research on this part but there must have been some other legislation affecting the position from 1985 right up to date.

I am not in any way seeking to excuse administrative errors, nor in the strict constitutional sense, any error that occurs within a Government department. Obviously there is a Minister in charge and there is ministerial responsibility. But to make a political issue of this, to talk about the "Great Combination" does not deserve any appellation and what not, is certainly playing to the Gallery a little bit too early.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Unless the honourable Member has information about a quick change of Government that I have not got. It is a little bit too early.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The Honourable Minister of Health always rises to my bait. I am sure he will rise, Sir. I only have to throw out a sprat and he rises to it. He gets very excited by it.

But honestly, on these matters, none of us in the House wants to waste the House's time by legislation of this nature, but we have to recognize that they are going to occur and try and minimize them. But I do not think it is an area that we will seek in order to score political points.

I welcome the second part of the Minister's speech and I hope, Sir, that as he grows into his post that you will find a more measured responsibility showing in his words and in his actions rather than.....

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE:.....grows into his post for the next three or four years. Not any longer.

Laughter.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Not any longer than that, Sir.

Laughter.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I believe that he can learn a few things if he listens to the honourable Member for St. Peter as to how he takes the high ground on issues such as these.

Laughter.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I think if he cares he could listen to the honourable Member for St. Peter, Sir. The honourable Member for the City and the honourable Member for St. Michael South East laugh at that statement, Sir. But the honourable Members obviously have not got their ears to the ground, because if there is a Member whose statements are very measured and who will remain, who can always go back to his statements and remain firm, it is the honourable Member for St. Peter. In that regard, he reminds me very much of the former Minister of Finance. I have very seldom heard either the former Minister of Finance.....

(Aside: Hon. Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Do you mean Bree?)

Asides

Hon. H. deB. FORDE:..... the former Right Honourable Member for St Thomas.....

Aside

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: ...or indeed the honourable Member for St. Michael South. There are some Members that are measured in their speech, most often, Sir — there are one or two lapses — that they do not have to go back on their words from time to time.

Asides

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please!

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I want to — Sir, the Government is so excited, you would not think they have 24, 24 to 3 and they get very excited. I have never seen so many numbers with so much nervousness as coming out of this Government.

Laughter.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: So much nervousness. But I will counsel the honourable Member to be much more measured in his presentation on measures such as this and he will find that we are much more co-operative than he expects.

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

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the honourable Member, the Leader of the Opposition has said elsewhere that his troops should go out and infiltrate. And I get the feeling today, Sir, that he believes that somehow he can by reducing the decibels with which he speaks infiltrate the psyche of honourable Members in this Chamber by suggesting that the matter before this

Honourable House is a matter over which there need not be any heat and that if the honourable Member would be measured in the way he presents his case then he would accept what he says.

That same honourable Member, Sir, from the back of the last Government inveighed against the said Government for the number of times which we had — he was joining me in debate on that occasion.....

Aside

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Do you want me to give you chapter and verse? I will hand it to you.

Aside

Hon. B. M. TAITT: If you wish to interrupt me, I am here to be interrupted. I am a peaceful person. You can interrupt me any time.

The honourable Member, the Leader of the Opposition, the Member for Christ Church West, Sir, who just spoke, that honourable Member was inveighing against the Government and he was agreeing with us in the Opposition at the time that the Government was coming down to the House too often with this question of correction of legislation. That honourable Member, because it is a....

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: It had nothing to do with you. You were not in the House.

(*Aside:* Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Transport Board case. I was in there.)

Hon. B. M. TAITT: So you agree with me that he was speaking about it.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: But how do you mean? If you are not agreeing with me how do you know that he was not in there?

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: No. He cannot distract me. He is young. He is a young parliamentarian. He cannot distract me.

The fact is, Sir, that the Democratic Labour Party in Opposition spent a considerable amount of its debating time talking about the unlawful nature of Acts, the lawlessness of the Barbados Labour Party Administration. And I would not have thought that the former

Attorney-General in a Barbados Labour Party Government would get up and speak on a Provisional Collection of Taxes Act ever again in this House of Assembly. That is not an Act that you should talk about going up on the high road. That is the lowest road the Barbados Labour Party walked in legislative matters, collecting money from the people willy nilly, up hill, down hill, without law, with law, and then pass a law to validate Acts. Constantly, we have been passing legislation in this House to validate illegal actions by the Barbados Labour Party Government. Now you come in here today talking about measured tones.

(*Aside:* Talk.)

Hon. B. M. TAITT: That is what I am here for. I am here to tell you that this Government even now, constantly in my Ministry I am coming across illegal Acts.

(*Aside:* Hon. H. deB. FORDE: We have not seen any from you.)

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Every day practically some file comes before the Minister. Every day. You have not seen anything from me? Let me tell you what I am going to have to do. In order to correct a fundamental, simple, legal error made by your Administration, we are going to have to bring a Bill down here to this House in order to give somebody an extension of a few years under the Fiscal Incentives Act. That is happening as a matter of course. I am getting coming before me — yes, illegalities and unlawful sloppy, absolutely sloppy legal work. You are in no position to tell me this is foolishness. We are discussing matters of which you have absolute innocence so that you cannot talk about these. The honourable Member for St. Peter cannot even get into this debate.
1.00 p.m.

I am saying except for the honourable Member for St. Thomas whose work apparently extend to the point of checking as opposed to other honourable Members who sat in that particular office.....wishes to give the public the impression that all was well, that the Barbados Labour Party was like Caesar's wife was supposed to be.

Aside

Hon. B. M. TAITT: What great combination! That is the biggest farce and fallacy imposed on the people of Barbados, and let us make it clear, Mr. Speaker.

We are not going to allow the Barbados Labour Party by subtle statements to give the public the impres-

sion that they can make all kinds of statements and then appeal for light — talking about there are only three.

Laughter.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I cannot stand it, Mr. Speaker.

Asides

Hon. B. M. TAITT: They have absolutely no concept of history. You take the kinds of statements they make. They go out and tell members of a union, the Barbados Workers Union, they should withdraw. You think that any sensible.....

Aside

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I know that you are not going to want that to go into the record.

Mr. SPEAKER: Two honourable Members are on their feet.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of order, Sir. The honourable Member must be relevant. I submit that the honourable Member is in breach of Standing Order....

Aside

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Which one?

Mr. SPEAKER: Of course, we are not discussing the Barbados Workers Union. So the honourable Member will continue.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: As Your Honour wishes. I will not discuss the Barbados Workers Union under this Resolution but I am serving notice to the honourable Member that it is coming, and it is in the same context that they make foolish statements on all subjects including the Barbados Workers Union, Sir, that we are saying that the honourable Member, the Leader of the Opposition, made a foolish statement today, Sir, on this question.

Let me explain something. The Government has a duty to come to this Honourable Chamber and correct errors that have been made in legislation especially where the illegal collection of money is concerned, that duty is a duty owed to posterity because we have to make sure that Acts done by the Government in so far as it is possible are done legally and lawful.

We have, in so far as we have been given a mandate by the people to carry on the Government, to come everytime we find an error of this nature to the House and have it validated. But the fact that we are coming to have it validated cannot signify that we are satisfied with

the incidences of it, or that we will sit and allow anyone to give the impression that these are matters that just happened to occur. We are saying that this is symptomatic of the mal-administration, the massive mal-administration which can be found throughout the length and breadth of the administrative system in this country today. We are saying that there was a casualness about the way in which the people's business was conducted. That casualness extends to the point where the honourable Member can come in here and say that not all Ministers did what he pointed out that the honourable Member for St. Michael South does.

Aside

Hon. B. M. TAITT: What do you know about what I do? Do you know anything about me? The honourable Member is always giving off the impression that he is the keeper of administrative purity, he is the keeper of morality, he is the keeper of the high road, he knows how to do everything right and yet, Sir, we have had on so many occasions to draw to his attention that he is making an about face, that the honourable Member is going back on a position that he has taken. No wonder he cites the late honourable Member for St. Thomas as a paragon of truth.

Aside

Hon. B. M. TAITT: No wonder he cites him as a paragon of truth. And he knows better to come here... As a matter of fact, I am satisfied that he did it deliberately — cited the late honourable Member deliberately so that honourable Members could laugh. Why else would he seek to suggest that the word of that Right Honourable gentleman is to be taken as the epitome of the principle which he was espousing at the time?

Aside

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I will continue to speak on the Bill. I am responding to what the honourable Member said on the Bill. You cannot come in here week after week, make these statements, and then do not expect anybody to respond to them. I am responding specifically to what the honourable Member said. The honourable Member got up in here and sought to leave the public with the impression that when the Right Honourable Member, the late Member for St. Thomas spoke, you could afford to rely on what he said because there was a pristine golden thread running through all of his themes, and that

anytime he said something on one day, you could be certain that if he referred to the subject two years hence it would be basically what he said before. The honourable Member himself has said on more than one occasion that you have to get a microscope to unravel what the honourable Member was saying if he said it in this House and if he said it outside you could forget it.

Laughter

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I will not let any honourable Member in this Chamber bamboozle my mind with such rot, such foolishness.

Mr. Speaker, the time has come when the people of Barbados must take off the clothing of these persons who are willing to walk around giving the impression.....

Asides

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Masquerade is not a word the Speaker likes — giving the impression, Sir, that everything they say is clothed in righteousness, when in truth and in fact those of us who know when they speak in the quiet corners know that they speak differently.

Asides

Hon. B. M. TAITT: It is nicer than yours. My voice is much nicer than yours, and I am sure that the whole of Barbados in a choice between listening to your high high-pitched squeaky voice and my voice will prefer to hear my voice. Even the Speaker had he been involved in this debate would utter a preference for my debate. So let no one question my voice in here — and it speaks with a certain amount of authority too on these matters. Even the former Attorney General who has had to correct you on more than one occasion.....

Asides

Hon. B. M. TAITT: You wish me to tell them about that? We are speaking about this Bill. The honourable Member, Mr. Speaker, is the only honourable Member in here who has had the decency to agree that a measure for which he, the honourable Member, was totally responsible was completely in error. He has had the efficacy and the decency to admit to total error in matters such as this. I shall say no more on that.

Aside

Hon. B. M. TAITT: He now wishes me to explain, Sir, so I shall explain to him.

On the one hand when acting in his capacity as Attorney General he spoke specifically to the matter as

told to him by the same officials which he discusses today, and then subsequently, after he had shed the load of responsibility he had a new perspective on the same matter and was able successfully to convince the bench that error had been made — a fundamental error. Now I think that that calls for a special kind of capacity.

Asides

Mr. SPEAKER: Address the Chair.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I beg your pardon, Sir. I wish to address the Chair, Sir, but the Leader of the Opposition is shouting across to the Attorney General to instruct this honourable Member in the role of a lawyer. That is what he is saying.

1.10 p.m.

Now, Sir, there are those who have said things about lawyers, which I will not repeat, and the honourable Member has demonstrated that most of what those who have spoken have said is correct. I shall say no more.

The honourable Member any minute now will get up and tell me about the law, and that is why I know he knows the law, he knows how to practise it, and that is why when he comes in here and tries to give the impression that this is no big thing, that this is just a minor error — how in the name of God the collection of money can be a minor error? This is a matter to do with collecting the people's money illegally and he comes in here and says it is an administrative error. It has been an administrative error in the Barbados Labour Party for a considerable amount of time.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, if the honourable Member will give way, the honourable Member obviously likes hearing his voice on some measures. What I said is that the Honourable Minister of Finance in the end of his speech had said that it was an administrative error. If the honourable Member would listen rather than think that he is talking through his hat

Hon. B. M. TAITT: You see, Sir, even when he gets up in an attempt to correct me he tells lies on the honourable Member inadvertently.

Mr. SPEAKER: Surely not in here.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The honourable Member really seems to have lost his position today.

Mr. SPEAKER: Just withdraw the remarks.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I withdraw the remarks, Sir. The point is that what I understood the honourable Member to say is that an official in the Ministry brought

it to the attention of the Attorney General during that time. That is what he is talking about the official. The fact is that if a Minister is collecting money and he is the Minister of Finance, no matter which side of the floor of the House he is on, if he is collecting the people's money he has a pristine responsibility to see that he is collecting it lawfully. That is the point, and any Attorney General or former Attorney General who seeks to justify such illegal and unlawful behaviour on grounds of administrative error is himself in breach of his own responsibility. That is the point, and the Barbados Labour Party collected large sums of money not only under this Act, they collected large sums of money constantly unlawfully, and we are saying that we said before, we have at least seven debates in the last House in which we said they were lawless.

We had the debate concerning the setting up of the Transport Levy Fund when they had Look, I had better leave that, because it will take a fairly long time now to specify the number of illegalities perpetrated on the people by the Barbados Labour Party, and therefore I am serving notice on the honourable Member. We are going to come back each time it is brought to our attention and validate what has to be validated, but we do not wish you when we come to validate your errors to get up and give the public the impression that what we are doing is something that must be done, and happens every day and that we should not really draw it to the public's attention. When it happens in our time, you tell us about it, but when we come down here to validate your illegal acts we do not wish you getting up and talking about you going up on any high road. There is no high road for you to climb; not yet. Your time will come, but you were down in the trough so far as administration is concerned, and the people of Barbados told you so.

One of the things that has to be understood by the Barbados Labour Party is that there was an election in 1986 on May 28, and the Leader of the Opposition needs to go out and let his minions know that instead of misleading them constantly. He has to let them know that the people of Barbados spoke at the polls in what you say was the fairest election ever, and constantly in this country every time you open the newspapers somebody in the Barbados Labour Party is putting forward some thesis, putting forward some statement, getting some editorial which seeks to call the people of Barbados fools, and you are the last person in the world who should be perpetrating that kind of slander on the population of this country. The people of Barbados voted for a Government and they voted for an Opposition. It has been said.....

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of order, Sir. The honourable Member has accused me of perpetrating a slander on the people and I am suggesting that is unparliamentary. I have never called the people of Barbados fools and I do not want it to be in the record.

Mr. SPEAKER: Are you withdrawing that remark?

Hon. B. M. TAITT: If Your Honour orders me to, yes, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will ask you to withdraw it from the point of view made by the honourable Member.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I will withdraw the remarks, Sir. I am a dutiful Member of this Parliament.

What I am saying, Sir, is that the honourable Member for Christ Church West in his capacity as Leader of the Opposition and now Leader of the party has a responsibility to the members of his party, while admonishing them to examine why they have failed, if he thinks they have failed, while dealing with them in the manner that they would expect, and anybody else would expect as leader, he also has a duty to the rest of the community to let them know the realities of May 28.

You cannot go on for ever giving the people the impression that something illegal and unlawful happened to them on the 28th. They voted for the twenty-four Members who are in here, and they also voted for the three. The reason why they voted for the three is that apparently — and one has to say apparently, and I believe this — they believed that of all the members of the Barbados Labour Party you were the only three who were keeping close to the mandate which the people expect from their representatives. That is the reason why you are in here, and the only reason. It has nothing to do with the bogus reasons which you have been putting forward to the public of this community ever since May 29. The only reason you are in here, anybody gets in here, is because a majority of the people in the particular constituency believe that the person has the integrity, the capacity and all that is necessary to represent them when we have fair elections.

Mr. Speaker, I am sorry that the honourable Member for Christ Church West has led me to have to make the kind of speech which I had to make, but if he says the same things all over again I will make the same speech, because I have to let him know now and for ever that the three of them in here will have to keep their noses to the grindstone, they will have to stay on the straight and narrow or I will be in them like a bee in a beggar's bag.

Asides

Mr. Speaker, it is easy to agree with my friend, the Minister of Finance, that this matter should be validated, and in that context I will support the Bill. I hope, Sir, that we will get no more lectures from those who feel that they are given some special responsibility to obfuscate while effervescing about matters which every-

body else in this Chamber knows to be correct and absolute.

Thank you, Sir.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I do not think this matter should really detain us for very much longer, but I think it should be made clear exactly what the House is doing on this particular measure.

The fact is that under our legislation when revenue measures are supposed to be imposed, or money expenditure is supposed to be disbursed, there are certain steps and provisions which this Honourable House has a responsibility and a duty to ensure are in place, because it is perhaps the one remaining major function that the House as a debating Chamber has, and that is the control of revenue and expenditure.

1.20 p.m.

In the transition from one Government to another Government, it becomes very necessary to ensure that any errors or omissions, major or minor, should be corrected in order that the integrity of our financial system and the responsibilities of our legislature are kept intact.

Now, in this particular instance, we have a case in which money was being collected by an agency of the Government, contrary to the law of the land, and it is important that that particular step, that omission, be made good. It was not something done by the Democratic Labour Party Government. The error was committed by the Barbados Labour Party Government, and I do not think that they are denying it. Are you denying it?

Asides

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: They are not denying it. The correction has to be made and that is what the House is being called upon to do, to put the error right.

Now, in some instances, if the error is something that falls within the administrative purview of the Public Service only, we can set out to put the blame on the Public Service, but you accept responsibility. The question is whether this is a matter that a Minister of Finance or other Government Minister might not, in his course of duty be aware of, or should not be aware of.

Now, if we are talking about the over-commitment of a vote, let us say a vote for the purchase of paper, a Minister is not expected to know that a vote for \$1 000 has been expended because two reams of paper more than the money would have bought had actually been bought and, therefore, the vote has been expended. That is in the control of the Public Service and if the vote is over-

spent, the Minister takes responsibility but it is clear that the administrative machinery was at fault here.

I do not think that this particular measure that we are dealing with is in that particular category because this is a measure made in the Budgetary Statement by the Minister of Finance, and the Minister of Finance and his assistants, the Attorney General and other Ministers, or Junior Ministers, must, and should be aware, whether the necessary enabling legislation to give full effect to the statements of the Minister of Finance are actually in place, and I think this is the issue here at stake.

It is in the nature of the Leader of the Opposition. Of course, I think he realizes the gravity of the situation and that a major error had been made here. But what else would you expect the Leader of the Opposition to get up and say here today to minimize the nature of the error that has been made but to say it is a bad administrative error, a minor error and so on? Because in Opposition you down-play the errors that were made in Government so I understood what the Leader of the Opposition was saying quite clearly.

He was, in fact, saying, "I recognize that this is a major error but you know previous Governments have made errors and it is not really a major thing." He is trying to down-play it. But, obviously, we have to set the records straight and what my colleague was saying was that this is not just a minor error. It is one in a series of errors related to the collection of taxes, the collection of revenue in this country.

I remember myself being involved in a major effort to get the Barbados Labour Party Government to correct an error in this country where they were collecting stamp duties illegally and we had a very major task trying to convince them that the necessary legislation.....

Asides

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Myself and my colleague here.

We carried out a campaign on that. So that is not just a minor error. It is one within a series of errors made on the part of the Barbados Labour Party Government and we must speak as things are, as we find them, and so we are telling this Honourable Chamber that we would wish this particular piece of legislation to pass this Honourable Chamber, and that we hope that this will be the last one that we will find because we have found quite a number of them, and like my colleague, I would say that it is the duty of the Opposition, if they find any errors of this type occurring in this administration, it is their duty to point it out and I hope that they will point them out.

I do not think this need detain us any longer, Mr. Speaker. It is an error on the part of the previous Government. We are trying to correct it and I think that should be the end of the matter.

Thank you.

Hon. Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, you know from time to time the Honourable Leader of the Opposition does amaze us all. I well recall in 1978 when I first became a Member of this Parliament, when the honourable Member was entering this Chamber, a small group of people was standing outside and they were cheering and shouting for the "Great Combination". It was my privilege eight years later to see that same group of people correctly shout and cheer and call them the "three blind mice" because they would not see, even when you try to point out the errors of their ways.

Asides.

Hon. Dr. R. C. HAYNES: No matter what efforts we are making in trying to bring integrity to our legislative and our financial system yet you find problems on the other side.

I believe that the honourable Member should be the first one to get up and congratulate us, first of all for picking up the error at such an early stage in our administration and, secondly, for coming down to Parliament.....

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of order, if the honourable Member will give way.

The honourable Member in his speech on this measure said that the error was pointed out on May 9 and the last administration was taking steps to correct it. Is that not correct? In which case, what point is the honourable Member making?
1.30 p.m.

Hon. Dr. R. C. HAYNES: The error was pointed out in the last administration. I said so, but what I am saying is that it is to the credit of this administration that it was able to pick up the fact that it was pointed out and have it dealt with, when you all did nothing about it when you were in office. You had ample opportunity to do something about it and you would have thought that you would have taken action at that time, because I am going to say something now that I did not say before.

The failure of the Government to respond after the error was found has created a lot of bitterness among several citizens in this country because there are many people who have been ringing up the Ministry of Finance,

writing letters to the Ministry of Finance demanding that their money should be refunded. That is a fact.

Asides

Hon. Dr. R. C. HAYNES: As a matter of fact I am advised that this matter was looked into because of the persistence of one particular member of the public who was demanding that her money should be returned. That is what I am advised.

(Aside: Read out the names from the file.)

Hon. Dr. R. C. HAYNES: You see, you all know the kind of practices which you used to indulge in when you were in Government. I remember it very well. Mr. Lionel Craig was an expert in that, the former Prime Minister was an expert at that, reading from the files. You remember the period between 1976 and 1981.

Asides.

Now, Sir, to continue. The honourable Member has raised one matter of substance, that is, the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, when he enquired whether or not some legislative instrument was brought before Parliament which made the taxes collected after March 1985 lawful. The answer is "yes", according to the brief that I have here. The authorising legislation, the Road Traffic (Road Tax, Registration Fee and Permits) (Amendment) Order, 1985 was made in March 1985, and hence this is why we have to validate the period March 1984 to March 1985, since after 1985 it was lawful.

This is a clear indication, Sir, of the thoroughness with which this administration researches these problems, that we not only identified the problem, but were able to identify the period during which we should bring in the validation order. We even go further and identify the particular date when the matter became lawful thereafter. Thank you very much.

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

On motion of Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD seconded by Hon. B. M. TAITT, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. R. P. BYER in the Chair.

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed.

On motion of Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD seconded by Hon. B. M. TAITT, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee without amendment, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On separate motions of Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD seconded by Hon. B. M. TAITT, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE BORROWING OF
US\$10 MILLION FROM THE INTERNATIONAL
BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION
AND DEVELOPMENT**

Order No. 2 was called – To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the borrowing of an amount in various currencies equivalent to US \$10 million from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) for the Second Education and Training Project.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, while this matter is in the name of the Minister of Finance, it is substantially an education project, and with the leave of the House, I propose to deal with the matter.

The position is that some time in 1978, I believe, the Government of Barbados entered into an agreement with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for an education loan to finance certain educational developments in Barbados. I believe, Sir, that some \$44 million was spent on educational developments under that particular loan including projects for the construction of primary schools, some of them being a primary school at Eden Lodge, the Lawrence T. Gay Memorial School, the Ellerton Primary School, the West Terrace Primary School, the Westbury Primary School, to name a number of them. There were some ten primary schools under that particular project, and there were also extensions to secondary schools at the Coleridge-Parry, at Parkinson, at the Grantley Adams Memorial, at the Alleyne School, the Alexandra School, the Lodge School, the St. James Secondary School. An extension to Erdiston Teachers' Training College was also carried out under that first loan and facilities at BIMAP were also upgraded.

The Government of the day then entered into negotiations for a second loan with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and also on this occasion with the Inter-American Development Bank, and it is this particular loan that the House is now concerned with at this stage.
1.40 p.m.

Agreement was reached I believe during the month of May, 1986, for the terms and conditions of that loan with the two International institutions and that particular agreement calls for the expenditure by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development of some \$10 million in United States or other currencies, \$19 million by the Inter-American Development Bank – let me see that I have those statistics right, Sir, those figures right – \$15.36 million, approximately \$16 million by the

Government of Barbados. So those are the funds relating to this particular project; US\$10 million by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development,.....

Aside.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: – yes, \$10 million by the World Bank, \$19 million.....

**(Aside: US?)*

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: That is US \$19 million by the Inter-American Development Bank and the Government of Barbados itself will be contributing something like approximately \$16 million.

Now I wish the House to follow very carefully while I go through the projects relating to this particular loan, the projects on which this money is expected to be disbursed.

The overall purpose of the loan as agreed in May, 1986, those objectives are as follows:

Firstly, the loan is directed towards improving the quality and cost effectiveness of primary and secondary education services.

Secondly, it is intended to improve the quality, efficiency and industrial relevance of technical and vocational training.

And thirdly, Sir, the loan is intended to strengthen the borrower's institutional capacity to plan and manage the education and training systems.

Those are the main objectives of the loan as agreed.

As far as the primary and secondary schools are concerned, the Agreement calls for the amalgamation of a number of small primary schools into approximately ten larger primary schools, and it calls for the necessary construction, furnishing and equipping of these schools.

It calls for the construction of a secondary school in the Wotton/Kingsland area for about twelve hundred students. It calls for the upgrading of the facilities at two secondary schools – Springer Memorial and Queen's College. It calls for the furnishing and equipping of a secondary school, Harrison College. It calls for the preparation of a draft revised policy on an improvement of the system for educational material procurement and distribution, improvements of the teaching of reading and writing in the primary schools, and preparation of appropriate curricula through the National Curriculum Development Council of a policy on the teaching of vocational subjects in secondary schools, as well as improvement in the teaching of special subjects in

secondary schools. It calls also for providing consultant services and fellowships and training for approximately fifteen hundred teachers and twenty-two administrators.

In terms of technical and vocational training, the Agreement calls for the upgrading of the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic including the replacement of obsolete equipment; equipment to maximize the training capacity in skilled worker level programmes; the expansion and upgrading of the Barbados Community College; the construction, furnishing and equipping of some Skills Training Centres; the improvements in vocational and training systems; improving the data processing capability of the Manpower and Research and Statistics Unit, and the acquisition of books and equipment in order to enhance the facilities related to training.

As far as institutional improvement is concerned, the Agreement calls for the construction and furnishing of new facilities to accommodate what is termed here the Pedagogical and Administration building of the Ministry of Education and Culture, and improvement in the Ministry of Education and Culture in relation to its capabilities for educational planning, educational management and curriculum implementation and so on. That basically is the ambit of this particular Agreement.

As far as the specific projects are concerned, I would just give a few examples of some of the projects that are being considered, and I should make it clear that what has been happening is that with the change of Government, the Agreement and particularly with reference to some of the sub-projects under the Agreement have been subjected to discussion, consultation and review in order to ensure that as far as possible and subject to what had already been agreed that these projects could come more within the concerns and the policy directions of the new Government.
1.50 p.m.

We have carried out a review and we are still carrying out a review. But I can say that at this particular stage, as far as the primary schools are concerned, that we are proposing to amalgamate two schools in St. Lucy. These are subject to further consideration, but the proposal calls for the amalgamation of Selah Primary School and the St. Swithins Primary School on the St. Swithins compound. I must say.....

Aside

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:.....At the Selah and St. Swithins at the Selah compound. I must say that we have had some concerns in this particular area because of distance with the amalgamation of the schools. It calls for the amalgamation of two schools in St. Peter, the two

primary schools in St. Peter to be amalgamated in a new school at Battaleys.

Asides

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: That apparently is not subject to anything. The proposals call for the amalgamation of the St. Boniface School, upper St. James, and the Black Bess School in St. Peter. But here again, we have considered this and that is definitely subject to review because we believe that the distance is too far for small children to travel from Black Bess.

Aside

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: We cannot do anything about that. The honourable Member for St. Peter does not want any mixture at all. Black Bess — solid support up in that area, solid support. So he wants to remain up there. That is quite alright. The honourable Member does not want any change there. So the proposal is that a new school will be constructed on lands at the Intersection of Highway 2 and the Rock Dundo Road, but we will retain the Black Bess School for use by the residents of that particular district.

There are other schools as well in St. John. In St. John the original proposal called for the amalgamation of the Mount Tabor School and the Cherry Grove School, but again our review indicates that the distance between those two schools is too great for a meaningful amalgamation to take place, and we are proposing that a school be constructed at Mount Tabor and also one at Cherry Grove in due course.

There was a proposal for St. Philip that three schools be amalgamated. This is what was agreed, and these three schools for the "Philippines" were the Bayleys School, the Shrewsbury School, and the St. Catherine School. Together with my Parliamentary Secretary, the honourable Member for St. George North and officials of my Ministry, we made a visit to most of these sites, and on that day we also encountered the honourable Member for St. Peter. He was also touring, and we saw him very near to a cow on that particular day, Sir, and our progress was held up considerably while I believe he gave some assistance on how a cow can be tethered and put on a truck or whatever it may be.

Laughter

Asides

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: But we have discovered, Sir, from our visit that again while an amalgamation between two schools, the Shrewsbury School and the Bayleys School is quite feasible, the St. Catherine School

even though a small school I believe the roll now is about eighty-four students in the school — it is fairly distant from these other two schools, and hence we will go ahead with the amalgamation of the Shrewsbury School and the Bayleys School while keeping the St. Catherine School open until such time as there may no longer be any requirement for it, if at all.

St. Thomas — the proposal is for the Hillaby School and the Turners Hall School to be amalgamated at Farmers in St. Thomas, where there is already a public playing field at that particular site, and we are proposing to have discussions to make sure that there are no objections to that particular amalgamation.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The honourable Member for St. Thomas has just indicated that he has no objection to that particular merger.

Aside.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: He does not have to walk the distance? But we are open to representations on that particular one.

Sir, the proposals call for the construction of I believe two additional buildings to improve facilities at Queens College, but we find that

Aside

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I am sorry the Leader of the Opposition has not heard anything about Christ Church so he is asking me about Christ Church.

Laughter

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: If he listens to me very carefully, there will not be any problems because he has to rely on me. Some of my constituents also go to two schools in Christ Church, the two St. Matthias Schools, and conditions there are below what we would expect for educational institutions, and we are therefore proposing to amalgamate those two schools at a site on lands owned by the Government at Marine House. So those two schools will be amalgamated.

Aside.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Yes, in the Pleasant Hall area. So both the teachers and the students who attend those schools will get some relief in that particular area.

For the City of Bridgetown, the two St. Mary's Schools will be amalgamated on what is now called Murphy's Pasture, Mason Hall Street, next to the existing

St. Mary's Junior School which I believe is the title of that school. And Mr. Speaker, in the St. Michael area, the proposal was for the amalgamation of the St. Stephen's Infants and St. Stephen's Junior Schools into a new primary school to be located at Free Hill in Black Rock. Now we have a major concern with that particular project, because this would create a very large primary school of over eight hundred students, and we are not satisfied that a primary school of that size is in the best interest of the education of pupils of primary school age, so we are proposing to proceed with the construction of the new school but to retain the Infants School at its present location for the time being.

As far as Queen's College is concerned, Sir, we are proposing a change, because we cannot see how we can carry out a major construction on the existing site with the school in progress, and therefore we are proposing to identify a new site for the location of Queen's College, so that school should get a new location.

We are conducting a search for a suitable central location on which that school could be located. We have so far looked at a site in St. James, in the Cave Hill area. We have looked at a site near Warrens in St. Michael. We have looked at a site in the Haggatt Hall area and we are to look at sites in the Wildey area for the location of that school.

We believe that after we have carried out the necessary consultations with the school authorities, as well as the parents, we may be able to find a site that is satisfactory so that this school can get the kind of facilities that it is in need of.

We propose to locate the Ministry of Education at the site to be vacated by Queen's College where we will seek to adapt the buildings there and build new facilities. That is our current thinking. Any site in the St. Michael South area which might be available we may consider for other purposes.

I think, Sir, that that represents the major purposes for this particular loan. I think I have identified the scope of the loan and the various projects that will come under it, not completely, but I have given the broad outlines for it, and I would like to indicate that this is part of the continuing commitment of the people of Barbados through their elected Governments, past and present, towards the upgrading of education in this country.

We have agreed to this particular project because we realise, and we wish to state that this nation cannot improve unless there are improvements in the educational system. This nation cannot be great unless we have a great educational system, and the efforts here under this agreement, together with other efforts, are part of that commitment towards improvement of the educational

plant, the educational policy planning and the educational processes of this country.

I therefore commend this proposal to the House for its acceptance.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, I beg to second this and reserve my right to speak.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House be now suspended until 3.30 this afternoon. The reason for that extended suspension is because we have to travel off the premises for lunch.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.
2.10 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: When the sitting was suspended, the Honourable Leader of the House had completed his speech. Is there anyone else who wishes to speak on this?

The honourable Member for St. Thomas.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I will be very brief on this matter which, obviously, is not contentious.

Having sat here earlier today, I was heartened by the way in which the Honourable Leader of the House dealt with this Resolution. It showed his usual high quality of statesmanship, his sound intellect and grasp of the subject.

Asides

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am talking about the Leader of the House. I cannot say the same thing for the honourable Member who is sitting immediately on his right, but judging by previous performance, I think that today an object lesson was given in the way in which we expect Ministers to behave and to present matters in this Honourable House.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sure the honourable Member knows the Standing Orders.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am not reflecting on a vote, Sir. I was reflecting on a person, the Honourable Minister of Industry and Tourism, but I will pay heed to Your Honour's admonition.

I am indeed gratified that in his excellent presentation, the Honourable Minister of Education and Leader of the House was unable to find anything in the policy of the Barbados Labour Party to criticise. Historically, the question of World Bank Loans for Education go back to 1978 when, I think, it is correct to say, the Barbados Labour Party was the Government in power, and showed the type of progressive foresight in educational matters to ensure that in terms of the provision of educational infrastructure — if I may so classify the variety of projects for which this money is allocated — of this country is in place for many years.

It showed a certain sensitivity to the needs, particularly of primary school students, and I think implicit in all that the Minister said and all that, in fact, he has carried forward from the policy of the Barbados Labour Party, is that perhaps the population is declining. The birth rate is obviously declining. There are not so many children being born now and hence the need to amalgamate schools.

In my own constituency, speaking specifically of Hillaby Mixed — Turners Hall is not in the constituency although it is close by — I am told that the school population went from over two hundred and fifty-five down to less than one hundred. Turners Hall is a different problem. The actual physical structure of the Turners Hall School is now in a state of dilapidation and so we have to find a school for four hundred and twenty children that would accommodate children from Hillaby and those who presently, or in future will go to Hillaby and those who would go to Turners Hall, were it not for the present plans.

I do not believe that any better site could have been found than the present site near the Farmers pavilion and playing field with the possible exception of land — when one comes out of Farmers Plantation Yard there is land on the immediate left on a bit of an embankment which is an alternative site. It is on the main road and when one drives out from Farmers Plantation out on to the main road, instead of turning right, you turn left and it is right on your left on an embankment. That was the only site that was mentioned but when we met with the former Minister of Education and officials from the World Bank and from the Ministry last December at the site that was finally chosen, it was determined that that was the better site because it is off the main road, and not subject to a tremendous amount of vehicular traffic.

It already had a playing field nearby which the Government could easily arrange the use of the facilities with the National Sports Council which has the management and control of that playing facility. But, however you look at it, people would still have to walk some little distance to get to the schools.

Those who live in Airy Cot will have to come down the hill, and those who live in Hillaby would have, as it were, to come up the hill; similarly for the catchment area of Porey Spring/Dunscombe, children from that area. I think the Ministry has done its best in the circumstances, bearing in mind that the terrain in that general area is not terribly level, is not flat, tends to be undulating and hilly, and I believe that the soil conditions are indeed deep in some areas.

So I think that the public has to appreciate that both Governments have done their best to meet the need and, at the same time, to modernize the primary school system for the people in that area, and I congratulate both Governments on their foresight.

The Minister did not tell us anything about the plans for the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic and I do not know to what extent.....

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am told that it is in phase 2 so I perhaps should not dwell on that at this stage. That will come at a later stage.

I understand that a school is to be built at Wotton/Kingland, a secondary school, to serve the needs of twelve hundred children but, at the same time, there has been a very persistent rumour that Government had changed its mind about building a secondary school at Wotton/Kingsland. If Government has indeed changed its mind, in view of the fact that we have heard nothing, that I am aware of, from the Minister responsible for Education on this, perhaps in his reply he will be good enough as to clarify what is to be done about the secondary school in the Wotton/Kingsland area. He did mention it this morning but he did not say whether the present Government intends to continue that project at its former site.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Well, the former area that was designated. The Minister said Wotton/Kingsland.

Sir, there seems to be a concern in relation to the St. Boniface/Black Bess School, and I leave the honourable Member for St. Peter to deal with that in detail, but I seem to have detected during the Minister's presentation some concern about the distance that people have to walk to go to school. I would only say that as a boy of five years, I walked from the busstand to Wesley Hall School in King Street.

(Aside: Traffic was not so heavy.)

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Traffic was not so heavy? I was not so heavy either, and I used to walk from Dodds to St. Philip Boys' School with my friend, the Honourable Minister of Housing. We both were students at St. Philip Boys' School together.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I did not hear that the Minister of Housing did not go to school. If his performance represents a lack of.....

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You see, you are asking me to say something that I do not want to say about the Minister. He is begging for light. I am not going to be sarcastic about the Minister of Housing.
3.45 p.m.

I think that we have to be realistic and we have to, just as we said last week, not pander to every desire for a playing field in every little district. At the same time, we have to let the country know that we are doing our best in a small community to satisfy the needs, and the more I see of the children of today, the more I am convinced that unlike us when we were children growing up, they have eschewed any interest in recreational activity, playing games among themselves and doing physical exercise, because they have now been overtaken by the video, the night clubs and the discos, and somehow we have to recognise the modernity of the society and at the same time try and retain among the youth some of the — and I use a word that was used quite often today — “pristine” values which are good for young developing children. The physical development goes hand in hand with the mental development, and we must encourage that, rather than encourage them to wish that all get to school in motor cars or buses and so on.

I said I was going to be brief, and I just wanted to make the point to the Minister about Farmers, that we had looked at it and we thought that was the best we could do. If he wants to have a look at the other site that I mentioned, he is free to do so and that is really a decision about which there will be no quarrel if there was a decision to move it from next to the playing field and take it a little higher up the road, all in the same general area. I am obliged to you, Sir.

Mr. C. V. WALKER: Mr. Speaker, I rise to make a few important points to this debate, because one should notice right away that the Honourable Leader of the House in introducing the Resolution not intentionally, forgot to mention St. Augustine's Boys' and Girls'.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, on a point of elucidation, the honourable Member for St. George

North has given way. I did not unintentionally leave out any reference to schools in St. George, but the omission was intentional so that the Parliamentary Secretary would be able to have something to say.

Laughter.

Mr. C. V. WALKER: I thank you for the elucidation.

Mr. Speaker, earlier in the debate we heard the honourable Member for St. Thomas make the point, and indeed at some time he did ask questions about borrowing of money by this Government. It is interesting to hear him say subsequently that he was not intending to be contentious. Now I think the key word in this Resolution is "approval". It starts off by saying "To approve" and we must be clear that this is approval of a Resolution which was actually signed on 21st May, 1986 — the agreement.

Mr. Speaker, if we were to look at some of the contents of this Resolution, and indeed the Honourable Leader of the House did make the point that there will be some changes, the first thing we have to address is the whole question of Queens College. The reason why we will be looking at these things is because it is a very serious problem to construct any changes to Queens College in the amount of dollars that we were looking at which are almost equivalent to the cost of constructing a new school, and I think when we hear the Honourable Leader of the House make mention of the changes, we have to take that one into consideration.

Now when he spoke of distance and when the honourable Member for St. Thomas spoke of distance, I would like to get back again — and the honourable Member again did raise the question of St. Matthews — to St. Augustine's Boys' and St. Augustine's Girls'.

The honourable Member for St. Peter raised the question of St. Matthews because it was in their plan to amalgamate St. Augustine's Boys', St. Augustine's Girls', Clifton Hill and St. Matthews. Someone got wise enough to realise that you could not, and indeed only St. Thomas found itself in some document, but we know now that the agreement calls for only St. Augustine's Boys' and St. Augustine's Girls; so therefore there is no more St. Matthews.

The Leader of the House again did make the point that the project is under review, and in so doing

Aside.

Mr. C. V. WALKER: Yes, Wotton-Kingsland is under review. If the project is under review, Wotton-Kingsland will have to be under review because it is part

of the total project and if the project is under review the sum total of the whole will be under review.

There is also the problem of distance between schools, and again this was followed up by the honourable Member for St. Thomas who said that he saw no trouble with the distance of coming from Hillaby to Turners Hall or any of the schools, but we are now looking at putting four year-olds back into school, so we are concerned with four-year olds walking that distance. It is not like twenty or thirty years ago when there were no cars or traffic on the road, so we have to be concerned that the four-year olds who are going into school can travel in safety.

Now, Sir, there is one other point I would like to make. As was mentioned by the honourable Member for St. Thomas, we do not have to be contentious, and I hope that we would not hear that the Democratic Labour Party is coming into this House today to borrow \$21 million again, and we see the kind of headlines stating that we are now coming to borrow more money. I know that that will probably come from another honourable Member who may speak later, because that seems to be his course of action. However, Mr. Speaker, this forms part of the total project which totals \$45 million as was outlined with the \$16 million by the Barbados Government, \$19 million by the IADB and \$10 million by the IBRD. The first loan we know was completed, and as of March 31 this year some \$44 309 894 was spent of that loan, of which \$24 million was from the World Bank.

The Resolution for US\$10 million, Mr. Speaker, is the funding for the training, the equipment and the facilities section of the total project. As was mentioned before by the Leader of the House, the components were pretty much outlined by him, and I will not have to repeat them, except to say that the question was asked whether or not the Samuel Jackman Prescod was involved. Yes, there is upgrading of some schools including the Samuel Jackman Prescod, the Community College and Harrison College.

Now there are four things I would like to make clear. We are here asking for approval of this loan. Already we do not have to worry about the \$19 million because it is my understanding that an Act covers that, and we will not have to come back to ask for the \$19 million. It is already stated that the agreement was signed before and we are only confirming or legalising the action of May.
3.55 p.m.

And finally on that, I should like to say that when the final plan is devised by the Ministry, Members on both sides of this House and indeed members of the public of Barbados can be rest assured that it will be

done in the interest of the people of Barbados because that is the objective of this Government.

I would only like to state that there have been a few flaws, a few uncaring approaches to some of the plans, and if I were to look specifically at the St. Augustine plan. I think we were looking at building a school having acquired additional land and building a school in front of a school, then to pull down the old school and then to have waste land behind the school. I believe that we have to look at how we approach that and that is why again I state that the whole project is under review.

As I said earlier, the question of the distances whether it is between Mount Tabor and Cherry Grove, Selah and St. Swithin's or indeed as close by as St. Stephen's, and St. Stephen's when it comes to numbers, the Democratic Labour Party and this Government are making provision for the young people to be in school. And we must understand that with the young people in school, contrary to the general belief that the population will fall, contrary to the general belief that because of birth control that there will be less children; because there are more children going into school at that age, we will need places in those schools especially in the primary schools, the infant schools.

And ladies and gentlemen, Mr. Speaker,.....

Mr. SPEAKER: All Members here are honourable, not ladies and gentlemen, honourable Members.

Mr. CYRIL WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Asides

Mr. CYRIL WALKER: That is alright. I could rinse you out any time.

Aside.

Mr. CYRIL WALKER: This is no file, man. I could worry him. Oh, I could handle him any time, man.

(*Aside: Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Voice sounds good.*)

Mr. CYRIL WALKER: Mr. Speaker, we are committed, this Government is committed and will continue to provide the education for the children of Barbados. This Government is committed and will continue to expand the areas of education by the utilization of both phases within this second World Bank Project. Indeed, the components are all intended to enhance the capabilities of the students within the schools and the twenty-five thousand or so secondary children out there will be able to utilize these components to better enhance their capa-

bilities so that they will be better able to cope with the advances within the educational system in the near future.

I therefore will close by saying that there is support on my side for this Resolution and.....

Aside

Mr. CYRIL WALKER: we will endeavour to make the changes that are absolutely necessary to ensure that the best results are achieved by the utilization of the funds for which we now seek approval.

I thank you.

Applause.

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

Aside.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want first to disappoint the honourable Member for St. George North who seemed to have been expecting that on all matters pertaining to the increase of the national debt which really is increasing at a ferocious pace that I would find it necessary to say that I am opposed to borrowing by Government. But I have already made it clear to this House that I fully intend to support all foreign loans by this Government or any Government of Barbados which are designed to improve the social and economic welfare of the people of this country. And by any judgement and by any standards, Sir, this type of loan and this type of project falls within that frame, and I therefore have nothing but the greatest pleasure in supporting this loan, and also supporting it for the broad purpose for which it was intended and the broad purpose which will soon be given effect.

I want also, Mr. Speaker, to commend the Honourable Minister of Education for the manner in which he has sought to perpetuate the motion of the continuity of Government. We are one people, Sir, and in a sense we are one Government and we must not always put before the people of Barbados the view that initiatives taken by one Administration are necessarily wrong and must be abruptly reviewed, if I may use the word that has become so current, Sir, meaning dropped when once an Administration succeeds another Administration.

And I say that, Sir, if only to say this, that I would only hope that the foresight and the balance that obviously exists in the Ministry of Education in relation to projects falling within my constituency could also find its way into the Ministry of Agriculture where certain other projects falling within my constituency are concerned.

I want to commend to the House, Sir, that the need to amalgamate the Speightstown Boys' and the Speightstown Girls' Schools is a pressing need, based upon the consideration that both schools are inadequately located, cannot possibly be expanded in the present location and.....

Aside.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mrs. Leacock was saying that from the time she was a girl at Speightstown Girls' School in nineteen twenty something.

Laughter.

Mr. O.S. ARTHUR: But the point is, Sir, that I am very pleased that the Ministry of Education is going to give effect to the plan by the Barbados Labour Party to amalgamate the Speightstown Boys' and the Speightstown Girls' Schools at a site at Battaleys, and I must also say, Sir, that I am pleased by the decision of the Ministry of Education to retain the Black Bess School in Black Bess. I have no intention whatsoever of allowing Black Bess to be absorbed into St. James North. It should be the other way around, Sir, I know how jealously the people of Black Bess feel about their school and I really believe that that decision is a sound decision which would find wide support.

Aside.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: On larger matters, Sir, beyond the constituency, this World Bank Education Project has really been conceived and drafted with a view not only to expanding and improving the infrastructure in the educational sector, but also to attend to a large number of other qualitative matters which can improve the quality of education in this country.

And I really want to urge upon the House and the Ministry that we must beware of not focussing too much on the infrastructural aspects of this project, important as they may be, and that we should equally give some consideration to the training and other qualitative aspects of this project which to my mind are of equal importance, because education and educational development consist not in the number of new schools that we build, but it consists in a broader sense in the measures that we take at the level of training, the broadening of curricula and things of that character to prepare a group of young people to take their rightful place in our economic system and also to be worthy citizens of this society.

4.05 p.m.

And I am, therefore, very hopeful that when the Minister of Education comes to wind up that he will expose to us what is the status of Government's plans in relation to the other aspects of the project that go beyond the purely infrastructural aspects of it which have been so clearly outlined to the House today.

I really believe, Sir, as I have said earlier that we must see education beyond just the dimension of building

schools. I recognize that if there is a crisis in our educational system it has to do not so much with the character of the structures but it has fundamentally to do with the quality of the personnel, scope for training, the nature of our curricula and the relevance of the staff and the curricula in the age in which we exist today and the age in which we are likely to exist in the immediate future, and since that was an additional aspect of this project, Sir, the provision of technical assistance and training for about one thousand five hundred teachers, technical assistants and training of one hundred and fifty managers and five hundred school teachers for the improvement in educational planning and so on, rationalization of the teaching of special subjects and the upgrading and expansion of training facilities at the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic to the extent that those were also fundamental aspects of this project which to my mind weigh as heavily as the infrastructural aspects of the project — I would really welcome the Minister's position as to where those projects stand within the context of the review that is now being undertaken by the Ministry of Education.

I want to close, Sir, by saying that there is a very important cultural aspect of our education in Barbados which the Minister has a very wonderful opportunity to bring to public attention in so far as we have now made an arrangement to have the Ministry of Education amalgamated with the Ministry of Culture.

Now Sir, if you had seen recent reports on the educational system in Japan, you would recognize that the tremendous leap forward being made by Japan in the area of education has fundamentally to do with the role of teachers and the status of teachers in the Japanese society. The evidence is that the school teachers in Japan fall within the upper 10 per cent income earners of the Japanese society, and they enjoy a social standing in that society which perhaps is not parallel by any other class in the Japanese society. So important is the role attached to the school teacher in Japan.

I very much regret, Mr. Speaker, speaking very frankly that the historical role and the historical status enjoyed by our school teachers in this society in both financial terms as well as social terms has gone into some decay. This is the truth, and I really feel that if we are to put education in the kind of pivotal role that it must enjoy in this society that we must

Aside.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: I do not care who does it — apparently you do. I do not care who does it. But we must begin to put the role of school teachers and the status of school teachers on a footing that reflects the importance that we in this society attach to education.

And I really want to recommend to the Minister of Education that the history of the old primary school

teachers is an important part of our social history which ought to be told. It really recommends itself to my mind as a tremendous project which should be commended to the National Cultural Foundation.

You go through the rural society of Barbados, Sir, and people identify themselves in terms of having gone to school under Thorne or under Barrow or under Barker and so on. I went to school under Thorne and Thorne and that those gentlemen and ladies, Sir, performed such a cohesive role in the societies in which they operated, and were such important influences on the character of their students and the character of the society in which they existed, that I believe that we will be making a tremendous error at this point in time if we were not to faithfully record and pay tribute to the very tremendous role that, particularly the old primary school teachers performed in the history and the development of the society, and I cannot think when I try to reflect on the scope of the culture that we are trying to develop and promote — I cannot think of any more worthy exercise than for us to set down for posterity the role of the old primary school teachers in the development of the Barbadian society.

We have heard a lot about the role of the politicians, and we will hear a lot about the role of the businessmen but we must I think be faithful to that class of persons who has done so much for Barbados and begin to recognize the cultural, social, and economic role that they have played in making Barbados what it has become.

I am also of the view that we must also seek to attract into education and retain in education a cadre of persons who reflect the type of importance we attach to education. We may not be able to reach the situation of Japan where the school teacher is among the highest paid persons in the society, but I want the Government to know that I certainly will have no difficulty myself supporting any type of position whereby the top secondary school teachers in this society are put on par or even above the level of Permanent Secretaries because their responsibility in a management sense — I really fundamentally believe this — that their responsibility in a management sense, their responsibility in terms of the shaping of the lives of young people and their ultimate effects in generating economic prosperity in the future is as great as that to which we assign to Permanent Secretaries in this society.

It perhaps, Sir, may not be the best formula, but I think that we have to give very serious consideration to how we can again seek to attract back to the teaching profession the cream of the society such that the type of fundamental social development role that the old school teachers played in Barbados in previous years can

become a reality for the immediate future and into the distant future.

With those words, Sir, I again want to thank the Minister for not following the very rocky road being trod by the Minister of Agriculture. I thank him most profoundly for recognizing that we in St. Peter are people too, and that I look forward to the amalgamation of the Speightstown Boys' and Speightstown Girls' as intended by the Barbados Labour Party becoming a reality in the very near future.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. C. L. TROTMAN: When three weeks ago, Mr. Speaker, I had the honour to address for the first time this august Assembly honourable Members on both sides were kind enough to say some very kind things about me — kind things I hope they will be prepared to say at the end of today's session especially after you have dealt with Transport and Works.
4.15 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, I expected nothing less from my own side, because after all it is partly their fault that I am entrusted to this constituency as the representative of St. Michael Central, but the Opposition was kind enough to be very gracious, and I promise them that I shall endeavour at all times to ensure that my contributions are contributions of integrity and purpose.

It is for that reason, Sir, that I would wish to compliment the honourable Member for St. Peter for making reference to the cultural heritage which we have in education brought about by the primary school teachers. I can only express regret that because of this business of cutting up and making constituencies, I am not able to speak for primary school teachers in a parochial manner. I have only to make reference to the Combermere School if I speak parochially.

In passing I would merely wish to say that since we are talking about a few million dollars, it would help a little bit if the Minister of Education were able in passing to drop some of the blessings on the Combermere School which could do with some refurbishment, and especially if he were to allow for some additional placements at the level of those persons doing the Advanced Level subjects.

It is really regrettable that those persons who have gone to school at Combermere who got the requisite number of 'O' Level passes are not able to continue to do their Advanced Level subjects at that school because of the problems of placements, and I would wish that one

day we might be able to reverse that situation and have Combermere fulfil its proper role as catering to the needs of those persons who went through the Combermere School from the first form to the fifth.

Aside

Mr. C. L. TROTMAN: I am asked, Mr. Speaker, to remember that I am a pupil of the Foundation School and that I should in passing.....

Aside

Mr. C. L. TROTMAN: On both sides of the House, Mr. Speaker, there is respect for Foundation School and I would wish my colleague from St. Michael West to bear that in mind. Foundation School would need a bit of the drippings and the blessings as well, Sir, and I hope that we shall remember that.

Although I support the Resolution, Mr. Speaker, I would wish to make mention of one or two areas that are of concern to me. I am pleased to notice that BIMAP is going to benefit from the programme for expanding the educational needs of Barbados, but I would wish to have the Minister of Education recognise that there are other institutions equally involved in the upgrading and improvement of general educational needs in Barbados and training needs in our country, and in that respect I wish to make reference to the Barbados Workers' Union Labour College where the subvention was very rudely and untimely cut back, and where there is definite need for a recognition of the tremendous role which that institution plays in the training and upgrading of the workers of our country.

Especially since we recognise that some time, not too long ago, another institution involved in the training of workers in Barbados reported that it was given significant subventions, it is very important that the Minister of Education recognise that the Trade Union with the largest membership, training the largest number of workers in the country, workers involved in the productive capacity of our country, should be receiving a better subvention than that which is now being received.

I wish as well, Mr. Speaker, to make reference to the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, and to suggest that the impression comes through to persons who like myself might not be properly initiated, that there is a certain overlap between the curriculum and the work which is being done at the Polytechnic and the work which is being done at the Barbados Community College. Whereas, Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to accept that an overlap is acceptable, I would wish to suggest that unnecessary repetition is not in anybody's best interest.

I would therefore urge the Minister to look into the matter where there may be overlap and to ensure that where overlapping may be taking place — as an example, in the training of typists and/or stenographers — that in such areas where there may be unnecessary overlap, that that is removed to the greater efficiency of both organisations.

Still with the matter of training, but now with reference to the Barbados Community College, it is my understanding that there are certain staff concerns which might very well be properly addressed at this time. Those staff concerns relate to the span of teaching hours which currently is in existence, the scope of teaching and the training which teachers at the Barbados Community College are being called upon to exercise and the level of remuneration especially in areas like the hospitality and technology and engineering departments, levels which when compared with private sector levels leave the Community College in a situation where it cannot continue to attract the kinds of persons, the cadre of teaching staff that it may wish to attract.

I wish to make two other observations, Mr. Speaker. One is to express satisfaction at noting that the Minister of Education, although having a major plan for educational re-organisation, has got down to the nuts and bolts and has not forgotten to involve teachers and parents in the exercise of planning for at least one of the schools. I would wish to suggest that that one plan which relates to the Queen's College School where, according to him, the parents and teachers will be involved in decision making regarding where to put the school, and I suppose in ancillary matters as well that it may be necessary in those areas where review is still being undertaken to look at those Parent/Teachers Associations or any other organisations within the communities which may help to impact on the final decision that is to be taken. For after all, Mr. Speaker, where a school is put is not only a matter for those of us who have the opportunity to sit in this Chamber, but very closely and intimately relates to the people who will send their children to the schools.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I wish to express some concern for the matter of the skills training programme which there currently is, and which I believe is going to be addressed in the monies which will be available to us very shortly.

I am concerned at the system of training which because of its modular nature limits the potential worker only to specific job functions. It is my view that where a person is trained only in a very narrow area of work, trained for example only to make collars or only to put up cement blocks, that that limits the capacity of that individual to work adequately. It will lead to job aliena-

tion, it will lead to apathy, there will be a resultant loss in job enrichment, and in so far as our country is concerned, there would be a lack of labour productivity which I believe would be the bottom line for many people who are here.
4.25 p.m.

I would like therefore to suggest, Mr. Speaker, that efforts should be made within the limited training which is available to allow for widening exposure within the breadth of the training programmes for those persons who go into the Skills Training Programme and in that way we may be able to make out of the funding that becomes available for better usage by the people of Barbados of the skills which are available to us.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for St. Michael South East.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I would just like to make a few observations.

The honourable Member for St. Thomas in his contribution made reference to the fact that it was their party who first implemented the project of loans for the development of schools, and I like constantly to say that we in this country, that is a developing country, must think more about the development of people and less about the erection of buildings. It is a fact that they might have implemented a programme for the putting up of new buildings, but we must get away from the concept of buildings and think more about the development of people.

I would like to place on record that it was the Democratic Labour Party that brought about the most fundamental changes in the philosophy of education in this country and that, of course, was the concept of free education. I think that as a manifestation of that profound change which took place in this country.

If we were to look at the 1976 Manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party which I think is already a document of this House, on Page 13 it says this, in the third section:

"Entry to the Secondary Schools is still regulated by the Common Entrance Examination (Commonly known as the Eleven Plus) although it is clearly established that this means of selection has been discarded the world over"

And on Page 14 it goes on to say that there would be abolition of the Common Entrance Examination which is called the 11+.

This was a pledge which they gave to the people of this country in 1976, but after ten years they were unable to replace the 11+ examination of which they

were so critical by any substitute examination. That shows the depth of the educational change that had taken place between the years 1966 and 1976. In addition to not abolishing the 11+, they added the special paper to the 11+ making it more difficult for the children.

I am heartened to hear in this debate the Honourable Minister of Education saying that he was taking a second look at the placing of schools because a consideration would be given to the distance that children would have to travel in order to attend schools. But, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to make a few points because this will not be the first of such a project. Schools were built by the former administration under this project, and I want to make mention of the Luther Thorne School in the constituency of St. Michael South East, and I want to say that there are some very unfortunate things that have happened at that school.

When this school was built, children especially from the poor neighbourhoods, some of those who were going to Erdiston Model School and a couple of them happen to be godchildren of mine, so I can speak with authority, were yanked out of the Erdiston Model School on the last day of term when their parents went to collect them, they were given letters saying that their children were no longer pupils of the Erdiston Model School but that they would have to go to the Luther Thorne School. These children were within walking distance of the Erdiston Model School, and so the following term the children went to the Luther Thorne School.

Now we have a situation where there has been zoning placed at the Luther Thorne School, and this zoning excludes most of the people in the Pine and Wildey area who are within walking distance of that school, and it has gone so far, Mr. Speaker, that you have children who are in the 3rd and 4th Standards, and their little brothers and sisters are told that they cannot go to school with their bigger brothers and sisters because they are not within the zoning area. I say this because, again, when we put up buildings we must think about people.

I have no open criticism about people coming from St. Philip and Christ Church and dropping their children off at the Luther Thorne School. I understand that it is convenient for them, but it puts the people who live around the area at a definite psychological disadvantage, creating an inferiority complex when you build new buildings within an area, and then say to the people who live within that area, you are not entitled to the facilities which are next to you.

Therefore, I say that I am glad to hear that there is great emphasis placed in the fact that in putting down these schools, consideration is given to the fact that the

children are within walking distance of the school, and I am asking the Honourable Minister of Education on the floor of this Honourable House to look seriously at the zoning policies concerning that Luther Thorne Memorial School which is causing severe psychological conflict to the people within that area and I may add, parenthetically that that is not the only Government institution within that immediate area that has caused problems.

There is also the Wildey Polyclinic where a similar situation has existed. So we have always to think carefully about the building of the society rather than the erection of buildings. And despite the fact that the children from the surrounding areas have been excluded from the schools, we still have a problem where after two or three years that the Luther Thorne Memorial School is in existence, it is already overcrowded, and I think that not enough attention was paid to the demographic situation existing within that area, and so you have a brand new school with a stack of books which was intended for a library, and the young children in that school are unable to avail themselves of a space within the school where they can go and sit down and read.

If we are interested about education, we cannot see a school only as a building, but a school must be an environment in which the youth of this country must develop and, therefore, I would like to see, as I would like to see now added to the Luther Thorne School, facilities where the four and five year olds can have access to a library, can have access to proper playing fields so that they can develop their minds and bodies.

It is not only a matter of putting up buildings. I have continually to be saying that, but we must also look in these projects at maintenance which continues to be a problem within these areas.
4.35 p.m.

If again you were to take the Luther Thorne School as an example, you will recognise that the teachers there are already crying out for additional space to house the children. So, Mr. Speaker, I, in supporting the proposals put forward by the Honourable Minister, am quite sure that these points which I have made will be taken into consideration, and the fundamental issues whenever we finish, will be that development and the educational accent must be paid to the children of this country. I thank you.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Mr. Speaker, I could not miss the opportunity to make a contribution to this debate if for no other reason than that I am a teacher myself, and at the outset I would want to comment on the contribution made by the honourable Member for St. Peter when he was speaking about the situation as obtains in Japan. He adverted to one aspect of that situation in so far as it can impact upon ours in Barbados, when he said that

the teachers enjoyed a station in Japan society which ranks I think in the first 10 per cent of the population. As a result of that they have a kind of dedication, I believe, which is unheard of in these parts. I hope, Sir, I am not doing any violence to his view, but that is as I understood it.

I would also go a little further and add to that that when we are looking at the Japanese situation and Japanese models in an effort to find out and discover whether they can be transplanted into our system, we have got to look at the environment that operates or obtains in Japan. Japanese society by its very nature is a very rigid society. It is a monocultural society as well.

I do not think we can say that ours is monocultural or for that matter a rigid society. Our society in Barbados and in the broader West Indian context is a society that is in a sense tarnished by western views and western values, and we have got to look at it in that context that we might not be able to achieve the kinds of gains as the Japanese system achieves because of these two reasons, that we are not monocultural and also that we are not a rigid society. We have a measure of freedom in our society among our young people that is unheard of in Japan, and that is one of the reasons why for example the children in the Japanese schools do very well in early maths. We cannot say the same thing in Barbados, but it can also be said that in Japan the school year is longer, two hundred and forty days as against our one hundred and eighty on average in Barbados. These reasons go a long way in explaining the tremendous gains that have been made in Japanese society in early education, and I said early education for a very good reason. The reason is that, and it has been shown, and the latest that I have read on the situation as early as last night before I went off to bed, in the Japanese society the elementary school children when they go into college slacken a lot. They make tremendous gains early in their lives and then in their teenage lives they slacken a lot, like when they are at the college level. It is not the same thing in our society. I think we tend to pick up when we get into the college levels as against what obtains in Japan. So whilst I admire the gains made by the Japanese, we still have to look at their situation very carefully.

Now, Sir, on matters more parochial, I am very glad that the Cherry Grove School will remain in its present situation and that the facilities there will be upgraded. Cherry Grove is in St. John; that section of St. John is a part of my constituency. It was added on when the gerrymandering took place some time ago. I am certain that the honourable Member for St. Thomas can give a more reasoned comment on that, but I am glad that attention will be paid to the Cherry Grove situation and that there will be no amalgamation of the Cherry Grove School and Mount Tabor School, because the pupils from

these schools would have to walk much too distant to get to one or the other school. To make the situation as equitable as possible, I could only have seen the school being set up somewhere in Wakefield, and we know that this is a very prime agricultural spot and I do not think the authorities would want to acquire prime agricultural land to build a school.

But, Sir, more importantly, I would want to comment on the St. George Secondary School. The St. George Secondary School is not within my constituency; it is within the St. George North constituency, but I would want to say something about it because I believe half of the school population of St. George Secondary School comes from St. George South constituency. Now, Sir, that school is in need of repair. That is there for everyone to see, but my concern is a more fundamental one. I am not so much concerned with the building itself. I am concerned, Sir, with the level of discipline that obtains at that school. I know for a fact that many of the children who go to school at St. George Secondary School are in need of help. It is a school where, I am told, there is a rampant drug problem, and Sir, I am expressing these concerns because I think it is important for us to express them.

I believe that the St. George Secondary School — I am speaking with great sincerity when I say this — is the neglected secondary school in the secondary school system in this Island. It now has a new Board and I hope that the Board will tackle the problems there with the resoluteness and sincerity with which I think they should be tackled. The children who go to St. George Secondary School are from some of the poorest homes in our country, and that can tell its own story.

I am worried, Sir, that the system of education that we have will eventually lead to an elite society. I am very concerned about that, so that when I heard calls being made recently for the free education system to be discontinued, I was at once very afraid. I think that the system of free education should continue because it is my fervent belief that the state has a responsibility to provide its citizens with education even if the state has to pay for it.

So I would hope that this Government that I am part of would not want to discontinue the system of free education in as much as it is one of the cornerstones of the system of democracy as practised by the Democratic Labour Party.

I must also make mention of the Barbados Community College and in doing so I must support what the honourable Member for St. Michael Central has said about that institution. It is the institution at which I presently teach, and I am very familiar with the salaries negotiations that went as far back as probably before 1980. I

know that on occasion the honourable Member himself has lent voice to our battle stations.
4.45 p.m.

The situation there, Sir, at that institution — and the Honourable Leader of the House, the Member for St. Michael South can also speak with great authority on this — is that teachers there have to teach in the afternoon hours beginning at 5.30 p.m. sometimes finishing as late as 9.00 o'clock. They also have to teach during the day, Sir. So in the daytime when you start teaching for example at 9.00 o'clock, you could very well be leaving the College that very evening at 9.00 o'clock, and this, to my mind, Sir, is not good enough when it is seen that they are not receiving any benefits. The teachers at the Barbados Community College are not receiving any benefits for the fact that they have to teach at ungodly hours. They have to be teaching when teachers at some of the other secondary schools, have long gone home, had their dinner, cuddle up before television and they can decide what television show they want to watch, "Days of Our Lives" or whatever.

Now, Sir, in conclusion I should like to raise the question of what the Ministry intends to do with many of the school buildings that would now be vacant. My own views, Sir, is that the school buildings in many of these districts should be turned over or handed over in an orderly fashion, in some structured way, to the residents of those districts because in a lot of cases the residents of the districts have a very intimate contact with those schools, and I think that something could be done in that regard. We have the constant need for more cultural centres and so on and I think that the old school buildings or the now discontinued school buildings could be put to that kind of use. In some cases I am aware that some of the school buildings are church property but maybe those buildings could also be acquired from the churches, where this is so, for that purpose.

And in conclusion I would finally, Sir, like to register my support for the Resolution and for the aims that it has set out to achieve.

Applause.

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

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have had a reasonably wide-ranging debate, a considerable part of it parochial, but a lot of it with good common sense. I think I am correct in saying that despite the differences between the Parties in this country that there is a large amount of agreement on the amount which must be spent on education in Barbados, and on the role which education must play.

In a recent review of a debate which took place in the last Parliament, Dr. Shorey highlighted some of the major areas of agreement between the two Parties. And I am not going, at this late stage in the debate, to belabour those points here in this House.

But perhaps the most exciting debate I have listened to on education was conducted in the last Parliament on an occasion when the former Prime Minister and the present Prime Minister both led off in that Debate. We had contributions from both sides of the House including the Honourable Minister of Finance, I remember distinctly, the Honourable Minister of Industry as well and a few other speakers, and at the end of the day, certainly, I felt very happy that the persons who have the political reins of Government in their hands, either on the Government side or on the Opposition were focussing on the major problems confronting a Barbados that was moving into the Twenty-First Century and preparing its people for a better quality of life.

I think, Sir, that the statement made then by honourable Members about the continuation of this project underscores the degree to which there is a consensus on most matters educational. And I believe that it is correct as the honourable Member for St. Thomas has said to say that the Minister has brought his perspicacity for which he is well known and his grasp of educational matters in looking at this project. I am sure that he will bring it to look on many other projects.

There are some aspects of his review with which, as he has heard, we have indicated agreement. I can warn him that one area of his review that will have its strong opponents and proponents is the moving of Queen's College. There are those who feel that there is a strong historical link between the present Queen's College and its site and that the tradition in that area should be continued. And this view is held not merely by some of the parents but it is the view held by some of the teachers as well, and other members in the community.

The problem unfortunately with Queen's College is that the physical development of the surrounding area has been allowed over the years to continue without any regard to the fact that at some stage or other Queen's College would have to be expanded and upgraded. One must recall that Queen's College has for several years shared joint facilities with Harrison College and no doubt its removal to a new site would put an end to that exercise.

One of the things we have to bear in mind as we plan educational development for the future is the necessity to share more and more joint facilities between our schools and between our communities. And I hope that whatever site is chosen for the new Queen's College that it should be possible for the improved facilities for

that school to be used not only by Queen's College but also by other schools in the surrounding areas and by the community at large as well.

There is no doubt that Barbados has come a long way in many respects because of its educational system. I certainly would like to join my voice to that of the honourable Members who have underscored the outstanding role played in this community by the primary school teacher. I am myself a product of the primary school and like the honourable Member for St. Peter, I number my days back to C.B. Jackman. I think the honourable Member for Christ Church West Central, the honourable Junior Minister in the Prime Minister's Office, Senator Morrison, a whole host of us passed through that school system. And if there is one regret which I have, Sir, despite the strides which we have made in Barbados and despite the widening of the middle class, it is that we are in danger of cutting off some of our people — one section of our people — from another section at the time when we need to cement our community.

The honourable Member for St. Michael South East spoke about the system of zoning affecting the Erdiston Model School and the Luther Thorne. It is possible nowadays that the children of middle class parents no longer see some of the primary schools as the places to which their children should go to school. Part of the problem with the Luther Thorne now is that Luther Thorne is now considered for a certain type of black middle class person as one of the elite primary schools, in the same way that the Erdiston Model School or St. Cyprian's is considered an elite school. And so rather than having a fusion of the classes with the aim of breaking down in this country the class structure that we are in danger of having our new middle class isolate ourselves in our terraces and various areas themselves — in the new terraces, et cetera ourselves and themselves — rather than mixing as those of us who came up in the 1940's and 1930's and the early 1950's mixed across the whole spectrum of society.
4.55 p.m.

The honourable Member for St. Michael South East has spoken on this subject on several occasions, and I have listened to him with interest, because it is in my view a dimension of the development in the Barbados society that one must take very seriously into consideration as a planner for the future. One of the reasons for zoning is to prevent this from occurring. We cannot have in our school system either at the secondary level or at the primary level an elitism which is going to place greater pressure on the class structure. God knows very well that we have had to fight battles of privilege and colour in many respects and if the new problem is going to be class, those of us who now have responsibility for the future of Barbados must ensure that we keep that bogie in its correct place.

Luther Thorne, Sir, when it was originally conceived was conceived as catering for eight hundred and forty children, and the primary catchment areas were the Pine for which the honourable Member has spoken, part of Brittons Hill, Flagstaff, Clapham Park, part of Wildey, and part of the Sargeants Village area. Luther Thorne was reduced from the eight hundred and forty to about six hundred and thirty. What has happened is because the facilities were new and were of such a high standard Luther Thorne is now catering for children coming from South District, from parts of St. Philip — the honourable Member is quite right on this — from St. Davids and Cox Road, from other areas of Christ Church particularly in the terraces and what not, and the children in the surrounding areas who come from a lower socio-economic bracket are finding it difficult — the honourable Member is quite right — to get school places here. Now we can either tackle this by a rigid zoning at the moment or we can seek to improve the physical and other conditions in the primary schools that there will be little benefit in having children moved for long distances.

A couple of weeks ago I was talking to a couple of primary school teachers and asking for instance about a school like Society in St. John where I hope someday to send my infant son to school, and I was told: "That school cannot be rated as Erdiston Model. Why don't you now apply at this stage for your son to go to Erdiston Model?" Now Sir, I believe that all of our schools should be on the level of Erdiston Model, should be on the level of the Luther Thorne in order to prevent this from happening, because you can conceivably get to the stage where the children of the lawyers, doctors, computer technicians, the middle class as a whole find themselves isolated from the balance of the society and they are not going to be able to keep Barbados as a homogeneous society any longer.

Make no mistake about it — I am not pretending that the question of privilege and colour has been settled. But we have a serious problem of class as well which is beginning to raise its ugly head in the society, and I will counsel the Minister, as I know that I have heard him philosophically on these questions himself, to make sure in the planning in education that we prevent this from occurring in our society.

I am going to appeal with the honourable Member for St. Michael South East for consideration to be given to ensuring that the problems that are arising at Luther Thorne cease, Sir. I feel a little bit responsible in a way for the selection of the Luther Thorne site, Sir. I think that the officials in the Ministry would say that I walked throughout the length and breadth of that area with them to identify an area for the school, and although I would have loved it in my constituency, Sir, I recognized that the land area and the bigger catchment area was in St. Michael South East.

Now Sir, St. Matthias is dear to my heart for various reasons. One of them is, of course, the long devotion given by me to that area. But there is no doubt that the Minister will give the utmost priority to ensuring that St. Matthias is one of the first two under the World Bank project that will be completed. He will see, Sir, that the Government has the land there already. But that is not the only reason. The crowded conditions at the St. Matthias School and the lack of adequate facilities — even toilet facilities — really sort of makes one shutter at how our educational plant has reached the stage to which the educational plant has reached.

The honourable Member for St. Thomas is quite correct. We have a declining infant population if we project ourselves into the 21st century. Our school population looks as though it is falling, and one of the reasons why we have been amalgamating is to bring greater efficiency into the school system, better management, and at the same time cater to the falling numbers.

In fact, were it not perhaps, Mr. Speaker, for the large influx of immigrants into Barbados in the last few years, and for the large number of children of Barbadians who are residents overseas returning to the island, we would even have to amalgamate more rapidly. I think that statistics show that one-sixth — and perhaps the Minister may be able to confirm this — of the current school population — new people coming into the school system — are either the children of immigrants who have come to Barbados only recently or they are Barbadian children returning into the system born of Barbadian parents resident overseas. About one-sixth, I think, the figure is as high as this from the information which I had, and we have to recognize that our success in population planning is having an implication for the school system in the future as well. And the point made by the honourable Member for St. Michael South East in a debate when he spoke last week or week before is that we are at the other end of the scale, getting an Asian population that is living longer. Whereas we are having less people in the under 25, we are getting more in the over 50 and over 65 age groups. So our planners have tremendous problems ahead of them.

Now Sir, with the construction of new schools there will be retirement of school plant. Some of this plant belongs to the Anglican Church, Moravian Church, and the Methodist Church.
5.05 p.m.

The Government is under an obligation to restore that plant to the respective churches in as good a condition as possible, and I have no doubt that the Minister will take that fact into consideration when he returns these buildings, and particularly the St. Matthias' Boys' School to the church parish of St. Matthias at the time,

but there will still be one building which is owned by the Government, that is the St. Matthias Girls' School.

I understand training comes within the Minister's portfolio, so I wonder whether he has yet started to give consideration to the use of the St. Matthias Girls' School. At the end of the day, what is he going to do with that building? I can think of using the building for an upgraded skills training programme in the area, and I hope that he is in a position to state that, or that if he is not, that some consideration will be given in future to that as well.

Sir, this is only a small part of the total supplies which we will be providing in this House for education. There are other on going projects, one of which must be the constant maintenance of the school plant. The honourable Member for St. George South spoke about the St. George Secondary School. I recognise that in the Capital Estimates about \$300 000 was provided to carry out some repairs to St. George Secondary School during the coming year, and I hope that the Minister of Finance will not put his reviewing knife through that subvention having heard from one of his members speaking about the need for work being carried out there. So I would caution the Minister to listen to his back benchers to see that it is not always possible to cut out these things out of the Estimates because there is a need.

But once again one of the problems which the honourable Member has underlined has to do with how we conceive of our school system. Some secondary schools are still looked at by people as more equal than other secondary schools. There is still a heavy emphasis of everybody wanting to go to Harrison College or Queen's College with St. Michael's — and I do not know whatever is third and fourth — and Combermere being third and fourth.

People do not recognise that today in terms of performance and results, a school like Ellerslie is performing much better than some of the older secondary schools. The examination results show this, and Ellerslie is only one of those schools that have come a long way under very good school management, and I believe that we should be putting a lot of emphasis on improving the management in the educational plant, so that we will see more and more that our children are not putting pressure, as pressure is put on politicians to phone in the Ministry, to write letters to get a child transferred from one school into another school.

For instance, there was a time when, the Minister will know, it is in his constituency, the Garrison Secondary School was not as highly thought of as some of the

other secondary schools. Today the performance of the Garrison Secondary School has improved tremendously, and it is no longer getting those who come at the lower end of the Common Entrance Examination. That is another point we have to underscore.

The schools which have the greatest subventions and perhaps the better educational management teams should be schools which are prepared to take some of the late achievers and turn them into excellent scholars. We cannot always believe that those at the top must be creamed off for the Harrison Colleges — and that is my college, I am not running it down — leaving those at the bottom to go to the schools that we believe are not as socially acceptable as Harrison College or Queen's College.

I think that is wrong in a system, and I am strongly against elitism in education, because I believe that that is where the danger takes place and where the society becomes very divisive, and I think we have to guard most strenuously without offending the public's feeling on this matter. We have to do it with sensitivity, but we have a duty to educate the public that in the long run Barbados is not going to be properly served if we have an elite system going right through the school system here at the primary and secondary levels.

So, Sir, it is my pleasure to agree with the Resolution. I believe it is valuable for the country to borrow money for an investment which will pay off socially and economically in the future. Nobody can quarrel about this.

I am never one of those who subscribe to the view that we must today pay for everything that we are investing to get fruits in the future. The honourable Member smiles because he has heard me on this, Sir. Today's generation cannot pay the whole bill for people who are going to be enjoying the benefits down the line. When we build a new Queen's College, fifty years hence, seventy-five years hence people are going to be enjoying the benefit of the decision being made in this House today, and those who come seventy-five years from now must be prepared to carry part of the cost.

That is my view on public financing and borrowing. It is my view, it is a correct view, for one thing we have to be careful that we do not pamper our citizens.

The honourable Member for St. Lucy whom I taught, Sir, never learnt the lesson of keeping quiet.

Laughter.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I taught him quite well, Sir, it was not the difficulty of the training, it was the hardness of the brain in being receptive. He is saying *sotto voce* that that is not a point, but it is the point. Oh, I

am sorry, I misunderstood him. It is not a contribution to knowledge. In other words, he is aware of it as well. Sometimes though, Sir, what he is not aware of is that the Member to his right is not fully aware of that concept, or politically believes that he is not aware of it.

So, Sir, what I am saying, and I make the point — he was a good pupil — I am making the point that we must try to make those for whom we are providing conscious of the sacrifice which is being made for them in the system.

Just an aside for the honourable Member for St. George South, Sir. The honourable Member spoke about Cherry Grove. Cherry Grove is very dear to us, and I am pleased that arrangements are going to be made to ensure that the Cherry Grove children are happy. I hope that they are going to get their facilities upgraded. The honourable Member will note that it is only since Cherry Grove came over to St. George South that real development has started to take place there. Had it remained, Sir, as part of St. John, for instance, the honourable Member will recognise that it might not have had any roads, despite the fact that it has the longest serving Member in Parliament. The honourable Member will know that, and in fact I want to commend the honourable Member for St. George South when he was the canvasser for Senator Louis Tull for recommending that Cherry Grove should come over.

Laughter.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Sir, on a point of order. I must set the record straight.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: We are having the vision to put it into St. John.
5.15 p.m.

I did not realize that part of the problem was that Cherry Grove should go to Mr. Tabor, because there is a cross country difficulty there but, perhaps, one of the things we have to look at as well and, then again, Sir, this is the total planning, is how we stage and organize our bus system to cater for these problems.

I recall that in the Ministry of Transport some consideration was given to providing a special fleet of buses for the school system and, maybe, if the transport plans took into account fully the educational developments that we will find that it is possible to carry these amalgamations without causing inconvenience to the pupils. That is only one point that I want to make on total economic planning in this country, the relationship that goes between the different sub-sectors.

I am glad that there is enough agreement here. I am sure the Minister is going to answer all of the statements that have been made.

I want to say that the honourable Member for St. Michael Central made some vital contributions on the question of continuing education and adult education.

I will end on this point. At some stage when we have a longer time, perhaps, at the stage of the Estimates, I think that honourable Members will have to give greater thought to the provision and the emphasis which we must place now on continuing education for the future, not only for upliftment, intellectual and otherwise, but also for the creation of employment and the effect it is going to have on economic development in this country.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for St. Michael North East.

Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, this debate has gone on for quite some time, but in spite of the fact that the Honourable Minister did not make mention of the St. Matthew's amalgamation, this did creep into the debate. What was very surprising, Sir, was for me to get the impression that it was thought by the previous Government that it would have been necessary to remove the only primary school in the St. Michael North East constituency, and to amalgamate it in a St. George setting that is a couple of miles out of the St. Michael North East constituency. That seems, Sir, to bring me to a very serious consideration of the kind of treatment that seemed to have been meted out to the people of that constituency.

I am very concerned, Sir, because there was a primary school at the Grace Hill Moravian setting that was subsequently removed to the new Lawrence T. Gay Memorial School, and while to some extent it does accommodate some of the children from the St. Michael North East constituency, it is not very long ago that information reached me that it was impossible for children of school age to be accommodated at this school, and I mean children from just opposite the street where the Lawrence T. Gay School is situated. I mean, also, that these children are relatives, brothers and sisters of children who are currently accommodated at that school so it does appear to me at best that you can say that there is inadequate school placements for children of such tender ages.

I want also to say that I can compliment the Honourable Minister for having removed from the plans the amalgamation of the St. Matthew's School with the St. George setting, but I would like to draw to his attention that the present condition of the St. Matthew's plant needs more than just maintenance attention.

Firstly, the setting of this school is in the middle of a graveyard. It is treated as some of the graves in the graveyard are treated, almost forgotten. The state of

maintenance of the buildings, if you go into them, you have to wonder whether the children of our people are accommodated there for educational purposes. If you look at the physical surroundings of the school, you run into the problem of being sure that there is safety for the children to run about in these surroundings, no properly grassed area, no properly kept areas. There are tree roots all about the place where there are no graves, and I am very concerned that this school should be retained as a venue.

I am saying though, Mr. Speaker, that if you do not retain it in its present position, that there is vital need for replacing it somewhere near that area with much better facilities. And I hope that the decision not to merge it with the St. Augustine School will not mean that it will be left in the deplorable conditions which now exist there.

I would like to see, Mr. Speaker, the kind of facilities developed for all of our primary schools where our children can develop healthy minds and healthy bodies because of the facilities that are made available to them. A lot of attention has been paid and much has been said about recreational facilities after the children leave school, but I would like to see proper recreational facilities to assist in the physical development of our school children.

I believe that it is not good for us in any regard, and it does touch our pride very badly when you have to go into a school building and find that the walls are not even properly kept by way of good painting and the like. Sometimes when you look at the floors of the building, and this is the situation at the St. Matthew's School, you wonder how children can really be kept healthy in these surroundings.

I believe what has been happening is that people who have been dealing with the maintenance of this school have become so frustrated that they are not paying the kind of attention to it that is necessary, and I would ask the Honourable Minister to look into this situation with a view to improving it because I think it is vitally necessary for the wellbeing of our children.
5.25 p.m.

As far as the Lawrence T. Gay Memorial School is concerned, Mr. Speaker, while as I said it has been taken out of my constituency, it still serves my constituency and as such I have, I think, to say something about the physical conditions there also. I would like to see an upgrading of the physical educational facilities for the children of that school. Again the grounds are not kept as well as they should be kept, and I think some attention should be paid to that.

I support this Resolution, Mr. Speaker, but I thought that it would have been unfortunate if I did not

make mention of these matters of concern which I have. The louvre windows at the Lawrence T. Gay School are in need of maintenance. They cannot be kept open as they ought to be kept open and very often you open them, they close back and nobody pays any attention to reopening them. The ventilation of the school therefore is beneath the standard that we would expect of a school of that age.

This, Mr. Speaker, would give some indication of the concerns which I have for these two teaching institutions and while not wanting to be too lengthy in this debate, I would just ask the Minister to pay very great attention to the improvement of these facilities. Thank you, Sir.

Mr. J. J. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this Resolution which is presently before this Honourable Chamber.

Sir, the Honourable Minister of Education in outlining the purpose of this project did speak at length on the whole question of amalgamation, and I would first like to focus some attention on that aspect of the project.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that if we look at many of the primary schools in this Island we would see that most of them are constructed in a way that is not conducive to good education for the infants. Many of these buildings are hall shaped in construction, and many of the classrooms are all located within one compound. We find therefore that teachers who are conducting classes, very often can look next door and see what is happening in the next class, and this is very disturbing to many of the students. Many of the students who attend these primary schools are not able to get maximum benefit from what is going on in the class room because there are too many distractions and too many side attractions, and I believe the whole idea of amalgamating the schools will put the children in an environment which is better suited for teaching and better suited for the teachers, so that the whole educational system in the country will benefit as a result of the amalgamation.

If we look at these buildings, Mr. Speaker, you will find that perhaps over the last fifty years many of these buildings have not changed either in structural size or anything of that nature.

I attend the St. Boniface Primary School which they spoke about earlier in the debate and I can say, Mr. Speaker that that is one of the schools which over the last twenty-five years has undergone no change. I am very pleased to hear that the Minister has proposed to resite that school on a site which, even though he did not specifically identify it. He suggested an area off the highway in St. Peter, somewhere in the area of

Bakers Plantation. The idea not to amalgamate this school therefore with the Black Bess School is a good idea, because if we consider the distance between the two schools, Black Bess could comfortably be about three miles in distance from the St. Boniface School, and the distance involved would be too much for the infant children, the four and five year olds, who would be travelling to school. I think the whole idea to review that particular project is a very good idea.

What I would like however to suggest to the Minister who as he indicated would be making a review of many areas of the project, is that there are two other schools in the St. James area which are perhaps ripe for a review and ripe for amalgamation. These are the St. Albans Infants and Junior Schools. The St. Albans Schools, Mr. Speaker, are located within half a mile of each other and there is a lot of congestion at these two schools. The schools are in a bad state of disrepair. In fact only recently I was made to understand that the Parent-Teacher group at one of these schools is making arrangements to repair the roof of one of the buildings, and I believe that is a matter to which the Ministry of Education will no doubt be giving some attention in the very near future. But the two St. Albans schools, Mr. Speaker, is an aspect of the project which I believe would be ripe for consideration, and perhaps the Honourable Minister of Education may want to take a look at these schools when he is making consideration for a review.

In outlining the purpose of the project he also indicated that a component would consist of training and that scholarships would be provided for teachers and persons who are administrators in education. This I believe, Mr. Speaker, is another very satisfactory aspect of the project. Training will always be important in any enterprise in which we enter.

We find for example that in today's school system many of the teachers are not able to get leave with pay to further their studies, and I am not now thinking only of those who may want to go and get a degree from a University but I am talking about improvements to the educational system and scholarships whereby people can further expand and improve the system of education that presently obtains in this country. I think that that training aspect of the project is one which should be given serious priority and consideration by the Ministry and by the Minister, because even if we are able to build these buildings and we do not think in terms of improving the actual educational system in these schools, then it would be a situation where we would have buildings without a proper system, and I would like to give my support to that aspect of the project and compliment the project in that aspect.

I wish to speak very briefly, Mr. Speaker, and in supporting this Resolution, I must say that it does sup-

port the policies of the Democratic Labour Party Government and I give it my full support.

5 35 p.m.

Applause

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

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, the conditions under which we are debating, the circumstances of time require that I not be long in my contribution to this debate. However, I just want to take one point concerning the question of amalgamation as a principle.

It has been said — I think there is general agreement around the Table — that the rationalization of the educational plant is desirable. But I think we have to pay attention to some of the stock, phrases and words that are used so that we do not become locked into a precipitant view of what constitutes efficiency in the delivery of proper education.

In the United States and other countries which have large land masses and which have specific transportation capacity, what constitutes a good, efficient amalgamation might not necessarily accord with a similar situation in a country such as Barbados.

When the first phase of this loan was discussed, in the previous House, I made the point then that we ought to be very careful in this society that our amalgamation did not defeat the very purposes for which it was designed. And I want to just caution, as we get support for this Resolution, honourable Members in their approach to the concept.

Let us take for example, what has occurred in the Westbury Schools. We had a situation where there were two schools, an infant school and a primary school or a junior school. These two schools served areas that are essentially at the medium and lower socio-economic end of our scale in Barbados. It means therefore that a large proportion of the persons whose children go to these schools fall into what may be called the working mother category. A large proportion of the mothers are one-parent families. They represent one parent families and therefore they have to go out to work. One of the directions in which we have been going steadily in Barbados was towards the entrance of children into schools at age four. That in itself would be sustaining the development of a social system that took account of the fact that parents and especially one-parent families might need to have an earlier intervention of the school system or the authority system into the family arrangements so that the parent could get relief.

What tends to happen in real terms, as you are aware, Your Honour, is that a parent with two children, will have one child going to the junior school and as the other child comes of age, the earlier that child becomes eligible to go to school, the better it is for the total family. What tended to happen when we had two schools was that the infant school catered in a specialized way to children between the ages of four and seven.

Aside

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Yes, four and a half, five to seven. But now, Sir, as all of us know that is a very special and impressionistic age for children and when they come to school at age five they need — we all did — a special kind of care and a special kind of notice.

I wish to submit that depending on the geography and the social structure for the particular area that the need for this might be higher in some instances than in other instances. Take for example what the Honourable Member for Christ Church West was saying with regard to the middle class. It stands to reason that those of us who now form part of the middle class will be able to send our children to the new fashioned high fangled infant schools. Some of us send our children to school when they are two because we can afford the Montessori, we can afford to pay. In the case of the other parents, however, they wish to have a school that is equally acceptable, not only a way station or a layby to rest a child but a place where the child will get meaningful instruction and meaningful care.

I am saying that in the infant school where all of the participants at the level of teaching and caring are focussed in the same direction, the children are likely to get a higher level, they are likely to be beneficiaries of a better care than in a system where they have been amalgamated into a larger entity.

Now what has happened at Westbury is that the school continues to grow and the Headmistress or Headmaster as the case may be, in due course, no matter how well disposed and no matter how many Deputies might be provided, in the planning of that school, the planning must run a longer gamut, it must run from four now up to eleven, and therefore the considerations and concerns are infinitely different. They may be subtly different but I think no one will contend that they are not different.

The gravamen of my contention therefore, Sir, is that the younger children at the more formative years are suffering a diminution in the amount of attention that is paid to them at exactly the time when they need that attention in its greatest amount. And so, while that is *a fait accompli* at Westbury, I am very glad that we are able to readjust the thinking as it applies say to the St.

Stephen's Schools because it is very important to us in this community where education is the chief means of social mobility that we miss no opportunity whatsoever to provide each of our citizens with the very best education our society can afford. And I know, Sir, that we have spent a lot of money on education and from time to time the cry goes out that we are not getting return for our investment. I am not one who believes that. I think that all the money that has been spent in Barbados on education, even that that has been misspent has been directed towards the right cause, what my colleague from St. Michael South East was saying, the development of our people. I am satisfied that this is the resource we must cherish the most, and if we have to suffer in any other direction, we must not deny ourselves and therefore posterity the right to the investment of whatever funds we can afford.

In that respect, Sir, I hope that it will not be too long before we can turn attention to the kind of overcrowding which has occurred at say the St. Leonard's Schools. Anyone who is familiar with the particular difficulty which attends those institutions will be aware that we have something like fourteen hundred to seventeen hundred children in a very small area and that the population is definitely too dense for the proper education. The people are just not educable in that kind of environment.

I know that my colleague, the honourable Member for St. Michael South, the Minister of Education in the last Democratic Labour Party Administration had planned on putting a school that would have relieved this pressure in the vicinity of Deacon's. That was truncated by the short-sightedness which attends our politics in this country, where, as Administration changes to Administration, we feel bound to satisfy the call for some evidence that we are doing what they did not do.

But it is unfortunate that we did not get that school in that particular location or some similar location because the pressures attendant upon St. Leonard's are manifesting themselves in other areas of problems. I think that all of those constituencies that come into the confluence of Eage Hall are aware of the problems, the attendant problems connected with the overcrowding at St. Leonard's. I am not going to go into details about that because this is not a debate which warrants that kind of thing, but I hope that it will only be a matter of time, Mr. Speaker, before we could deal with that particular matter.

I wish to just say with regard to the attitude of the international agencies on the question of lending money and the so-called conditionality which is placed on them, that we will need constantly to have the thinkers or the experts in the Ministries concerned with Education and Culture.

5.45 p.m.

I think we will have to ask those experts to constantly bear in mind that conditions which will apply to those who are experts in the international agencies are peculiar to their countries, and that we must impress upon them the peculiarities of our country.

I wish, Mr. Speaker, to touch very briefly on the matter that was raised concerning the comparison between the Japanese and Barbados for example. I think that we should take note of every system that there is, but it must be borne in mind that the Japanese and other similar societies have not only an educational system, but it is part of their religious system, and their education therefore is not merely a delivery of a service. It is a reproduction of their actual culture and therefore suicides at age 9 in Japan are common.

Apparently, whenever a child fails in Japan, that child does not perceive himself in quite the same way as someone who fails 11 Plus. That child recognizes that in its entire dispensation for this particular life it has failed and therefore it needs to relieve itself and go into the next sphere whichever that is. That is a philosophy which is strange to Western cultures which we are, but it is a matter which needs to be borne in mind when we are doing comparative analysis with the educational systems, because the Japanese as my colleague from St. George South noted — have in fact what may be called plateaus of learnings. They must get into the school of choosing in the formative years and after that, it does not matter how well they do until they come to the next....well, I almost said crucible.... but until they come to the next plateau where they then decide which place they are going to work because once they make that decision that is a lifetime decision. Invariably, when a Japanese person goes to work, he has gone to work for life. He has joined the family that will be part of his productive system until he retires.

Now we have to be very careful when we are doing comparative analysis with the Japanese that we do not demand of ourselves the same standards which may appear to be emanating from societies like the Japanese because, in fact, we are not comparing like with like. We cannot on the one hand talk about the religious position of the Japanese while we are subject to the cultural infusion of CNN and other similar aspects of Western culture which tell us very clearly what our priorities are and which unfortunately many of our people adopt.

Mr. Speaker, that will be the beginning of another debate and, as I said at the beginning, time and circumstances do not require that I go down that road. I wish to thank you for your indulgence, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Education.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I will reply very briefly also because we have two other matters to discuss this afternoon, Sir, and as you yourself are aware, there are certain constraints under which we are working.

But I would state at the outset that there are very few public assemblies anywhere in the world in which a debate of this calibre could have taken place on the subject of Education. The contributions from honourable Members on both sides of the House were of a very high standard, and they indicate the deep interest that honourable Members have in the subject of Education and the impact that education has on the political, social and economic life of this country.

If the comments made and the requests in terms of inputs and improvements to the system appear somewhat formidable, please be assured that it is not because the Ministry of Education may not be responsive to the concerns expressed, but that education as one of the social sectors in the country depends upon the economic sectors in order for that economic sector to generate the funds which can service the education sector. Of course, it is needed for that economic sector also to generate the kinds of revenues which can sustain a humane, social sector, other social sectors, and provide the kind of safety net in order to ensure that the worst effects of inflation or recession do not create painful problems for the citizens particularly the citizens of the working class and the very poor in this country.

I hope that everything that has been said here in this debate has fallen on all ears, and I would consider particularly that this may very well be the first stage of the Ministry of Education's campaign for consideration of the Estimates of the Ministry of Education, and I hope that those Members who have spoken so valiantly, whether it is in terms of amalgamation or in terms of the needs of Combermere School, or in terms of the needs of additional subventions for the Barbados Labour College — all of which are very deserving of additional assistance and help — would also speak loudly wherever they have influence in order to ensure that the Ministry of Education and Culture is sufficiently funded in order to respond positively to the comments which have been so eloquently made during this debate.

If I do not speak fully in terms of some of the points made, it is because of the constraints under which we are debating, Sir, to which I have made reference, and other opportunities will arise over the coming months for me to expand on some of the points that have been made during the debate.

The honourable Member for St. Michael South East raised the problems in relation to a new school built under the first World Bank Education Loan, the Luther Thorne Memorial School, and it is a real and genuine

problem that he has raised. You get new facilities and you get a good staff and the school builds up a reputation and a lot of people find it convenient to bring their children to that particular school.

The Leader of the Opposition has expressed the view that he hopes that all primary schools will be on the same level and that that problem would be the problem of competition among the schools and would be reduced as far as the desires of parents to get in the best schools are concerned. Whether that will come about may be a consummation devoutly to be wished. But I would say this much, that we in the Ministry of Education and in the Government will use all of the resources available to us in order to seek for an upgrading and upliftment of the quality of education in our schools and particularly at the primary level.
5.55 p.m.

I am not part of that kind of thinking which would say that parents and children should be confined to the schools in their neighbourhood. I believe that parents should be given a choice as to the schools which they wish their children to attend, and I believe that Barbados is small enough, compact enough, and with a good enough network of roads and other infrastructures — in that, dare I include our transport system — in order not to confine parents and children to neighbourhood schools if they do not wish to go to those neighbourhood schools. But I believe that it will take us some time in order to get all of our schools up to the standards that we all would desire.

There was mention of the Society Mixed School. There are physical problems at that school particularly for the teachers who operate under conditions which are not the most desirable. We are seeking to do something about that to ensure that there are more comfortable facilities for the teachers at that particular school.

Only yesterday afternoon, I heard from the Chairman of the Board of Management of the Combermere School and the Acting Headmaster of the difficult conditions physically at that school, and in many instances it is not that money may not be available. In some cases money is available, and money is spent, but we all know from our own homes and from the information which comes to us from our constituents that sometimes money is spent but the objectives for which the money was earmarked are not always achieved, and remedial work has to be done in a number of instances.

Now we have instances in which we try to improve not only the physical plant but the whole — what I refer to as the process of education, and let us understand it.

This is not the first occasion on which schools have been constructed or extensions of existing schools added

to the school plant. During the years 1961 to 1976, a considerable number of primary schools were added to the school plant. The difference is that these came out of the resources generated in the economy. I can mention the Stow Primary School, the Springer Memorial School — that is a secondary school — I can mention a major extension to the Christ Church Girls' School, the new Pine Primary School, quite a number of primary schools constructed but out of the resources of this country. We did not go to borrow on those occasions.

A number of secondary schools were also constructed but we were concerned, and we are concerned now, not only or merely with the physical buildings, but as the honourable Member for St. Michael South East drew attention to, we are concerned also with improvements to the quality of education, and the honourable Member for St. Peter as well made reference to this area. He wanted additional information.

I did identify some of the broad heads in this particular area, but I do not know that he really wanted the information, because as far as I can recall he supplied it himself. He was well briefed on the matter. He has the information there and he did indicate himself the area you see, he has the document there holding up. So he has the information.

But I think he made that point, and the honourable Member for St. Michael South East made the point, in order to underline a truth; that while buildings might be necessary or useful as structures within which education may take place, excellent education does not depend only or merely on buildings. All of us who speak of being products of primary schools, know that we had to be under the trees, and that we got a good education under the trees.

Asides

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: So we are going to place emphasis on the curriculum, and we will give new life to the National Curriculum Development Council which is responsible for drawing up the subjects that are taught in the schools, how much time should be allocated to those subjects. It has an interest in the textbooks which should be used in relation to the subjects, and so that particular body has a very crucial role to play in the delivery of education in this country.

Then we have also the National Advisory Commission on Education which performs or should perform a role in terms of having an overview of our educational system.

Now a question of overlap was mentioned and I would like to give an assurance — I believe this was

the honourable Member for St. Michael Central who raised the question of overlapping and particularly with reference to the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic and the Barbados Community College — I would like to give him the assurance that that kind of overlapping to which he made reference we will seek to make a thing of the past. The Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic has its role to play, the National Training Board has its role to play and the Barbados Community College has its role to play, and we will ensure that where there is duplication or overlapping that duplication and overlapping will be removed as far as possible.

6.05 p.m.

I think I have referred to a number of the problems raised. The honourable Member for St. George South referred to the St. George Secondary School and there are some continuing problems with that school to which we will have to give some attention.

I think, Mr. Speaker, that his has been a very wide ranging debate and a very significant debate, and no one could have listened without the feeling that the representatives of the people of this country, twenty-four on one side and three on the other side are all deeply concerned, all twenty-seven of us, with the importance that education plays in this country, and may I remind the House again, what we are doing here is proposing to give approval for the borrowing of U.S. \$10 million from the World Bank, and we were seeking that approval because the loan that we are considering here falls under the Special Loans Act which requires that such a Resolution should pass.

We do not have to do it in respect of the Inter-American Development Bank because there is already legislation on the Statute Book dealing with borrowings from that particular institution. That is what the House is being called upon to do and again, Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege and pleasure to commend this measure to the House.

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

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Order No. 4.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 4.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I am seeking leave of the House at this stage to deal with two money Resolutions. I did indicate earlier at today's sitting that I would have had discussions with the Members of the Opposition, and they have indicated that we may proceed with this debate.

Therefore, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into Committee of Supply to debate two money Resolutions.

The question that Mr. SPEAKER do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair, and the House went into Committee of Supply, Mr. BYER in the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is now in Committee.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1986-87 NO. 6 PART II — CAPITAL

HEAD 84 — MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND WORKS — \$22 536 024

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I am seeking leave for the Honourable Attorney General, the Member for Christ Church West Central to deal with this Resolution.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Leave is granted.

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, this Resolution seeks the approval of a sum of \$22 536 024 to be granted from the Consolidated Fund and placed at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1986-87, Part II — Capital as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1986-87 No. 6 which form the Schedule to this Resolution.

Now under Head 84, there is an additional sum of \$1 750 000 to meet anticipated compensation payments to the remaining property owners at the end of the financial year. This is in respect of the new Airport to West Coast Highway.

Under Subhead 8 which covers private tenantry roads and subsidiary roads, in the last financial year a tenantry road programme involving the construction of some fifty-five roads and costing \$7.0 million was begun. The sum of \$1.2 million was provided in the 1985-86 Estimates of Expenditure and Supplementary Provision of \$6.5 million was also voted. There was a delay in the completion of the programme in the 1985-86 financial year and the funds lapsed and, therefore, the supplementary provision of \$2.8 million is required under this Subhead to supplement the provision of \$857 251 in this year's estimates.

Under Subhead 13 — this deals with the Access Road to the Cement Plant — an additional sum of \$5 375 421 is required to meet the cost of payment to the Contractor — housing and utility relocation expenses to the end of this financial year and a further amount of \$191 747 is required to meet the cost of professional fees payment to the consultants for the remainder of the financial year.

If I may just revert to Subhead 6, Mr. Chairman, under Structures, an additional sum is required to meet the anticipated monthly payments to the end of the financial year. Additional funds are also required to meet utility and housing relocation expenses to the end of the financial year. The total amount required under this Subhead is \$10 863 800.

In respect of Professional Services under this Head, an additional sum of \$255 056 is required to meet the cost of Consultants' fees, audit fees and I.A.D.B. bank inspection fees to the end of the financial year.

This is one of those Resolutions, Mr. Chairman, which I imagine will not involve us in any considerable amount of debate because it is largely in respect of the airport expenses in respect of the Airport to West Coast Highway and in respect of private tenantry and subsidiary roads which are required to be done in the country.
6.15 p.m.

In the circumstances, I beg to move that this Head stand part.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I beg to second that and reserve my right to speak.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister could give us some information.

Now looking at the Addendum, an additional sum of \$1.7 million is required to meet compensation payments to the remaining property owners. I would be grateful to hear from the Minister how many property owners remain to be paid, and whether this payment will be the final payment to exhaust all claims from property owners.

Under Object 23 — Structures, additional funds are required to meet utility and housing relocation expenses. Now we are not told in the Minister's presentation again how many houses are involved in the relocation or families. What is the level of the utility expenses, the level of housing expenses....

(*Aside:* You would have it.)

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Don't tell me I would have it. I am on a different side now. They have come to ask us to vote this. We have been out of power for five months, and the Government has been in power for five months. I presume that the Government has the information.

Asides

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am not saying that the road is not taking the same path. What I am saying is that the Government comes here and asks us to vote \$10.8 million for utility and housing relocation expenses. It is not a question of my having a right. I think that the

public of Barbados ought to be told how this sum of \$10.8 million is computed. That is all we want, some details, some figures.

In respect of the tenantry roads and subsidiary roads: At last it has been conceded that the previous Government built fifty-five roads.

Laughter

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: It had to come some time. They were walking about telling people that we did not do anything. Out of their mouths it is now coming. The tenantry road programme in the last financial year, that is our time, involved the construction of fifty roads. I wonder if the present Government can tell us how many they are working on now.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You have not planned for next year. I am not being facetious. I am not asking about next year because you have not even had draft Estimates yet. I want to know how many of the tenantry roads that were in the current programme 1986-87 are being carried on by the Government now. What roads are you working on?

(*ASIDE:* Hopewell was completed.)

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Hopewell was completed in March this year, and it ensured my return in here too.

Laughter

Asides

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I should like to know seriously what tenantry and subsidiary roads the Government is presently working on just to see how the programme is going and in what areas.

While on this, since I see some of the officials from the Ministry here, I would like to make an open plea for the tenantry road programme to be carried on next year, and I hope that the original plan in respect of my constituency to do Highland, Content, Lion Castle and Dukes, in that order, will be continued over the next two years. They should not cost a lot of money because they already have good bases and they are not anywhere as long or complicated as the Hopewell road for example.

For the access road to the cement plant the Government is asking for an additional \$5.3 million to pay contractors' fees. I would like to know what is the balance outstanding on that contract, how far the work has progressed and what is the likely date for completion of the work.

I would like the Minister to clarify for me in his reply whether the resiting of people and so on, is encom-

passed in the phrase "housing and utility relocation expenses". I am obliged to you.

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, I am sure the honourable Member for St. Thomas would recognise that the substantive Minister for Transport and Works is not here, but he has asked a certain number of detailed questions in respect of some matters, and I will try and remember them all, and try to respond to them as they come.

One question was in respect of the amount of properties being acquired. The number of individual properties being acquired in respect of the construction of the Airport to West Coast Highway involves some three hundred and seventy-seven properties.

At 31st August this year, an amount of \$1 691 348.87 had been paid to the property owners, and the Legal Unit which had been specifically set up to deal with this matter has advised that an additional amount of some \$2.5 million would be required to compensate the remaining property owners.

However since these matters take some time to complete, we feel that an amount of \$1.75 million will be required to meet anticipated expenditure to the end of this financial year. So in respect of that Head we anticipate that \$1.75 million will be required.
6.25 p.m.

Now, in relation to structures. You had asked a question in relation to housing relocation. Now you will probably know that the National Housing Corporation of course is responsible for relocating all the houses which fall within the corridor of the proposed road, and is providing interim houses and sites and services for the relocation areas.

It is estimated that about \$10 863 800 would be required to meet expenditure in respect of this matter. The actual housing relocation comes to \$1 754 743.10, the utility relocation comes to \$1 938 274.00. The total amount required for the year has been indicated at \$18 817 815.99. So that under this Head, the supplementary provision required for relocating houses is some \$10 863 800.09.

I believe there might have been one or two other questions. Oh, in respect to the Access Road to the Cement Plant. The honourable Member for St. Thomas had raised the question as to when this road was likely to be completed

Aside.

Hon. M. A. KING: and how much more was to be spent on it. I may indicate that the work which is to be carried out on section two of this road consists generally of widening the overlay of the existing pavements and some drainage improvements. The section which extends from Farley Hill to the quarry at Greenland consists also of a complete reconstruction of some sections of that road. Work commenced on that project on May 26, and it is to be completed in 457 calendar days. So if we take 457 calendar days from May 26, 1986, we would get the appropriate time. It is a matter of calculation.

The payment forecast for the period June 1986 to February 1987 totals some \$7 594 786.00 and payments totalling \$1 604 803.29 for the months of June to July 1986 have already been paid, and provision totalling \$6 512 536.00 for the next seven months will be required.

In relation to the tenantry roads, Mr. Chairman, there is little scope for undertaking many of the tenantry and subsidiary roads in this Financial Year because of the massive programme undertaken in the months leading up to the Elections, costing over \$7 million.

The honourable Member for St. Thomas made the point about what he perceived to be an admission of some fifty-five tenantry roads being constructed in the dying days, I presume, of the last Administration. But if one looks at the Addendum carefully, he would note that what I did say, and I believe I quoted fairly accurately from the Addendum. It said:

"In the last financial year, a tenantry road programme involving the construction of 55 roads and costing \$7.7 million was commenced."

Laughter.

Hon. M. A. KING: "Was commenced." That is where it stopped.

Laughter.

Hon. M. A. KING: So that could never, on any construction of the language, be interpreted as an admission that fifty-five roads were done.

Laughter.

Hon. M. A. KING: Nor did we do; did you do? That is the question.

Asides.

Hon. M. A. KING: Now, in respect of this matter also, you will be aware, Mr. Chairman, that the essential point to make in relation to the tenantry road programme is that this new Administration, in view of the action of the last Administration obviously has to vote additional funds to pay for the completion of the 1985-86 programme and we would expect that considerable work would be done on that in the coming Financial Year.

If there are any more questions, I will answer them as they come along.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: There are a few points on this. Under Subhead 15 there is a "Highway Rehabilitation Force Account", would the Minister explain what is this account and why is it thought necessary to freeze the Highway Rehabilitation Account under Subhead 16 as is explained to this note?

It is my understanding that certain projects have been put out for tender under the World Bank Maintenance Programme which included certain major highways, one of which is Highway 7.....

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I have seen that, Sir..... coming right through the Minister's constituency and my own.

I know that the tenders went out. I am not sure if they were awarded. I want to know whether they were awarded. And am I to understand him now, that the Government is not going to proceed with that project of rehabilitating Highway 7? The view was that although we will shortly in a couple of years' time have no doubt to take up again part of that highway for the South Coast Sewerage Project, that Highway 7 was in such a condition that some major rehabilitation was called for, and I want to know what is happening with that rehabilitation programme.

I noticed that there has been a considerable cutback in the building of sidewalks along Highway 7, and that there is merely a token work force now completing some of the work between Top Rock and Maxwell, part of the Honourable Minister's constituency I believe, or the constituency of the honourable Member for Christ Church East Central. The idea had been to extend that sidewalk project right along one of the busiest highways to encompass the St. Lawrence area — the Honourable Minister would be interested in that particular area Bath Village — and to encompass as well the busy Worthing Road and

Hastings Road. And I want to know whether it is intended by freezing the Rehabilitation Programme to affect any of the work along this highway, or if so, what other highways will be affected?

I know that the Access Road in the principal Estimates for the year, \$6 million was voted for an Access Road to the Cement Plant. It must be obvious that that programme is either well ahead of schedule that we now need an additional sum of \$5.3 million. Am I to understand it that the total vote under Subhead 13 for the year would be \$11 375 421.00? Is the programme well ahead of schedule? Is it that the contractor has gone so well that we are going to complete that project in time — it is a very vital road — or is there an additional cost? If so, what is the cost overrun that has occurred under this particular subhead?
6.35 p.m.

Now in Subhead 8, Tenantry Roads — I agree that in the current financial year the amount included for Tenantry Roads was \$857 251. I understand the additional vote of \$2.8 million is merely because of the projected \$7.7 million in the previous financial year had not been fully spent and that therefore we are now re-voting money to cover liabilities incurred during the last financial year and part of this financial year as well. So some tenantry road construction has gone on from the previous programme of fifty-five tenantry roads. Most of those roads or a considerable portion of the roads had been given out for private tender, and it was shown that they were completed in good time.

I am not accepting for one moment, Sir, that the Tenantry Road Programme should be cut back at all. I am very concerned by the fact that the areas that really need tenantry roads are sometimes some of the worst served areas with utilities and what not in our country.

I am going to begin with the parish of St. John since the Right Honourable Member who represents that parish is not in his place, Sir, and make a plea for helping the people of St. John, Sir.

The Right Honourable Member, Sir, talks about victimization but I want to say that the lack of basic facilities in the parish of St. John is shown as though the people of St. John received victimization for a period of twenty-seven years. I am very serious about this, Sir. There are no tenantry roads in Society, there are no tenantry roads in Clifton Hall, there are no tenantry roads in Colleton, there are no tenantry roads in Claybury.....

Asides

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Don't mind how old my son is. I hear a lot about the honourable Member telling me about victimization, about victimizing people in St. John.

I am saying that the Tenantry Road Programme, if you take St. John as a classic example, shows that there has been a long standing need for improvement in tenantry roads. Only in Cherry Grove on the recommendation, Mr. Chairman, and Henley — the two areas that came over to St. George South.....

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I know, Sir, that was done after of course, they got some representation.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The honourable Member tells me to stop fighting elections. I am fighting the next election, Sir. I am not fighting the past one, Sir. The other area — well, we did Foster Hall, seven miles in Foster Hall to Bath, St. John where I live, Sir. I live in that constituency so I am talking about it now, so the honourable Member would know, Sir.

But I also want to come home to my own constituency, and one of the reasons why on tenantry roads I believe we cannot stop this programme, Sir is that if you take the area like Amity Lodge — and the acting Minister of Transport knows this area, Sir — it was once.....

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Are you acting Minister of Transport? Oh, I see, Sir. Well a *de facto* Minister holding papers, holding the brief, Sir, should know.

Amity Lodge between the area of Brewster Road and Amity Lodge Road would have in about three hundred to four hundred houses. The first time that there were any lights placed in the area was sometime subsequent to 1981. There is no road system. In the Ministry of Housing, as the Honourable Minister knows, in the Planning Unit have just put up a recommendation some months ago for Amity Lodge to be given a considerable amount of priority for rehabilitation and the provision of adequate facilities. Although I am citing Amity Lodge in my constituency — I am serious about that — it is typical of several of the lower socio-economic areas in this country in which the basic amenities have not been put in.

The Honourable Minister of Employment would know Worthing View, the other side very well, Sir. He will know that area very well, Sir. I facilitated him with some roads to make his maneuverability in the area easy, Sir.

Laughter.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: But Sir, that is another area that we had some problems in, going right back, Sir, to Butlers Land in that area. I am talking about Christ Church where you would believe that because there is Highway 7, and there is Worthing and Hastings that you will have a proper road system.

So that I believe that whether the Government has to borrow for this purpose or what, it is necessary for us to get resources for the purpose. I am sure there are several honourable Members here who if time had permitted would speak for their own constituency in this regard. I am really very serious.

I was only getting a little fun at the Right Honourable Member. He is not in his place. I have to tease him when he is here.

But on a serious note, Sir, it is necessary that we should have this, and that is why I strongly supported the Transport Levy, because part of the purpose of using the Transport Levy was to use it for the purpose of tenantry roads, and I hope that the Minister will give me the assurance that it is not intended to abolish the Transport Levy.

In my view those of us who use the roads must be able to contribute to other people who have not got some of the good facilities, and in the tenancies this is a very critical programme for the people of Barbados. It does not matter which party is in power on this point. I feel very strongly that we cannot vote — I do not think that Transport and Works was considered in the last Estimates — we cannot vote a little money under this and say that the programme cannot go on. I do not believe we can afford to stint on this Head. I do not know whether the resources of the Transport Levy is still available. That is why I am asking the question. But if it is not, it ought to be made available for a programme of tenantry roads.

We should also give the maximum support to the Ministry of Housing when we are negotiating with the World Bank in order to get proper sites and services programmes, not only to put in new sites and services, but to improve what we have in the tenantry roads.

When I look throughout the length and breadth of Barbados particularly in the tenancies, I am not satisfied that we are doing enough to assist in these areas in particular. I have cited only two of the areas in my own constituency. There are several in other Members constituency that are in dire need of this type of assistance.

Sir, if I may move on to Subhead 6, there is an additional \$10 million to the former, I believe.....

Aside

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Subhead 6, the Airport to West Coast Road.

Could the Government tell me then is this one project which the Government is going to continue in full and, if so, is there any revision in that contract in any way, and is it intended to complete the whole of that road? I have been myself watching the progress. The progress is going quite rapidly at the moment. I think it is going to be perhaps when it is fully seen although.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member has another minute and a half.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Alright Sir. Although there was some criticism of the project, I believe it is going to be an extremely significant project for the future of Barbados in relating our transport system to our economic development.
6.45 p.m.

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, the honourable Member for Christ Church West has raised a number of queries, and I will deal first with Subhead 15, the Highway Rehabilitation Force Account.

The position on this Subhead is that this covers the work which is being done by the Ministry of Transport and Works under the World Bank Programme, and provision under this Head was under-provided for by about \$1.3 million, and it means that this further amount of \$1.3 million will be required in order to complete the provision in respect of the work to be done under Subhead 15.

It is proposed that funds be taken from Subhead 16— because funds are available under Subhead 16 — and used to meet the shortage which exists under Subhead 15.

Aside

Hon. M. A. KING: Oh, no, Subhead 16 was over-provided and Subhead 15 was under-provided for.

In respect of the work on Highway 7 about which the honourable Member made mention, I am advised that that work is not covered by this World Bank loan. In response to the substantive question as to whether the work on the sidewalks and so forth is to be continued, I think that would be a question which the substantive Minister could probably deal with, but I would imagine that everything possible would be done to ensure that the safety of the people of Barbados of the St. Lawrence and of the Maxwell area is adequately provided for.

Let me just finish off with Highway 7. I am advised that the work on Highway 7 has been postponed until the next financial year. I am talking about the resurfacing aspects of that road, again because of the limited finance which are available in this fiscal year.

I had better add as well in relation to the sidewalk programme on Highway 7, there are a number of householders who have been reluctant to co-operate in donating land. This problem is being dealt with by compulsory acquisition where necessary, and you will understand that this does take a bit more time, because people are presenting some difficulty in surrendering some of their land.

In relation to the Northern Access Road to the Cement Plant, the contract in respect of the work being done on this road is ahead of schedule, I am advised. The original vote again in respect of this road was too low, due to the fact that the contractor's programme had not been submitted at the time of the original estimation. The original estimate on this matter was some \$4.8 million.

I think those are the responses I have. I have covered your questions, I take it.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1986-87 No. 7 — \$8,883,774

HEAD 38 — MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS — \$215,000

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, although it stands in my name this is a matter for which I received a stipend when I was in another capacity, and therefore I am asking my colleague to deal with the matter. I want to declare for the record.....

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: All right, he says I can deal with it. This has to do, Sir, with the editing.....

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, under this Head an amount of \$650,000 was provided in the 1986-87 Estimates to cover the cost of the purchase of printing supplies for production. The revised supplements of the laws of Barbados were being printed and provisions for the cost of the special paper used in that exercise had not been included in the Current Estimates. The

Ministry of Legal Affairs had supplied the stock used in the printing of the Third Supplement of the 1971 edition. When a request was made to that Ministry for the supply of additional paper, you will recall, Sir, that we were trying to get as many issues out as possible. It is understood that no provision was made in that Ministry's 1986-87 Estimates for such expenditure.

The cost of paper amounted to \$154,860 and in order that the printing of the laws might continue smoothly, the expenditure was met from existing funds. The paper is a specially milled paper in England, and only on receipt of an order and when ample time is given will the suppliers provide the paper, so that current stocks have been exhausted.

The status of the vote is as follows: The amount voted was \$650,000, the actual expenditure was \$435,294 and the commitments \$233,259.93.

As a result of the unforeseen expenditure, as well as the unexpected increase in the cost of other printing supplies, certain essential supplies estimated to be not less than \$200,000 in value which are now needed could not be ordered. The vote is overcommitted which with the anticipated expenditure for the remainder of the financial year leaves a shortfall of approximately \$215,000.

I wish to say, Mr. Chairman, that this is not a matter on which there is any controversy on either side of the House. As a matter of fact, the project has had to be slowed down again, and that is a great pity.

The Laws of Barbados are supplemented in their application by the access which the legal profession has to cases that have been decided in Barbados reported in a manner with which the legal profession is familiar, and a decision was made some time ago to do the nearest years first and then to work backwards, so that eventually we would have all of the cases for all of the years printed, so that there are lacunae in the years for the cases.

Much of the work has been advanced and some of it is with the printers, some is with the editors, but by and large it is anticipated that with a little assistance from this side within two years, all of the cases would have been reported for all of the years.

I might add that the Editor for this series is our distinguished Judge Williams and the Assistant Editors have been varying and sundry people, about five or six persons, who work actually reporting the cases which then go to the Editor before they are printed.
6.55 p.m.

This matter comes before the House to facilitate the continuation of that work.

I beg to move that Head 38 stand part.

The question that Head 38 stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 42 – MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND WORKS

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, under this Head provision of \$10 million had been made in the Estimates of Expenditure to provide a subsidy for the Transport Board. Now the amount of \$10 million which had been provided as a subsidy was clearly inadequate and does not really reflect the true position in respect of the accrued liabilities of the Transport Board.

In fact, when one looks at the Estimates – and we from this side when we were in Opposition have always made this point from time to time – one had to look over a variety of Heads in order to determine what was, in fact, the true amount of subsidy which was required by the Transport Board. Some sums were provided under the Ministry of Education, some under the Ministry of Health and some under Police so that one had to look as I said, in order to get a total picture of the subsidy required for the Transport Board, at a variety of Heads but even at best, even after doing that, we find that the allocation for \$10 million under Head 42 where it should all really appear, has been inadequate and quite unrealistic.

Now the forecast for the Transport Board is that apart from the subsidies under the other Heads, that some \$17 million, nearly \$18 million will be required to meet the deficits in respect of excess of expenditure over revenue in this year.

The amount which is being sought on this occasion, Mr. Chairman, is some \$8 618 744 which has nothing to do with the deficit for the coming financial year but which is an accumulated deficit as of March 31, 1986 so that what we are at the moment seeking from this Honourable Chamber is support for the provision of \$8 618 744 to meet the accumulated deficit for the Transport Board as of March 31, 1986.

I beg, Mr. Chairman, to move that Head 42 stand part.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will someone second the Resolution?

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I beg to second the Resolution and as I am seconding the Resolution I take the opportunity to make a few remarks on it.

I think that those of us who have been following the history of the Transport Board for a number of years must become very concerned about what appears to be

the growing situation of the deficit and the extent of the subsidy which is required to finance the Transport Board.

Of course, one must understand very clearly that the public transport is absolutely essential, and the provision of a proper transport service to this country is of utmost importance both from the social, economic and certainly developmental point of view. But what is very clear is that within recent years, there has been a tremendous amount of mis-management at the Transport Board and the fact that the former Minister of Transport did not allow the management to function in the way – at least he saw to it that the management at the Transport Board did not function in a professional manner.

I believe that the mounting deficits which have been shown in the Transport Board are a direct result of the interference which was perpetrated by the former Minister of Transport and Works into the affairs of this Board. So that when we are now looking at providing money up to the end of the last financial year, we are really providing money for the interference and mis-management of the former Minister of Transport and Works. There is absolutely no doubt about that.

I would hope, Sir, that with a new management structure in place that every attempt certainly, will be made to encourage the management to run an efficient organisation.

Now in saying that, I would want to express my concern, as I have done in the past, about the quality of service which is provided, particularly in some rural areas and in this particular instance, I would want to advert to a number of criticisms which I have made of the Transport Board in the past about the service which it has provided in the constituency of St. Lucy.

I would hope that with a new Government, and certainly, with a new approach to managing the affairs of the Transport Board in place that one would see an improvement in this particular area, because the taxpayers are being called upon to pay millions of dollars as subsidies when the year comes, and the service is not the kind of service of which one could be proud, and I would hope that the kind of representations which have been made will be heeded. As a matter of fact, I have made representations for a complete revamping and restructuring of the service in the constituency of St. Lucy. I would not want, therefore, to get into that here on the floor of the House.

One also has to understand that the Transport Board has a number of other problems, and one notes, for example, that the honourable Member for St. Thomas, in a recent address at a constituency branch meeting sought to make some very serious charges about the

Transport Board, but more particularly about the representation by the Barbados Workers Union of workers at the Transport Board.
7.05 p.m.

I really do not think it is in my place to defend the position of the Barbados Workers' Union, because I am sure that that would be adequately defended and represented not only in here but in other places, and this is of course in spite of the many charges and misrepresentations which are usually made out of the mouths of the Barbados Labour Party people from time to time. But I think it is a bit painful when one reads the kinds of statements which are made.

If one looks at the headline in the *Nation* of Monday 20, October, one would see that the headline says that: "The honourable Member for St. Thomas accused the Barbados Workers' Union of taking the workers for a ride", and his words as quoted here would suggest that the people in the Barbados Workers' Union are not paying the kind of attention to workers at the Transport Board when they have their problems. He told the Christ Church West branch meeting that he sent members to the Barbados Workers' Union and they were told, to quote him, "too bad, the boot is on the other foot now, I can't do anything for you."

I challenge the honourable Member for St. Thomas to identify anybody in the Barbados Workers' Union, because the people he is talking about in the Barbados Workers' Union would be in the leadership of the Union. I challenge you that if anybody had been sent to the Barbados Workers' Union neither Leroy Trotman, Robert Morris, LeVere Richards, Clifford Mayers, Frank Walcott or any one of those people in the hierarchy of the Barbados Workers' Union would have adopted that attitude and told the person so. I know that he cannot in any way say that anybody in the Union said that to any worker he has sent to them or to any worker at the Transport Board.

(ASIDE: Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: That is correct.)

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: I know he would say it is correct, but you see, Sir, he has through the statement which he has made smeared the Barbados Workers' Union and the leadership of the Barbados Workers' Union which was deliberate. I say it was deliberate because he knew what he was doing, because he knew that the newspaper would take it up. As a matter of fact I would not be surprised if he did not write the story himself, but the point is that what you are getting is a deliberate strategy by the Barbados Labour Party masterminded by the members in here and others to try to bring down

the institutions and to try to suggest that people who are in responsible positions are not behaving in a responsible manner.

There is nobody on that side or anybody who is honest to himself or herself who can say that the Barbados Workers' Union has not acted in a most respectable and certainly in a most responsible manner in this country, whether it was during the administration of the Barbados Labour Party or under the administration of the Democratic Labour Party. As a matter of fact there were many times when people wondered why during the administration of the Barbados Labour Party the Barbados Workers' Union did not take certain actions. We considered ourselves to be a responsible organisation and the Barbados Workers' Union acted as a responsible organisation and will continue to act as a responsible organisation, but because some of us happen to identify with the Democratic Labour Party, this is the worst thing that has ever happened in the eyes of the members of the Barbados Labour Party.

It was all right for them when members of the Barbados Workers' Union ran on the ticket of the Barbados Labour Party; it was all well and good, and they saw nothing wrong with it, but the minute that does not happen, it is the worst thing in the world, and now you get a leading member of the Barbados Labour Party asking workers in Barbados to leave the Barbados Workers' Union. You are asking the members of the Union to leave the ranks of the Barbados Workers' Union.

He has further accused people in the Barbados Workers' Union. The story goes on to say that "Mr. Simmons accused the Union of forsaking the workers of Barbados after climbing on their backs and those of the Barbados Labour Party supporters to achieve positions of eminence."

Aside.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Now don't come and tell me that you are talking about Prince or Jackman. You cannot talk about Prince and Jackman because they have not achieved any position of eminence in the way in which it is interpreted, but let me tell you something now. Look at this, Sir. Here it is "Call to Drop BWU. The honourable Member for St. Thomas called on members of the Barbados Labour Party to drop out of the Barbados Workers' Union."

I want to say this further. It is clear that it was a wicked and deliberate attempt to malign the Barbados Workers' Union. You see, it is all part of a strategy which is being orchestrated by the Barbados Labour Party, orchestrated in the newspapers, on the news media and also all around the country, because having said what he said, look what was picked up now. In today's *Advocate*

you see one of the arch enemies of trade unionism in this country, ELC, headlines "Improper representation for BLP Workers", picking up what the honourable Member for St. Thomas has said.

(ASIDE: Don't bother about him.)

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: You have to bother about him, because those are the people who form opinions in this country.

My colleague would tell you that today he went into a store in Bridgetown and heard this being discussed, and people were saying: "You hear what the Barbados Workers' Union is doing? Simmons says they do not represent people; let us drop out of the Union." So you get a situation where ELC is picking up this point and saying: "It is difficult however" — he is coming to the conclusion after the charges have been made

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I hope the honourable Member will make both of those papers documents of the House.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Of course, Sir. He is saying: "It is difficult however to disbelieve Mr. Simmons's statement that when he sent a group of complainants to the Union they were told too bad;" so the honourable Member for St. Thomas made a statement, ELC is accepting what he has said without even checking it and projecting this as the truth.

I am saying that this is part of the wicked orchestration which is taking place in this country in order to malign the Democratic Labour Party and the Barbados Workers' Union. I want to make the point very clearly that they are two separate and distant organisations.

You may ask me why I am so emotional about this. I have to be because that is my organisation. Let me make this point because I am still an employee of the Barbados Workers' Union. I am on leave from the Barbados Workers' Union in case you do not know. I am making this public now because I know that a lot of talk has been going around so that the public can know. I am still employed by the Barbados Workers' Union. I am on leave without pay.

(Asides: Hon. B. M. TAITT: Not like one from their side who wanted to get paid from up there and down here too. One Williams.)

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: I think, Sir, that the opportunity has to be taken to make these points very clearly, because when one.....

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

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Yes, Sir. I am winding up just now. The honourable Member talks about representation. There is one member of the Barbados Workers' Union who is a high ranking member of the Barbados Labour Party. I will call his name, Arleigh Belle.

Asides.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: I was never and would never be.

Aside.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: You would never see my name there. Don't come with that foolishness. You could never see my name in there unless you wrote it down.
7.15 p.m.

(Aside: Hon. B. M. TAITT: Arleigh Belle.)

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: You know, a high ranking member of the Barbados Labour Party, Arleigh Belle. One of the most incorrigible — I cannot use the other word because.....

Aside.

Laughter.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: I would not use Labourite.

But he was represented by the Barbados Workers' Union in a number of instances in the past when he was obviously wrong.

One instance in which he was represented was when he was driving a bus in a very rough manner — a Josey Hill bus — from Josey Hill to Speightstown, and when one of the passengers asked him if he realized that he had a pregnant woman in the bus, and if he could not drive the bus more carefully, he said he was giving her the benefit of a free abortion.

Do you know what the result of that was? Vic Johnson promoted him to be a supervisor, and he is now a supervisor in the Transport Board. That is the quality of supervisors that you have in the Transport Board, and that is why when you talk about management and supervision, that is why the Transport Board will never get any further when you get these kinds of people in these kinds of positions. And you talk about victimization? I stop here at this point, Sir.

(Aside: Hon. B. M. TAITT: Talk about victimization? And he is still working. You should be shame!)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Members.....

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

Aside

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I anticipated that this debate would generate some heat, but in the light of yesterday's headline and a conversation I had with the honourable Member for St. Michael Central today, and I am very grateful that the Honourable Minister of Trade got into the debate, I thought it best to lay bare for public consumption the facts: (a) about my address Sunday afternoon to the constituency group of the honourable Member for Christ Church West in relation to the Transport Board. The honourable Member for Christ Church West was present at the meeting.

Aside

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You can have two hundred and fifty people who were present and Mr. Vanterpool with the tape.

Aside.

Laughter.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You can have a lot of witnesses.

I was dealing with the question of unemployment and making the point that from my point of view, the Government itself in pursuing a policy of lay-offs and terminations had contributed to the increase in the level of unemployment. And I said, and I repeat, that the unions of Barbados, both — I am talking about the NUPW and the BWU, not the teachers — have not taken a stand on the question of unemployment and lay-offs of which we could be proud, and of which the membership of those unions could be proud.

I cited, Sir, from a clipping I think of September 12, and the NUPW in response to the question of lay-offs, the General-Secretary was quoted as advocating short time, voluntary lay-offs, reduction in pay. I said of the 12th, Sir? Of September 4, 1986. Look it here too, Sir. Clippings on this, so you can have it.

"The National Union of Public Workers said yesterday voluntary pay cuts may be one way of stemming a rash of public and private sector lay-offs."

NUPW represents the largest number of unionized civil servants. I was talking about them, Sir. I was also talking about the BWU which represents workers at the Transport Board, and I cited instances, and I called names where workers of the Transport Board had been laid off or dismissed. They came to my Chambers, showed me their letters of dismissal, and I sent them to the union, and

they returned on September 10. I will give the names: a Monica Benn.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am going to give the names, man — Welchtown, St. Peter, ...

(ASIDE: How long was she working?)

(ASIDE: How long was she there?)

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Wendy Griffith, Hannays Village, St. Lucy,.....

(ASIDE: Hon. E. E. GREAVES: I know, a security guard working there for about six weeks, right?)

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Olivia Walke, 1st Avenue Grazettes Road; Rudolph Holder, Cave Hill, St. Lucy — I have some more — Mrs. Shirley Gordon, Goring's Avenue, Fairfield, Black Rock; Betty Waithe, Long Gap, Spooner's Hill; and a Theresa Louis, 17D Ferniehurst, Black Rock. I saw those in my Chambers. All came. I think five came in one group and then another set came.

(ASIDE: How long were they working?)

(ASIDE: Six weeks to a year.)

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Some for more than a year.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Yes, Miss Rock. As recently as this morning Olivia Rock came back to me and we asked her. She had been working for one year and three months. Anyhow, let me just give the facts, right.

These persons, in the presence of the former Prime Minister St. John who was in my Chambers when they came — he had no office, he was sitting down there — we sent them up to the union. Within an hour they came back and made the report. They did not say — and I want it clearly understood — and I have doubled checked it — and I made it clear on Sunday, they did not make any report against the directorate, the top brass of the union

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Wait, wait, wait..... like the persons the honourable Member for St. Lucy mentioned. They never made any allegation against the honourable Member for St. Michael Central. In fact, they did not see him. They did not see Mr. Walcott. They did not see Mr. Richards. They saw two people including a

lady at the Workers' Union. And that statement about the boot being on the other foot was.....

(ASIDE: True.)

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: told to them. Two of the ladies came back to the office crying. I said to them, "the only thing I can do now is to write the Transport Board for you", because they had been given the letters on September 9. Some of the letters were dated the 6th. I have them here. The Transport Board was offering them one month's salary. I have a copy of Miss Rock's cheque. She was offered \$1 403, and I said to her that she was entitled to two months' salary because they gave her shorter notice than was required.

One of the ladies from St. Peter or St. Lucy said that she was going to withdraw her membership from the union. I said: "Well you are not working any more, you have no \$2 to contribute to them, if you feel like resigning, resign."

On Sunday, I explained to the meeting that as a last resort — and you would see my words were very carefully chosen — I said that if you were convinced that the union was not acting in your interest — words to that effect — then you should withdraw membership. I did not advocate there should be a massive withdrawal of membership from the union in any circumstances.

I go further: The honourable Member for St. Michael Central has had to deal with me when I was Chairman of statutory boards, and he was representing the union and he cannot be less than honest in saying that we have always had a good relationship. I have never had any problems with the union. But I have people who had come to me for representation, sent them and they felt that they were not getting representation. It was my responsibility to make it known.
7.25 p.m.

Aside

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: No. Well alright you tell them to go and see somebody else. If they go to one lawyer and do not get representation you go to somebody else. What is wrong with that? Same point.

But Sir, you see the whole problem at the Transport Board — I am giving you notice of the name, Sir, — was caused before September when those ladies came to me by a man called Anthony Prince who is the President of the Division at the Transport Board, and I challenge either one of the members of the union here to deny that the President of the Division of the Barbados Workers' Union wrote up a list of over fifty names of persons working at the Transport Board, putting them on a

board, that those were to be dismissed, all supporters of the Barbados Labour Party.

Here is a unionist; here is a senior member of the union in the Transport Board. He put up a list of fellow workers and fellow union employees calling for their dismissal only on the basis that they were Barbados Labour Party supporters. A man took down the list. The President of the union without evidence had a charge brought against Earlyn Garnes calling for his dismissal.

Aside

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am not going into the merits of Garnes. I am dealing.....

Laughter

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am not going into the merits of Garnes.....and this is what a unionist, the biggest union leader in the Transport Board did.

He forced the then Acting Manager, Mr. Daniel, to charge Garnes without any evidence that Garnes had done it. Daniel put Garnes on a charge. On Wednesday, June 18 at 9.40 a.m. Garnes was served with a charge alleging that he had acted contrary to Section 7 of the Code of Discipline in pulling down a notice off a board that was not signed. They had up a list of people to go home. When Garnes appeared before Mr. Daniel and in the presence of Prince, at 10 o'clock he asked for time to consult a lawyer. Daniel refused to give Garnes his reasonable, constitutional, legitimate request for legal advice and proceeded to hear the case. Garnes refused to answer because he did not have his lawyer.

During the proceedings Prince, the President of the Division of the Barbados Workers Union — not Senator Walcott, not Mr. Richards, not the honourable Member for St. Michael Central, none of them — kept telling the General Manager "you have to dismiss Garnes." A unionist calling for the dismissal of a worker without proper evidence.

A witness, one Webster, gave evidence to the effect that he never saw Garnes pull down any document from the notice board. After Webster gave the evidence and Prince's case collapsed, Prince asked for an adjournment to summon more witnesses. You know that at that stage the Acting General Manager under your administration, cleaning up the management that he talked about in his opening, the Acting General Manager granted the adjournment to Prince having refused Garnes the accused his request earlier in the morning.

Daniel and I spoke the afternoon, and I indicated that I was coming the next morning to represent Garnes in the hearing. Do you know what Prince did? Prince

made a statement in the Transport Board yard that if I came to represent Garnes he would lick me and would not let me get in there.

Aside

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: It was reported and it was substantiated.

Aside

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Man look, he might be able to hit me with a bottle or a piece of stick.

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

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Arleigh Belle is not a big man but he beat Eric Sealy very badly down in the St. Peter bye-election — the first one. Arleigh Belle beat the life out of Sealy. Anyhow, I am telling you that is a fact. That same afternoon.....I will speak again, Sir.

At this point certain remarks made by the honourable Member for St. Thomas were asked to be struck from the record by Mr. CHAIRMAN.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: After that, Sir, the matter was withdrawn. They dropped the charge on Garnes.

Aside

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: No, no, and then subsequently, Sir, Garnes was sent home.

Laughter.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: But Garnes was also paid out the \$5 000 or whatever it is of the termination benefit.

On the 23rd of June, Sir

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will give you another minute.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: One minute, Sir? On June 23 I wrote the General Secretary of the Barbados Workers Union:

"Three female workers of the Transport Board — Theresa Louis, Shirley Graham and Betty Waithe — all members of the Barbados Workers' Union have consulted me concerning recent acts of harassment, abuse, insulting and threatening behaviour against them by one Anthony Prince, President of the Division of the Transport Board. One of these workers, Mrs. Graham, has had to be sent on sick leave because she is suffering from severe anxiety."

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: That is a fact, I have the sick letter here with me.

"Mr. Prince is causing great consternation among workers at the Board and is treating the Acting General Manager, Mr. Daniel, with disdain. His conduct is designed to overthrow the management of the Board and I write to appeal to you to ask Mr. Prince to show more regard for his fellow unionists and more restraint in his conduct."

This is the letter I wrote. Last week I wrote the General Manager Acting in regard to another employee.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Just let me finish the letter — "and ask him to let Mr. Prince know that I shall not hesitate to sue him for intimidation if his conduct persists." I got a reply within days quickly from Senator Frank Walcott, Sir.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Let me read the reply into the record.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Very well.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: This was dealt with on Sunday. On the 7th of July Senator Walcott replied.

1986-07-07

"Mr. David Simmons, QC, LL.M., MP
Equitas Chambers
Lucas Street
BRIDGETOWN.

Dear Sir,

I am directed by the Executive Council of the Barbados Workers' Union to respond to your letter of 1986-06-23, wherein you reputed certain serious allegations made about the behaviour of Mr. Anthony Prince, President of the Transport Board Division.

I have drawn the letter to Mr. Prince's attention and have had the opportunity to discuss the matters raised with him.

I am in no position to determine if the charges raised against Mr. Prince can be substantiated. However, I can state that the Executive

Council of the Barbados Workers' Union would not approve such conduct as has been alleged.

Yours faithfully,
Frank L. Walcott,
General Secretary"

I told the people at St. Matthias on Sunday about this, and I said that we are exempted. The leadership of the union form our strictures.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Did I write the headline? You numbskull!

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Enough. Time. Order! Order! The honourable Member for St. Michael Central.

Mr. C. L. TROTMAN: Mr. Chairman, some years ago when I was a school teacher, I heard the illustrious schoolmaster, Louis Lynch, when he was asked by a pupil whether they said prayers in Parliament reply in his own inimitable style: "Child can you imagine what it would be like if they did not say prayers?"

Laughter.

Mr. C. L. TROTMAN: I have often wondered about those statements. I have grown to recognize the import of them. In fifteen minutes, I cannot do full justice to the comment but I will be able to speak from time to time on the matter.

The first thing I want to say, Mr. Chairman, is that I am very pleased to hear from the honourable Member for St. Thomas his unequivocal statement clarifying that at no time did he ever intend or at no time did he say that when he said "drop out of the union" that he meant to refer by any implication the trade union officials.
7.35 p.m.

I wish that he were as careful to ensure after he saw this article, which is now a document of the House, that he had made an unequivocal statement before the matter came here to us for debate, because there is nobody — I mean nobody whosoever — who upon reading this particular article, would not believe that when the statement referred to officials of the Union that it did not refer to the honourable gentleman who has the prestige to preside in the Other Place, or that it did not mean — and permit me to use names — Bobby Morris, Evelyn Greaves (the Honourable Minister of Trade) and LeRoy Trotman. He would have been considered as one of these people who, to quote the article in the news-

paper, Mr. Chairman, "climbed on the backs of those of the BLP," and I do not like that reference of climbing on the backs of the BLP, but that is what it says.....

Laughter.

Mr. C. L. TROTMAN: climbed on the backs of the BLP supporters to achieve positions of eminence. Everybody would understand that that could only refer to officials of the Barbados Workers' Union, and I should have been very pleased if there had been a statement clearing the air before this time.

I personally have been maligned already because of this, because it is generally known in Barbados that under the General Secretary of the Trade Union, I am the officer who is called upon to deal specifically with the Transport Board. I deal with that myself, and because I am the person assigned to deal with that myself, I am the person seen in Barbados now as having climbed on the backs of workers and as having rejected the workers when they have come with their problems, so it is I who have told people: "I am sorry, the boot is on the other foot now." That is very unfortunate, because as the honourable Member for St. Thomas has said, he knows that that could not have been the situation, and he knows that nobody would have come to me, and would have had a reply of that sort. Yet the inference is there and no effort was made by him until now to clear the matter.

Aside.

Mr. C. L. TROTMAN: There have been occasions, Mr. Chairman, when the BLP when it was in Government made statements and clarified them even before they got to the radio station — statements and clarifications coming at the same time — so do not tell me about yesterday. When we are trying to do what is right, there is nothing that can be too soon about it.

Now I want to make some quick comments regarding some of the things that have been said.

It is not true where the honourable Member for St. Thomas has said that there have been lay-offs in Barbados, and that the Trade Unions in Barbados have not taken a stand on lay-offs of which unionists can be proud since May 28. That is not true, and if the honourable Member for St. Thomas has not seen or has not heard, it is regrettable, and I would suggest that he goes and reads all over again. We have written to employers; we have written in "The Union Speaks", and we have addressed Ministers specifically on the subject. I myself have written letters to Ministers on the subject. It is true that one Minister told me he got a letter very late because it was missent, but we have written to Ministers, and therefore it is true to say that we have been very careful to draw to the attention of the powers that be our concern for

lay-offs. I know I myself have spoken to the Minister responsible for Telecommunications, Transport and Works when the matter of the Transport Board has come up, and I have spoken to and have written to the Transport Board about my concern about the lay-offs at the Transport Board, and have ensured when we could not stop these lay-offs that a proper system was devised to ensure that all other things being equal, last in would be first out. That has been the concern, and I am on record as having dealt with that matter, and I am not afraid of it. I do not need to be afraid when I deal with my matters, because I have always sought to be professional and to be a person of integrity, and I take very strong exception to having us by-pass what we are supposed to pay lip service to, that is, to treat every person as being honourable until we find otherwise.

Supposing, Mr. Chairman, in the hypothetical situation that I had come in here or gone anywhere and said that the honourable Member for St. Thomas takes money from people and does not represent them and misuses the money and abuses it. Would I not be malicious and pernicious?

Aside.

Mr. C. L. TROTMAN: Why then should we have a situation that implies that this is what I do or what my colleagues do? Because that is of the same sort, and it ought to have been recognised.

I do not mind if you attack and you say that you do not like the way a case is handled. That is all right. You are entitled to your views, but sometimes we have had to take cases that the lawyers have been dealing with. I have had one that the honourable Member for St. Thomas was dealing with for some years, and I dealt with it and I got money for the worker that he did not manage to get, but I did not make any fuss and say he was not good. It just happened that I knew a bit more of the law than he did on that matter. That is all right. I do not make a fuss on those things, Mr. Chairman.

Asides.

Laughter.

Mr. C. L. TROTMAN: These things will happen. There are areas of excellence and areas of greater excellence. I have no problems with that.

What we have to be able to understand is that because we have managed to do a job, or because we happen to stand in a position where we have an audience, we must not misuse our position, and therein lies the problem before us, Mr. Chairman, the problem that we can cause harm. Perhaps we did not intend to cause harm but we can cause harm by the things we do when we do

them without careful consideration of the matters before us.

Now we make quite a lot of fuss about there being a Prince who was involved in this matter of the terminations, but Prince is only a prince. We had other levels that there could have been, and I should have liked to think that if the honourable Member for St. Thomas wanted to give good advice to the nation of Barbados in the newspaper, the *Nation*, and to the people who were depending on him for good advice, he ought to have advised them that if they went to Prince, Emperor, Pope or whoever, and they were not satisfied, they ought to have gone to the General Secretary or to the Deputy General Secretary, or even to have written a letter to the Executive Council. I thought that that would have been reasoned advice coming from the honourable Member for St. Thomas. Do not tell them..... or he himself could have written the letter, he wrote one before. Why tell them to drop out? Unless it is because there has been this suggestion that people should drop out of the Barbados Workers' Union coming even before now? Why?

We do not want you necessarily to advertise for us, nor do we believe that we necessarily must get your support and your approbation at all times. We are concerned with the vilification which there is. You may say that you did not deliberately set out to cause it, but it is there and it is a matter that has to be looked at, because people ought not to be maligned without there being some justification for that malignment.

Now the honourable Member for St. Thomas is not correct, Mr. Chairman, when he referred to the list of names that had been put on the board by Mr. Prince.

A list was put on a board, yes, but it was not a list which called for the termination of those persons. It was a list indicating what the persons were earning, and it was intended to show how under the Barbados Labour Party regime there were a number of persons who were doing nothing whatsoever. In fact, they had sinecures, they were getting large sums of money and were not working for it.

7.45 p.m.

Those are the facts, and it is also a fact that when I heard of that list I gave immediate instructions that it be taken down. Now, it so happened that Mr. Garnes had taken it down by that time, and I gave instructions that no case should be brought against the man, and that Mr. Prince should withdraw his charges coming out of that matter because the Barbados Workers' Union does not believe in tribalism.

Now, there may be other people here in this Honourable Chamber who think that there should be political

tribalism. There may be, but I do not believe there is because I cannot impute improper motives to anybody.

I would not accept, Sir, that we, as an institution, should reach a system where people belong to a particular political party they should begin to perceive of themselves in having a difference in terms of their industrial relations.

One of the important things we have to recognise, Mr. Chairman, is that whatever party is in power, the political party is going to have a constituency at some times which is going to be fundamentally different from the constituency of the trade union, and the trade union needs to recognize that at all times, and we do in the Barbados Workers' Union. Therefore, we do not know where E.L.C. gets the impression from that they are B.L.P. workers. I would like to know what is this animal called the Barbados Labour Party worker or the Democratic Labour Party worker for that matter. I would like to think that we are all workers in the final analysis, and that we are working for the betterment of Barbados.

I think that whereas it is good at this moment to exempt the leadership, it is very necessary for us to set the record straight and not to give the impression that it was the National Union of Public Workers or any other trade union that was being attacked. It is not the National Union of Public Workers, according to this story. I am not concerned, Mr. Chairman, with what Mr. Simmons is thinking now or perceiving now. The damage has not been done today. The damage was done yesterday and what we have to do is to repair yesterday's damage. So we have to recognize what this says and not what the honourable Member for St. Thomas intended and our concern, therefore, is that when we are looking at what it says here, we have to recognize that the tenor, the language and everything else about the article refers to the Barbados Workers' Union.

He told the Christ Church West Branch meeting that he sent them to the Barbados Workers' Union, not to the National Union of Public Workers, not to any other union, Sir and I think it is necessary that he endeavours to do more than he has done today, clarify this unequivocally in such a way as to make it clear to those people who have now got the story the wrong way that he wants to get it the correct way.

Thank you, Sir, for your indulgence.

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

Asides

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I was really on my feet before the honourable Member, Sir.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: But you cannot speak twice.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I just want to finish off.

Asides

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Yes, Sir. You can speak twice.

Asides

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Gentleman, I need your assistance. It is clear that.....

(ASIDE: Mr. B. M. TAITT: What you are going to put the Chairman in difficulties for? I have some lashes to give you now so I cannot wait until later.)

Aside

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, let him curse me and then I will come back and reply to it.

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

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, this debate could peter out, if we are not careful, into a situation where the representatives that emanate from the union had spoken, and where the honourable Member for St. Thomas denied the particulars of the article, and then we could all go home; we had a good debate.

But the truth is, Sir, that this is a fundamental issue which must be dealt with in all of its ramifications because the implications of this have wider and farther implications than merely an article in the newspaper.

This article is a culmination. It so happens that the honourable Member for St. Thomas is the vehicle on this occasion but if you take the publications concerning the Democratic Labour Party and the Barbados Workers' Union since the 28th of this month the words emanating from the hierarchy of the Barbados Labour Party are designed specifically to destabilize the thinking of ordinary people in both the Barbados Workers' Union and the Democratic Labour Party in that order.

(ASIDE: Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Can three blind mice destabilize all of you?)

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, it is not the three blind mice. The three blind mice are like the tip of an iceberg floating at the top, blindly, yes, but floating, while underneath they have all kinds of minions. They have all of those who do not wish to relinquish power in this country under any circumstances who are using all

and every possible avenue to subvert the legitimate wishes and aspirations of the people of this country.

It can be found in the editorial columns of the newspapers in this country when you can pick up a member of the Barbados Labour Party who served as a Minister and put that member in the heart of the deepest newspaper in this country, and give him editorials to write, and he writes editorials that are even more blatantly political than political speeches made by the Leader of the Opposition, and then you tell me that you are not serious when you say to infiltrate.

I take the honourable Member very seriously, and I believe that every single institution in this country is being infiltrated. Mr. Chairman, I have absolutely no doubt about this technique. This is not the first time that anybody from the Barbados Labour Party ever called on people to leave the union.

In 1963 after the Barbados Labour Party lost office to the Democratic Labour Party, they formed a union called the Barbados Democratic Workers' Union. It had in.....

Asides

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I may get the name of the union wrong but the principle is the same. They had two unions. Elton Mottley formed one too and it only had one member and he was the officer and member.

We are not going to be diverted. The Barbados Labour Party had a union. It had in Sir Grantley Adams. It had in Mencea Cox. L. B. Brathwaite was the General Secretary. It was the union in which L. B. Brathwaite put Sir Grantley Adams in court for \$55. That is the union I am talking about, and that union told the people to drop out of the Barbados Workers' Union when the Barbados Workers' Union had won the fight.

It is a wicked dastardly thing, either by accident or design, Mr. Chairman, for a newspaper to be put into a position in 1986 in a country whose economic, social and other development has depended on trade unions. There can be no doubt. Let anyone who is in this Honourable Chamber now deny that all of the progress made in Barbados has the direct, I repeat, direct result of the Trade Union Movement in this country beginning in 1940.

7.55 p.m.

When in 1986 as we come towards the end of this century we can be part of a community in which a headline appears that a major politician in a major political party that has formed the Government of this country on more than one occasion calls for members

to drop out of a trade union, we have come to a pretty past in this country. This is no political matter. This is a matter of life and death, and anybody who cannot see it in this country is not serious about the country.

There are some people who believe that these little fly-by-night things occur, and you are to talk about them and have a little joke, and go along about your business being ordinary peons. There are people in this country who believe that the vast majority of people in Barbados are to continue going about their business as usual.

Mr. Chairman, I put it to you that this is a call to arms for the serious, because when the trade unions in this country are dead, that will be the beginning of the end of all of us and all of our progeny.

The honourable Member talks about his infant son and he talks the equality which he wishes to see in the society. If he means that, he must condemn this in all of its ramifications. Even if the honourable Member made a statement and it came out the wrong way, a serious political party that has the temerity to say that it emerged from the Progressive Movement in this country, has a duty and a responsibility to deny immediately, completely and totally any suggestion that it had called on the people of a trade union to withdraw.

I am not satisfied that it is not a conspiracy, Sir. I will not be satisfied that it is not a conspiracy until I can begin to see evidence to the contrary. From the day of May 29, as I have had occasion to say before, there has been an underlying conspiracy among certain groups and certain types in this country who seem to feel.... the ones who say they do not want any shirt jac Minister, they want a collar and tie Minister; those who believe that the hoards are going to descend again; those who believe and pay lip service to equality in this country, but who would rather keep the natives in their place; people who continue to smile in your face and discuss matters in South Africa and elsewhere, and then laugh when they see things like this.

We cannot continue to fool ourselves in this country that we have a great change from the Nineteen Forties and Fifties, and then our progressive newspaper, publishes "Call to Drop the Barbados Workers' Union", and when you read it the call came from a serious Member of the House of Assembly in Barbados in 1986.

Mr. Chairman, with all due respect to every single one of my colleagues around this table, on both sides of the Honourable House, when I read this headline I have to confess that I was ashamed, and I don't mind telling you that when I discussed it with my son and he asked me questions about it, I found myself with tears in my eyes. I cannot explain it, but I know somebody is going to say that it is pure rhetoric. I am accustomed to that, but some of us have emotions about some things because

our history and our historicity can be found in the implications of this.

I confess that this has caused me genuine pain without reference to the honourable Member. I discussed this with my neighbour, and we came to the conclusion that if the honourable Member.....

Asides

Hon. B. M. TAITT: We are talking. Cammie and I are talking just like you and he and I and the honourable Member for St. Michael West Central stood up in his place and talked about the late member for St. Thomas.

Laughter.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: We are talking the same way. Do not ask me if Cammie and I are still talking. We are talking the same way that we talked that night. Do you wish me to continue in that vein?

Aside

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Don't ask if we are talking. I am glad you took me out of the mood I was in.

Aside

Hon. B. M. TAITT: That is all right. That has nothing to do with what I am saying. That in fact may be a part of what I am saying, as you very well know. It is that we have to pass the stage where we are paying lip service to freedom; when we are paying lip service to progress, when we are paying lip service to democracy. We cannot continue in this country to have one law for the Medes and another for the Persians and something for the Barbadians, and that is what happens with the mealy mouth people of this country who allow this kind of headline to dominate their lives, and if the honourable Member wishes to expiate himself in the minds and in the eyes of those of us who are right thinking people.....Look, any honourable Member who took the position the honourable Member took on the South Africa issue cannot allow political rhetoric to put him in this condition.

I am suggesting therefore that this Honourable House must condemn the circumstances, and it arises out of the Barbados Labour Party making a decision that they will get into the office of the Leader of the Opposition on a continuing basis, and put out a lot of propaganda by way of letters to the newspaper, a technique that is working only to downgrade and damage the good sense of this country.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: If the honourable Member would give way. The honourable Member may know a

lot of things, but he certainly does not know anything that goes on in the office of the Leader of the Opposition. He is merely speculating and putting wild rumour. I deny categorically that there is any such decision.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Is the honourable Member denying that letters go to the press signed with pseudonyms from the Barbados Labour Party? Is the honourable Member denying that there are persons calling in on the call-in programmes dictated to and dictated by the Barbados Labour Party.

Aside

Hon. B. M. TAITT: He is telling me now that we used to do it; so now you are saying that it happens. How does he know what we used to do if he is not doing it? The honourable Member gets up and categorically denies — I do not know what he denied — but I am saying that he himself called his troops to arms at his own conference. I am going to repeat. He categorically denied it. I am going to say that it is the Barbados Labour Party in this very wrong-headed quest for power in 1991 which they have told themselves that they must start now; they have started now with a campaign that is spearheaded by, for example, a Senator in the Other Place saying, as he has said openly, that whenever he gets up, he does not mind if he tells lies or the truth, as long as he achieves his objective.

(ASIDE: Louis said that.)

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, you see? I did not even say who said it. I said the other one in the Senate and he said Louis.

Laughter

Hon. B. M. TAITT: You would know because that sounds just like him, so you would know. I did not say it, but you said it, and I am saying that the Barbados Labour Party has a responsibility to the country, but in particular the Barbados Labour Party has a responsibility to the Barbados Workers' Union, and it does not fall well from the mouth of a single, solitary member of the Barbados Labour Party to appear to be degrading or in any way running down the Barbados Workers' Union. It cannot fall well from their mouths. All of them, every single one of you with the possible exception of the honourable Member for St. Peter, owe whatever you have become to the Barbados Workers' Union, if not all of us in this Honourable Chamber.

We are not discussing this in the context of our colleagues who are officials of that Union. I am discussing it in the context of the tremendous sacrifice which the Barbados Workers' Union and the General Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union have made for the people

of Barbados and the tremendous debt which we have for the Barbados Workers' Union and the General Secretary. 8.05 p.m.

And it is in that context that I have no difficulty whatsoever in condemning categorically the circumstances which led to this despicable headline which assaults both the intelligence and the integrity of every single right thinking Barbadian in this country.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Applause.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: If the Honourable Minister were not grandstanding I would have paid more attention to what he had to say, Sir, but I am so accustomed to

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, Sir. I understand that the honourable Member would need to start off his speech with some kind of remark, but I take objection to his suggestion that I am grandstanding.

Apart from the fact that no one grandstands, I wish to give you the assurance, Sir, that I was not grandstanding.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I formed the distinct impression, Sir, during the Minister's speech. I formed that impression, Sir, that he was only pretending to be righteously indignant, making.....

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: That is my impression, Sir. I did not say that he was. That is my understanding, Sir. And in all the rhetoric, it was a well put together set of words, Sir. He swallowed a word list for the purpose of that speech. He has not dealt with the fact that the newspaper article said that I accused the unions of forsaking the workers of Barbados. Unions in the plural.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: If the honourable Member would give way. The Honourable Member himself is a lawyer. The honourable Member knows that this headline here, Sir, "CALL TO DROP THE BWU" is a clarion call of what to anticipate in the

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I hope the honourable Member would not go down that line.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I have already said that in my speech on Sunday, I castigated both unions, and I want to repeat it. I am not withdrawing my criticism of the NUPW in respect of the matter of lay-offs. I believe they have not made a sufficiently strong representation on the

number of public workers who are being sent home without just cause.

In regard to the Barbados Workers' Union, I will not say the same thing about the leadership because I cannot find that the leadership of the Barbados Workers' Union has taken the same position as the leadership of the NUPW, as I cited from the article of September 14, 1986.

My criticism of the union and the Transport Board relates to the behaviour and conduct of the President of the Division, Mr. Prince and the way he has from June harassed the workers of the Transport Board to get them dismissed, he who should be trying to ensure their job security.

Do you expect me to stifle my conscience because the Barbados Workers' Union sprung at the same time as the Progressive League and we BLP and BWU were all together at one time? Must I stifle my conscience and condone the behaviour of Prince, a member of a union merely because there was a connection between the Barbados Workers' Union? I would be less than fair. I have already said I exempt the leadership of the union from my comments. But I feel the leadership of the union, BWU has a duty to deal with Prince, otherwise the time will come, if they do not put a stop to his behaviour when we will have to say that they condoned and colluded with him. I read the reply. Frank, do you want it? I am making these documents of the House. I had not finished with Prince. I dealt with the workers, the cleaners, the security guards and them.

There is a man who is an Internal Auditor, Mr. Douglas Chandler. I had to write....

(ASIDE: Who?)

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Douglas Chandler.

Aside

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Did I? Sorry.

Aside

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I had to write the Transport Board on that and I received a letter from the Manager, Mr. Noel Smith dated July 4:

"We received your letter regarding Mr. Douglas Chandler and the alleged threats and other behaviour he was subjected to. I will not stand for this type of behaviour against any employee of the Transport Board and all personnel will be advised of such.

When Mr. Chandler returns from vacation, I will speak to him regarding the matter. Mr. Prince was advised of the accusation.

You can be assured that this type of thing will never happen at the Transport Board during my administration."

About four different sets of workers, I have had to complain to the Transport Board in relation to Prince's behaviour to them. That is the guts of my criticism of the BWU although when Miss Benn and the other persons were given notice early in September, there was one Maxine from St. John who was also given notice to go.

Aside

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The union made it clear to the workers ever since; that when it came to the question of terminations *lifo* applies, last in, first out and yet, this Maxine from St. John who came after Olivia Rock, who has been working at the Transport Board for a shorter time than Olivia Rock, she is still working despite having got a letter to go home you know! And we.....

(ASIDE: Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: Benn too.)

Laughter.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS:.....have not heard anything about that. These are matters that the workers are talking about, that the members of the union are talking about. They bring the complaints to us. And I just want it clearly understood that I am not talking off the top of my head. I have factual cases, evidence on the basis of which I make my comments.

The Monday after the Election — I heard the honourable Member for St. Lucy complain about the quality of service — Prince and Jackman were jumping up in the yard of the Transport Board saying yes, not about Vic Johnson at all, listen to what they were saying — that for ten years they had sabotaged the transport system of this country.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Two little fellows? Why do you think today you will see a headline in the newspaper about sick leave? Because that was one of the tactics — and I drew it to the attention of this House last year — used by the opponents of the Barbados Labour Party in the Transport Board. Put down buses.....

(ASIDE: They are using them now.)

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Are they using them now? You all have not got a better bus service yet?

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS:.....and alleged that something had gone wrong with the bus and stop work.

(ASIDE: That is still happening.)

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Dick Brathwaite, Manager of Operations, I had occasion to call him shortly after the St. Thomas by-election about the bus service from Sturges, and Brathwaite told me, "We are being sabotaged in here and there is nothing I can do about it. I would like to put on a better service but we are getting sabotaged." After the election.....

8.15 p.m.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Well, he told me so. I do not know if he is able to do the work or not. The man had a position, Manager of Operations.

Laughter.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: A man called Sandiford, not the honourable Member.

Laughter.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: No, he does not look like he is related to you. He put me in touch with Mr. Brathwaite and that is what he told me, and I have made these allegations in this House before.

But I want to say something now about the union, Sir. The records of the Senate and the House will show that on more than one occasion I have praised the role of the Barbados Workers Union in particular as a very responsible organization in the history of this country, and I know and I agree with the honourable Member for St. Lucy. When we were in Government and you all were in Opposition the union could have given us a rougher time than they did. I know that. I have no joy in telling people that if they are not getting representation, if they are satisfied that their best interests are not being served to withdraw from the relationship of the union. It does not give me any pleasure to say that. But at the same time

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Now what headlines are you talking about? If you want headlines you are going to get some. Since you put the idea in my head, I am really going to pelt some blows in you now. I am going to put one in you on Housing soon then.

In every relationship there are times when the relationship has to be severed. Husband and wife try to get on and cannot get on. At some stage one or the other will have to withdraw from the society. Similarly, if in a situation of a workers union, like a club or any other organization to which there is membership, if it is perceived by the membership that they are not getting their just desserts as a last resort they have the option to withdraw, and I say that I do not withdraw what I said on Sunday in the current state of events in Barbados.

Now Sir, in relation to the Transport Board. The Transport Levy Fund, as I understand it, was created not only to help with the building of tenantry roads but also to provide new rolling stock and to improve the fleet.

On October 8, 1985 the present Prime Minister, then Leader of the Opposition said that the Democratic Labour Party will abolish the Transport Levy. He was not specific on what the Democratic Labour Party would do with the Health Levy, but he was very clear about the Transport Levy. He said that: "we will abolish the Transport Levy." On October 5, 1983 the present Minister of Finance had also said that upon return to Government the DLP would abolish all the levies.

I would like to hear from the Government. Sir, whether they have any intention of abolishing the Transport Levy as they promised in October 1985, and, if so, when the people of this country could look forward to its abolition.

We were hearing that it was a burden. In fact, the then Leader of the Opposition said the abolition would help to create jobs, tackle the country's serious unemployment problem, and we are looking at the total restructuring of the economy, all of that. I would like to hear, Sir, whether there is any intention to carry out this promise that was made to the people of Barbados.

The Minister dealing with the Transport Board tonight ought to be in a position to tell us how many persons.....

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

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS:.....have been terminated from the Transport Board Sir, since May 29. I understand it is one hundred and eighty-eight. I would like to know if that is the correct figure. But I would also like the Minister to tell the people at the Transport Board that all those they have sent home they must ensure that they get their National Insurance cards. This morning again I had people in my office complaining that they have not got their National Insurance cards.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: But they have not got the National Insurance cards.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: What? Do you mean that the workers are not entitled..... As a representative of a union, you are denying the workers their right to get unemployment benefit because.....

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: What do you say? The Transport Board did not pay for it. They should get it, but they have not got their cards, and I just feel that the honourable Minister tomorrow.....

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: They can get it without the Transport Board having paid it. Ask Leroy. Good Lord, good Lord, good Lord!

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Do you think I am Mohammed?

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

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I would like the honourable Member.....

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order!

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: I would like the honourable Member to know that unfortunately we cannot move off the article in the newspaper as yet. It is too serious, and I want to begin by saying that I am rather disappointed in the honourable Member for St. Thomas who in the presence of the press has not as yet called upon the press to change that story, and that is why we on this side have got to believe that — as ELC has said — there is some truth in the report in the press. The press is still here. You still have an opportunity, and people feel so strongly, and you have got to tell the press to withdraw those remarks. You have not done that and, therefore, we have to believe that the remarks were in fact made.

Aside.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: I understand. I was listening and you have gone all around it to say what you said

and what you intended to say, but you have not said that the press misquoted you and, therefore, it is the press who is misleading this country, unless you want the press to mislead the country.

Aside.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: Oh! Then they misquoted you? So you are saying that the workers should withdraw from the union.

Aside

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: Okay, that is all. We now understand. We have no argument then. We now understand what you are saying. The press is correct and yes he is correct for saying that he believes it.

What saddens me as well is that as far as the honourable Member is concerned, the troubles at the Transport Board started on May 28. He should go further back and look at the Transport Board, if he wants to understand about the problems. When we took office on May 28, the Transport Board had no Manager, no Assistant Manager, no Personnel Officer, no Accountant, no Chief Engineer. It was in absolute chaos, total chaos. That is how the Minister of the Transport Board hired and fired and that is the problem. So therefore you have got to start before May 28.

The problem did not start on May 28. It started long before then and you must address yourself to those problems. So that when you talk about people being fired, those people were brought there for a specific job by the Minister. So it is obvious that when the time came they themselves knew they had to go.
8.25 p.m.

I can remember the former Minister of Transport and Works, coming in here about three years ago and saying he was going to streamline the Transport Board, he was going to lay off, I think, seven hundred workers. He said so himself about three years ago, and then within a couple of months he employed two hundred and fifty on top of that, so if one hundred and eighty-eight have gone, then we fall short of the target, so there is no argument as to whether or not the people should have gone.

Asides

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: I am sorry to see that we have had to bring Mr. Daniel's name into it, because poor Mr. Daniel was a victim of the circumstances. Mr. Daniel

was not even a Manager, he did not want to be. So that all the problems at the Transport Board started with the administration of the former Minister and therefore the absolute confusion. One is surprised after hearing about the situation at the Transport Board that it is operating at all. I am surprised to see that the Transport Board did not collapse, so therefore there is no argument about us laying off people and people going to the union.

If a member of the union, and not an officer of the union, said to workers that the boot is on the other foot, obviously that person knew what he was talking about because the boot was with you on the other foot. The same Belle you are talking about, that was mentioned earlier here, I do not think that anybody in the Transport Board could have had a worse record than Belle. Belle was promoted for his bad behaviour, he was rewarded for his.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would like to remind honourable Members about the Standing Orders.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: I beg your pardon. I am only repeating what the honourable Member said: I am saying, Mr. Chairman, that the honourable Member called a person's name, and I am repeating the name he called, so I am within the Standing Orders. I am not introducing a name for the first time, I am quite within the Standing Orders. I am only repeating what the honourable Member said and therefore I think one has got to try and paint a complete picture of what went on at the Transport Board and not start at the 28th May.

Mr. Chairman, those are the only remarks I want to make, because I think — not enough has been said — but I think that the honourable member for St. Thomas owes it to this House and to this country to ask the newspaper to withdraw those remarks.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I did not really want to get into this debate, but certain things have happened that have forced me to say something.

There was mention made of a Mr. Prince who happens to be one of my constituents, and therefore when you interfere with one of my constituents I am duty bound to make a contribution, but before I say that I want to say something else.

The honourable Member for St. Thomas put a question that we in the Democratic Labour Party had promised to abolish the transport levy and he wants to know what is the nature of our position at this time. But I think that it is very interesting that he should raise that kind of philosophical question, because I want to remind him and those on the other side that in the 1976 Manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party, on page 11, it says this:

"A BLP Government will establish a Free National Health Service for all Barbadians. The Party believes that no further time should be lost in bringing Barbados in line with those countries, for example in Europe, where free medical schemes exist."

I raise that point to say this, that in addition to making that promise to the people of Barbados ten years ago, they collected a health levy to implement this, and they lost the Government after ten years and they never implemented the programme, so they cannot come in here and ask after six months if we made a promise, if we have not carried out the promise in six months time.

We on this side are people who honour our commitments, but while I want to get back to the comments made about one of my constituents, Mr. Prince, who they said and who is in truth an official of the union — and I want to say and I want to remind them — that they are in no position to criticise Trade Unionists.

I am surprised to hear the honourable Member for St. Thomas mention the NUPW, because they tend to forget the history of a former Minister of this country who was a member of the NUPW, who went around this country in 1975 and 1976 as a Trade Unionist demanding higher wages for the Civil Servants in this country, 100% increase in salary, only to find that on the day of the election he was a Parliamentary Secretary and had left the union.

So they are in no position to criticise Mr. Prince who is a lowly placed man, who obviously out of his own convictions and his own sufferings in the Transport Board is only reacting to the adverse conditions under which he was working. Of course Mr. Prince is not the kind of person who is doing what he is doing, because he wants to seek political office. So when they start relating the history of people involved in unions, they must recall their own situation.

When they talk about victimisation, a former Prime Minister of this country, while travelling in his automobile, seeing a driver in the constituency, I think, of St. Michael South Central, coming from a woman's house, went to that driver, spoke to him, and the following day that driver was dismissed, because the house he was coming from was perceived to be a Democratic Labour Party house. That is what happened in this country, so when you talk about victimisation, people have been summarily dismissed by the political directorate of this country under the Barbados Labour Party, so do not let us forget the sorry history of the past five years.

It seems to me that whenever some people in this country bring up acid vomit, it appears plastered on the front page of some daily beacons, and that acid is supposed to erode the thinking of people in this country.

I saw in a daily paper another man who said he was supposed to be a member of the Barbados Labour Party, claiming that he was victimised following the same theory that was expounded in this House this afternoon. I want to say our parents told us a simple story, and they say "ev'ry skin teet en nuh laugh." We have to understand that behind the facade of what is going on there are some very serious movements occurring in this country.

I want to get back to that man from the airport who said he was victimised. There was a Postman in the Pine for over thirty years by the name of Mr. Rock, a very honourable gentleman, who when they took him off the beat put him at the airport. The job for the Postman at the airport is considered to be a senior and secure job. Mr. Rock after serving in the Pine was sent to the airport, and some time in October last year Mr. Rock who was serving at the airport was removed from the airport, and the same man who appeared in the paper saying he was victimised was taken out of Gully Field Avenue in the Bay Land, because he supported the Barbados Labour Party candidate for that area, and having not worked in the postal services for one day, was put into Mr. Rock's job, and Mr. Rock was kicked out of the airport.
8.35 p.m.

We did not cry victimisation because we knew the nature of the beast, because on the floor of this House of Assembly a senior Minister in your organisation had already expounded quite clearly the philosophy of the Barbados Labour Party. So we knew what it was, and we took our lashes. But now that same man who took up the police car MP 102 and while bringing contestants from St. Michael South, from Heywood, from somewhere, smashed the police car MP 102 on the Spring Garden Highway

Asides.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: He was driving it; the same man who is crying victimization. He had no authority to drive a police car, and that same man can come on the newspapers and the news media without investigating what is going on can say this man is victimized but when they can kick Mr. Rock who had in over thirty years in the Post Office out of the airport, it was not victimization.

I am saying what is happening in this country is sinister, and if we look at the history of the developing countries in Africa and Latin America, we ought to learn a lesson. We are going down the wrong road, and if we are to pull this country together, people in responsible positions have to be careful what they say, when they say it, and how they say it especially when they have the backing of certain people who are prepared to do every-

thing to make sure that the poor masses of this country will not get their just due.

I have said in another place that certain people placed in key positions in the news media in this country are trying to put a case in this country that the people of Barbados made a mistake on May 28, that the people of Barbados did not know what they were doing. That is precisely the message that they are trying to send out, that the people made a mistake. But the people of Barbados are intelligent people and they are reading very carefully what is happening and I think it is clear to say that some of the news media will find out that their daily sales are decreasing because the intelligent people of Barbados are objecting to some of the nonsense and the insults to their intelligence that is being perpetrated in this country.

I am going to call on the people of this country whether on this side or on that side, if they think that they are responsible to the people of this country, and if they want to be sure that we have smooth development in this country, that they desist from the kind of wicked propaganda that is being spread in this country and we know, as I said before, there seems to be a deliberate plan in which people.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! Order! Order!

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: When responsible people act in such an irresponsible way, I am saying they must take the people of this country more seriously, and I only hope that tonight's session will open the eyes of some of the people in this country, because I have heard the representative for St. Thomas say that despite the fact that he was misquoted that he was not prepared to ask the Press to issue a statement saying that that is not what he said. I can, therefore, only conclude that what has happened.....

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of elucidation. Let me just make it clear once again. I have not said that the "Nation" newspaper misquoted me. I would not back off from something that I said. It is true. What I said is that I have never alluded to the leadership of the union other than in a favourable light to read the letter from Mr. Walcott to explain that he was very kind to me.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, the gist of that article clearly conveys to any person who has a modicum of intelligence that the speaker said that officials who must be interpreted as representatives of the people of this country.....

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order. The article did not say "officials". Nothing that was quoted

from me had the word "officials" in it. I never said it, unless you call Prince an official.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: The idea is clearly conveyed that the representatives crawled on the people's backs, and have now betrayed them and when that impression is conveyed, people can only get one impression. If the representative for St. Thomas says that he is not prepared to withdraw that statement, it means that is what he intended, that is what the Press understood, that is what the Press printed, that is what he intends to stand by and my statement is that it is an irresponsible statement that will do this country no good.

Aside

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: But let them go down that road. The people of this country are intelligent people and they will interpret. However, there may be a small minority of people.....

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

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

There may be a small minority of people who having read and digested this garbage, may be prepared to act because they may be incited to do something that is not in the interest of this country. If you are to follow the daily proceedings in the newspaper, one cannot rule out the possibility that there are seeds being sown to cause massive discontent in this country and, therefore, I am going to wind up by saying that those of us who hold responsible positions in this country, must be very careful at where we plant our information and what ends we intend to achieve by that information.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, Sir this debate has ranged from South Africa to Sutherland Hill in St. Lucy, but it would be useful if we could remind ourselves that it has at its core the provision of an amount of \$8.6 million to cover the accumulated deficits of the Transport Board as it stood at March 31, 1986, and that it might be useful if, during the course of our discussion on the role of the union and the degree of deference that we must pay to the Barbados Workers' Union and the role of the Belles, the Princes and whatever else, that there is a matter of substantial financial import which this House, as a responsible House of Assembly, ought to be considering.

I want to say that some time in July 1976, a supplementary too was brought to this House to cover a decision to reduce the busfares charged by the Transport Board from 60¢ to 25¢ and I want, Mr. Chairman, to say, as I put this matter in context, that the history of the Transport Board, the problems of the Transport Board did not begin with Vic Johnson. They did not even begin with Don Blackman, but they were fundamentally routed in a political decision taken in 1976 for this country to start playing politics with busfares.

8.45 p.m.

If, Mr. Chairman, in 1976 before that supplementary bus fares were set at 60 cents and things of that character, if we were to count for inflation over the period, then it must become clear to us that so long as we continue to perpetuate a situation where the bus fare is in itself not subject to change because we are all gripped at the throat by the fear of charging an economic bus fare, so long as we continue the practice of charging a bus fare that does not reflect the cost of the service, we will from time to time have to face the reality of dealing with deficits and subsidies of this order or magnitude. I want therefore, Mr. Chairman, to put this debate on this supplementary for a financial provision in its proper context, that for too long, for a decade, this country has played politics with the Transport Board and bus fares.

The Transport Board, not only under Vic Johnson but under other people too, has been all things to all people.

Asides.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: I am not about to say what it is, but I am saying that so long as we are prepared to play politics with the Transport Board making it all things to all people, and so long as we perpetuate the principle of the decision taken in 1976 to reduce the bus fares in this country just prior to an election, and set them at a rate that both you and I

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The honourable Member is referring to a decision made in 1976 to make bus fares 25 cents. The implication of what he is saying is that the revenue has dropped. The fact is that when the bus fares became 25 cents, revenues increased both in the private sector and the public sector considerably.

Asides.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: There will come a time when we will get tangle up in that debate, when you will have

the information before you and I shall have the information before me, but I do not care to speculate on trivia.

The point I am trying to establish is that we have for too long in this country played politics with bus fares and the Transport Board, Mr. Chairman, and that we are always going to be faced with a situation in this country so long as we continue to believe that we can have a bus service in Barbados that runs at all hours into every district throughout the day without respect to peak or off peak considerations. As long as that situation prevails we are going to bend our minds to the fact that we are going to have to subsidise the Transport Board.

Now in relation again, Mr. Chairman, to the financial.....

(Aside: We are socialist.)

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: I do not believe you are socialists.

Aside.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, I am not going to get myself tangled up deeply into the question of the BWU, the role of the press and other things of that character.

The notion has been put by the Minister and more precisely so by the honourable Member for St. Lucy that the Estimates of Expenditure contain something called hidden subsidies to the Transport Board, and that the Democratic Labour Party has for a long period of time been agonising as to what these hidden subsidies might be. The fact of the matter is that the amounts included in the Estimates under the Heads applicable to the Ministry of Education and the Police by way of transfers to the Transport Board are in point of fact not subsidies to the Transport Board. They are in point of fact transfers of income and revenue to the Transport Board to provide a revenue for the Board to pay it for a service that it is providing to parties falling under the responsibility of those two respective Ministries. They are not subsidising the Board. You are subsidising the people who get that service at a cost that is far less than the cost that the Board incurs in making that service available and that in point and fact if we are to understand what is really meant by subsidy to the Transport Board in its proper context, we have therefore to add the income that accrues to the Transport Board from the normal fares paid by the general public to the subventions or the transfers from the Ministry of Education and the Police and the Welfare Department which gives you the full amount of revenue available to the Transport Board, and then we compare that with the operating expenditures and that tells you what the deficit is, and that is what we have to subsidise. But when in the Estimates of

Expenditure we put an amount of \$2.5 million, that is in point of fact a revenue flow to the Transport Board and not a subsidy. We are subsidising the families who have school children and whom we do not want to have to pay the 75 cents which is the normal fare and ask them to pay 40 cents. So this notion about the BLP having hidden subsidies in the Estimates and the Budget is foolishness.

The subsidy to the Transport Board is as set out, the \$10 million or whatever it is, provided under the Head — Ministry of Transport and Works — to cover its operating deficit. The subventions as provided under the heads applicable to the Ministry of Education and the Police are not subsidies to the Transport Board, but they are subsidies to the people who are enjoying the benefit. They are in fact sources of revenue to the Board, and I wish that foolish debate would drop, because there was absolutely no cover up by the Barbados Labour Party to shroud what was the true deficit or not the true deficit of the Transport Board. In relation to this matter, since the Addendum states that the Board has an accumulated deficit which stood at \$8.6 million as at March 31, and in the interest of clarity and clarification on these matters, the notion of an accumulated deficit perhaps implies to me that it stretches over a number of years, and I want to work in my own mind as to what really is the operating deficit of the Transport Board in any given year, and since we are voting in this house this evening an amount to settle arrears, and since the notion as to what is the actual size of the deficit of the Transport Board is bandied here and bandied there, I want really to know, and I ask of the Minister if he would oblige what really is the amount of this supplementary that is being voted to cover arrears for years previous to the financial year ending March 1986, because only when we do that will our discussions in this Chamber be informed by any serious consideration as to what is the true deficit of the Transport Board.

Mr. Chairman, I have in the past had the opportunity to reflect on some of the problems of the Transport Board. I have no doubt in my mind whatsoever that the Transport Board has a bloated bureaucracy, and that this bureaucracy has been bloated for a long period of time, and the bloating of the Transport Board bureaucracy did not start with Mr. Vic Johnson either.

But fundamental to the Transport Board's financial problem is the question as to the role that we in this country are asking the Transport Board to perform *vis-à-vis* the role and the position that we are assigning to the private mode of transportation. We are asking the Transport Board in this country to pick up a social responsibility, to run fleets expensive to maintain into every

awkward corner of this society at all kinds of times — it is true in my constituency for sure, and I know it is true in the constituency of the honourable Member for St. Lucy — a consideration that is not imposed on the people who operate the private means of Transportation in this country.

8.55 p.m.

A large part of the problem with the Transport Board, Sir, relates to the fact that it is providing in many respects — separate and distinct from the bloated bureaucracy which I acknowledge to be a problem — a service of convenience.

(ASIDE: Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Do you mean that they have too many people working up there?)

Mr. O.S. ARTHUR: I have said that. I do not have any doubt about that. It has always been a bloated bureaucracy. I can say that without fear.

Asides.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: We have played politics in this country with the Transport Board because it has been all things to all people.

Aside

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: It is where traditionally.....

Aside

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Traditionally, Mr. Chairman, it is the place where all politicians in this country in charge of the Ministry of Transport and Works have sent the people when they wanted jobs. And that is not something which began or ended with Vic Johnson. And that is a matter of historical fact which we had better face in Barbados.

(ASIDE: Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: You agree that the poor people should be fired.)

Aside

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: I have said that.

Aside

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: But my point, Sir, is that separate and apart from the question of the bloated bureaucracy of the Transport Board.....

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

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: that the Transport Board in this society is being called upon to play a role of

convenience. And if we are asking the Transport Board to be all things to all people in a political sense, if we are asking the Transport Board to be all things to all people in a social sense, Sir, the guise of situations that we have presenting before us this evening will persist in this country.

And I am saying therefore, Sir, that my interest in this debate is for us to come to terms with what is really the true situation at the Transport Board. What is its real operating deficit? What must we plan for? What really is the optimum size that we want the service, the size of the service in manpower size? What really is the optimum size of the service in terms of the discharge of a transport problem in relation to the fact that we have a private transport system operating as well.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I really wish that we could focus on these issues. We will have more than ample time to discuss the BWU, the role of the press, but the role of the Transport Board and the size of its deficit is sufficiently important that when matters such as this come before this House that we should spend some time in this House of Assembly dealing with it in a serious way.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: Mr. Chairman, I too intend to focus on the fact that due to the criminal maladministration of the Ministry of Transport and Works under Vic Johnson in particular, the Barbados taxpayer is now being called upon to foot a bill — an astronomical bill of approximately \$26 million in this Financial Year. Twenty-six million dollars! This is precisely what the Barbados taxpayer is being asked to pay.

Now the situation at the Transport Board did not happen to be what it is as if by magic. It is the direct result of serious policy errors which were committed within the last three years. And the policy errors included a deliberate programme of victimization. Yes! It included a deliberate programme of victimization.

I do not believe that any member of the Barbados Labour Party can come in here in this debate on this day the 21st of October in the Year of Our Lord one thousand, nine hundred and eighty-six, and talk in tones about moral superiority about victimization.

Speakers alluded to the paradoxical situation of a union member recommending the removal of other union members, if they were union members at all. But I can refer to the paradoxical situation within the last three years when the Minister of Government, aided and

abetted by Tom Adams deliberately pursued a policy of firing people from jobs within the Transport Board who were members of the Barbados Labour Party. We had the spectacle where leading members of the Barbados Labour Party were deliberately seeking out other members of the Barbados Labour Party and firing them from the Transport Board within the last three years. The Transport Board and the Ministry of Transport and Works indeed! One hundred and fifty members from my constituency, one hundred and fifty people were fired from the Transport Board and the Ministry of Transport and Works, and it was done deliberately, maliciously and viciously with a view to weakening my position in St. Michael East, but it had the opposite effect.

So the people from that side cannot speak with any moral authority on victimization. Victimization was a clear policy of the Barbados Labour Party during the years 1983–1986. Nor can they talk about cannibalism in tones of moral superiority. If that were not political cannibalism I do not know what it is. And like the honourable Member for St. Michael South East, if anybody interferes with my constituents, then they are coming for my political jugular. And I would never associate myself with any group of men who do anything to hurt the people whom I am pledged to support. And I have discussed this on numerous occasions with the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, and he knows my position on that!

The Barbados Labour Party failed criminally to correct the wrongs they visited upon innocent members of that Party precisely because they came from my constituency. I pay no attention at all to their lamentations now. It is a matter of *de ja vu*. They do not have the moral ground on which to stand. People who sent home poor individuals and caused them and their families to suffer cannot come in here and talk nonsense about people losing their jobs. I would not listen to it. I have no sympathy at all for it. Nor do I have any sympathy for the same people who in 1981 excoriated me and called me disloyal when I opposed what I considered to be the cruel and heartless attempts on their part to lay off seven hundred persons from the Ministry of Transport and Works.

I find it curious and an example of the amnesia that their utterances will indicate that they are afflicted with, for such people to talk about laying off, shedding crocodile tears about laying off, when I was pilloried within the Party organization because I defended the rights of seven hundred persons at the Ministry of Transport and Works to retain their jobs.

I do not want to dwell on the unpleasant past but the fact of the matter is that if a Government has, as an integral part of its policy, a programme for victimizing others, then the following consequences flow from this

sort of behaviour, because they send home competent people. Competent people are removed from positions without any thought whatsoever for continuity, and the result is squandering of the taxpayers' money. In other societies, having regard to the money that Vic Johnson wasted, he would be in a grave.

9.05 p.m.

In other societies, public officials are taken out and put before firing squads for squandering such large portions of the patrimony of a country. In Barbados we are democratic and more tolerant. He has not gotten away as far as I am concerned. There is the question of the road. There is the question of the stolen road, and there are other questions in relation to the Transport Board which must be exposed.

The policy of the Transport Board in 1983 as Johnson found it, was that a policy of preventative maintenance was to be implemented and executed by officials of Mercedes Benz. Workers were supposed to be sent to Germany to be trained. An entire programme of maintenance which would transform the procedures in the workshop was negotiated with Mercedes Benz. This is not a figment of my imagination.

I sent the Honourable Leader of the Opposition to Germany along with the then General Manager of the Transport Board to negotiate that package and they said that he, the Leader of the Opposition went into Germany and did foolishness and the package was immediately abandoned. It is a fact. The package was immediately abandoned and you had a situation where buses which were totally new were never serviced for as long as eighteen months. Buses were never serviced for as long as eighteen months. The preventive maintenance programme went through the door, the scholarships which were organized for the workers at the Transport Board were never utilized and a situation of chaos developed.

We installed within the Transport Board, a system whereby para-medicals could serve the interest of the workers. The Para-Medical Programme was emasculated and finally abandoned. Vic Johnson said that it was a waste of money. But we found that when the Para-Medical Programme was in operation, it resulted in a mark reduction of the number of man-hours lost. Not only that, the Minister and the idiots whom he appointed – I am talking about Arthur Jordan and such people. There is no other description that is apposite for Jordan than the term idiot.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I must remind the honourable Member about calling names especially when it refers to character.

Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: I am sorry, Mr. Chairman, but I am trying to get to the truth of the matter and I believe that the people in this country ought to know what the truth is, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

Laughter

After the depredations of Mr. Johnson began — I hope I can mention his name — there was a serious attempt to cover up and obscure the losses that were taking place at the Transport Board. Up to the financial year 1982–83 there was no question at all as to what the losses were for any particular year. The honourable Member for St. Peter in his innocence is confused about this. He does not know the history of it.

There was a system in existence at the Transport Board where they never under any circumstances rolled over debts from one financial year to the next. The slate was always wiped clean at the end of a financial year, so that you know that at the beginning of any financial year on April 1st the Transport Board was going into the new financial year with a debt of zero dollars. This prevailed up to March 31, 1983. After that the juggling acts began in order to conceal the true deficit. Debts were rolled over from one financial year to the next. The Minister went into the press day after day giving different accounts of what the deficit was. In April 1984, Mr. Johnson said that the deficit had been reduced to \$12 million. I have it in the newspaper quoted. He said that the deficit was reduced to \$12 million. Two months later he said the deficit for the previous financial year had been reduced to under \$10 million. Six months later he said it was \$15 million. He did not know what it was at any given time because of the institution of a system of rolling over debts into the new financial year, and this difficulty of understanding what the loss is for any given year is a difficulty which arose only after March 31, 1983. There has never been a problem of ascertaining what the loss of the Transport Board was up to that time because of the rigid principle adhered to.

I well remember the late Prime Minister saying to Members of the Transport Board. "I hope that you understand clearly that there is to be no roll over of debts." This is something that he insisted upon because one of his minions in the Transport Board had misinformed him that the deficit was \$20 million, and he wanted to pillory the Minister by saying. "Look at how this deficit has ballooned", and he felt that the then Minister and the Transport Board would have rolled over the debts to conceal it. This is something that he did in order to conceal the fact that he and Johnson reduced the Transport Board to a shamble.

There is no mystery about the astronomical nature of these losses. The astronomical nature of these losses

come as a result of victimisation. It comes as a result of proceeding on the assumption, an assumption that the former Prime Minister articulated on occasion after occasion, that there are men who are semi-literate according to him who ran bus companies with 3 cents and 4 cents bus fares and they became millionaires, so as long as the buses are running then you would make money. He did not understand that these entrepreneurs were operating with two or three buses, and some of these buses made two trips a day, one at 6 o'clock in the morning and one at 6 o'clock in the evening.

Over and above this, the mistake which was made occurred even earlier. The genesis of the crisis is located in the unplanned nationalization which took place in 1977, and let me tell you what happened. The then Minister, L.B. Brathwaite — I hope I can call his name — went to the bus owners and told them in characteristic arrogance — "Look, we have a man to take over these buses. I am coming for them in a month." There was no proper investigation as to the quality of the rolling stock, and when the buses were turned over they discovered that they had engines falling out, wheels dropping off, and the majority of buses were totally unroad worthy.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You have another two minutes.

Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: He then had to rush, hot and sweaty to England, and order 46 buses in the meantime. He pulled the buses off the profit bearing routes in the centre of the city and put them on the long haul routes which do not bear profits, and this opened the way to the mini-bus interest and from that time the royalship and the revenue of the Transport Board started to fall, except in one financial year. The only financial year in which the historical trend was reversed is when your humble servant — you can say I am immodest but it is a fact, it is a fact — the only year in which this was corrected was when the policies of your humble servant were instituted.

Laughter

9.15 p.m.

Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: Then the deficit was reversed, and when they interfered with my policies, they opened the way to chaos again and to this criminal situation here today. I will come back if necessary.

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

Mr. C. L. TROTMAN: Mr. Chairman, the honourable Member for St. Thomas and the honourable Member for St. Peter are both correct when they make reference to some concerns which there are. The Member for St. Peter made reference to the concern about the volume of the deficit, and I wish to indicate that I am equally concerned with

that, especially when I recognise that more than \$4 million of that is in National Insurance contributions which has not yet been paid.

In that respect, I have the same concern as the honourable Member for St. Thomas because I would be anxious to ensure that the workers are able to have their unemployment benefits processed, and I would support him in his call to the relevant Ministry and the Transport Board to make sure that the cards for the individuals are sent forward to the National Insurance Office for speedy processing.

Beyond that though, Mr. Chairman, I have areas of concern of difference. The honourable Member for St. Thomas indicated that there was concern for sabotage which he thought was partly responsible for a difference which existed. That is a matter of apparent contradiction, so it would seem, because in the period referred to a moment or so ago by the honourable Member for St. Michael East, there was a period when the Transport Board experienced a period where the relationship between management and staff under the regime of the Barbados Labour Party recognised a quality that was commendable. I refer, Mr. Chairman, to that period when — and I hope I may call their names — Mr. Mitchell Codrington was the Manager and Mr. Arnie Walters was the Personnel Manager. Whereas there had been problems with staff and management before that, there was a turn about. The number of accidents became less; the number of dismissals were fewer; we moved from a situation where there used to be dismissals on Tuesdays and a movement to the Court of Appeal on Thursdays with most of those people having to get their jobs returned, to a situation where within that one year fewer people were dismissed in that entire period than had been dismissed in any one day in the preceding fifty-two weeks. The period during which Mr. Codrington was the General Manager, Mr. Walters was the Personnel Manager and Mr. Straughn was the Chairman the relationship was much improved. As I said, the accidents were fewer and the incidence of having disciplinary matters dealt with was considerably reduced, and we have just understood that there was a reversal in the trend of the finances.

But then, Mr. Chairman, we moved from that situation to a situation where we got somebody by the name of Mr. Alas Williams..... There were two other persons who had to do with the management of the establishment as Manager and Personnel Manager, and we again found ourselves in situations where we know there were instructions being given by remote control for terminations and we had problems. And it is because we have been in that kind of a situation that we know that the work which was being done in representation of the workers at the Transport Board has not been properly recognised or respected by the honourable Member for St. Thomas.

It is still my concern that the honourable Member for St. Thomas is continuing to miss the point even now that we were making.

When he makes reference to the fact that he sees no reason why there should be any need for a review of this newspaper article, then I need to become concerned, because he continues to make reference about persons sent by him to the Union, continues to make reference to the Union's failure to do things, and I want to bring him around to see whether he understands the point put in different language.

The trade union is not run by an individual, even if that individual is a prince. The trade union, certainly the Barbados Workers' Union, is run by an Executive Council, and then they place officials to do the day by day work, and if therefore the honourable Member for St. Thomas says and continues to repeat that you send to the Union or that the Union has done, you cannot be referring to an individual, for if an individual commits a sin of omission, and a junior person at that — a junior individual — it would be very improper from that to conclude that the entire organisation is at fault.

If the Barbados Labour Party has an individual who had said something wrong, like that everybody should starve if your name is Douglas Leopold Phillips, and if nobody in the Barbados Labour Party said anything about it, except one apology and censure that came from one honourable Member I think here present now; does that necessarily mean that we should today, many years after, believe that the Barbados Labour Party still has the same view? Perhaps they do, but is it logical for us to conclude because one person said so that the entire party has that view?

Aside

Mr. C. L. TROTMAN: To some extent I agree with that, Mr. Chairman. It depends on who the person is that makes the observation and that makes the criticism. If the main spokesman, the chief spokesman, makes the comment, then one has to take it much more seriously. If on the other hand we have a Shop Steward who was reported to have made such a comment, it should not give rise to this kind of spurious comment by so senior and so respected an individual as the honourable Member for St. Thomas.

He has been kind enough to say that we have had pleasant — I almost said intercourse until I remembered that he is the honourable Member for St. Thomas and that he has written about people climbing on the backs of others.

Laughter.

Mr. C. L. TROTMAN: Mr. Chairman, the point I want to make is that if we think of Mr. Prince's alleged behaviour, it is not proven behaviour, but he has been tried, he has been found guilty and he has been sentenced, and we have to be careful, especially the Barbados Labour Party has to be careful about that, because the Transport Board has been politicised for a very long time, and I suppose will continue to be politicised. That is absolutely correct, but there have been low marks and low points within that.

I can remember occasions when myself as an officer dealing with representing people and defending them, I have had to accept that people had committed offences, and that I could not in all conscience claim that the person had done no wrong, and I had agreed that the person should be terminated, only to find that that individual walked out of the office, walked up to the Pine during the regime of the Barbados Labour Party, and walked back down and picked up the job or a more senior one, and I believe the honourable Member for St. Thomas would know of instances like that where people may have gone to him — because some of them were in the constituency he represented at the time in St. Philip — and where after they were terminated they came back to the job and told the people who had fired them "you cannot touch me any more, because Mr. X sent me back." 9.25 p.m.

So we have a situation where we must recognize that problems have been with us and have been with us for a long time, and that those problems may have been of such a nature that individuals may have made wild statements which cannot be interpreted as statements of the trade union.

Furthermore we are aware of promotions of incompetent people. There was the promotion of a person — who had been fired — by his church, and the only recommendation to fame in that promotion to Personnel Manager was because of the church he had come from.

Asides

I am of the view that where this newspaper article says that the union — and it is a single union this time — has sold out the worker, that this has to be read in the context of the overall comment which was made, and I therefore want to have this Honourable House, bearing in mind the point I made before about how a trade union is run, and about how the public perceives a trade union should be run — as a matter of fact, Mr. Chairman, I want us to bear in mind the comments of E. L. Cozier — E. L. C., I should say, because I am not sure who E. L. C. is, and I think that was already a document of the House — where he says at the beginning of a paragraph, having made reference to what Mr. Simmons had said, and I am quoting:—

"Already Mr. Simmons has suggested that BLP members, under the circumstances charged, should resign membership of the Union. I would prefer to use another tactic: to urge them to fight within the Union to forestall any further behaviour of the kind of which they now complain."

He proceeded to say and this point is of some concern to me:

"They are, after all, intelligent men, and so are the offenders."

E.L.C. has concluded, based on the statement made in the "Nation" newspaper, attributed to the honourable Member for St. Thomas, that the trade union officials — which the honourable Member does not deny — are offenders. In short, when persons have gone to the General Secretary and the Deputy General Secretaries — that is E. L. C.'s interpretation, not what the St. Thomas representative is saying — that when they have gone to the General Secretary, the Deputy General Secretaries, or any other senior member, that they have said: "We are sorry, we will not represent you. The boot is on the other foot."

He continues to say:—

"It is difficult, however, to disbelieve Mr. Simmons' statement that when he sent a group of complainants to the Union, they were told "Too bad. The boot is on the other foot now. I can't do anything for you."

What I am suggesting is that that statement by E.L.C. is going to be repeated several times in the *Advocate* tomorrow in letters to the Editor, and in the *Nation*, or by Thursday. The damage that has been done is irreparable. This newspaper would have gone off to the United States, to England and to the islands in the Caribbean today. I know that daily papers go down to the islands, Grenada, where have you. People would have read them, perhaps, people who are prepared to come to Barbados to set up businesses, and they will now get the impression that the trade union which was otherwise considered to be honourable, respectable and mature is a trade union reduced by the comments of the representative for St. Thomas as being asinine, treacherous.....

Aside

Mr. C. L. TROTMAN: Thank you very much. I was looking for a word that was not unpleasant and unparliamentary.

When the Honourable Leader of the Opposition tells them to infiltrate the union or leave the union because the members of the union have become Members of Parliament, that is all right. We do not mind that because we understand what that is all about, but when the NUPW

tells them if they tell them so, we do not mind that because we all belong to the same organisation so we can deal with them. When a Member of Parliament who claims to represent an organisation maligns it and vilifies it in a way that is uncalled for, that is what we are talking about.

We do not want to beg you for your support. We do not want you to canvass, membership for us.

What we are saying is that what you have done is a dis-service not just to the Barbados Workers' Union. It is a dis-service to the nation of Barbados and to the development that we are trying to have in Barbados. It is a dis-service of that magnitude, and no amount of prevarication can remove my views from that fundamental issue that what has been done to Barbados is a harm of the magnitude that we cannot repair in the short term.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, this debate has really gone on much longer than I anticipated. When I agreed with the Leader of the House that the Opposition would not raise any objections to the debate at this stage, perhaps I was hoping that we would have had a much easier debate, but, obviously, honourable Members have used the occasion, they think, in order to score some political points, they believe, at the expense of the Opposition.

I believe that the honourable Member for St. Thomas has given, accurately, what he said and what transpired at the meeting on Sunday last. I want, however to put very clearly the position of the Opposition on some of the matters that have come up in this debate in so far as they are relevant to the Resolution.

First I have to remind members of this Committee that the Barbados Workers' Union is the child of the Barbados Labour Party. Whatever might have been the subsequent history of the separation between these two institutions, we can always say that the Barbados Progressive League, the Barbados Workers' Union and the Barbados Labour Party are inextricably bound up in history.

9.35 p.m.

The contribution which the Barbados Labour Party has made to the working class movement in this country is outstanding in the annals of trade union history. No one can deny that. There have been difficulties between the leadership of the Barbados Workers' Union and the Barbados Labour Party which is now history. Certainly at this stage of the history of these two institutions it is not in the interest of either of us to reopen these difficulties.

I believe that it is well recognised, talking about the Barbados Workers' Union in particular, by everybody in

this country that the union has made a tremendous contribution to the improvement of the working class people in this Island. The Barbados Labour Party has recognised that contribution, and has on numerous occasions brought before this Honourable House measures for the improvement of the workers of Barbados.

We have been maligned from time to time by people saying that we are anti-worker and all sorts of things, usually in the heat of the political battle, but an examination of the major measures brought before this Honourable House either by way of legislation or otherwise would show that in the forty-eight years of our history, forty-five of which we have shared in the lifetime of the Barbados Worker's Union, we have consistently given the best of support to the working class people of Barbados. Whether it was by way of holiday with pay legislation, minimum wages, hours of work, whatever you want, our contribution has been in the forefront. So that I have no difficulty whatsoever with answering from the party's point of view the stance that people are now trying to throw the Barbados Labour Party in. There is no difficulty about that at all.

There is a large number of Barbados Labour Party people who still believe in the principles of the Barbados Labour Party and its policies, who are members of the Barbados Workers' Union, and who are members as well of the National Union of Public Workers.

Now, Sir, when it comes to trade union matters, their primary source of representation must always be their respective trade unions; but one has to recognise, and I am sure the honourable Member who has spoken in very sober, considerate and sensible terms, not with the emotionalism of my former pupil, the honourable Member for St. Lucy, that there is a body of opinion that because of the closeness between the top leadership of the union and the Democratic Labour Party, that one does not always find an objectivity in the approach to people in the Barbados Labour Party.

I do not want to go into a debate about various things with Sir Grantley Adams and what not. There is a large body of people, and they come to us daily, feeling that if one puts forward people like — I think reference was made to him — the former Senator Williams to run for the Barbados Labour Party, he never received the support of his union in the same way that the honourable Members from St. Lucy and St. Michael Central have received. There is a different standard, and one cannot gainsay that. One must recognise that there is this different standard.

When the Barbados Labour Party and the Workers' Union were together, and there was no Democratic Labour Party, this problem never arose. When the Democratic Labour Party was formed in 1955/56 the problem then was that the General Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union,

as the debates of this House would show for that period, was under worse fire than he has ever got from the Barbados Labour Party from the Rt. Honourable Member who was then one of the leading members of the Democratic Labour Party. The records of this House would show on the Equalisation Revenue Bill the personal attacks launched on the present General Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union and the President of the Senate by the then Leader of the Democratic Labour Party who is still the leader about him in his capacity as a trade union leader. That is history.

You know, I hear all sorts of things now, and we forget so quickly that that is history, because then the Barbados Workers' Union was being seen as too close to the Barbados Labour Party. I make no bones about saying that I am one of the persons who felt that the separation that came between the leadership of the Barbados Workers' Union and the Barbados Labour Party was detrimental. I said that on numerous occasions.

But I go further and say that despite that break between the two institutions, when the Barbados Labour Party returned to Government in 1976 we got a standard of conduct from the General Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union that was of the highest order. I wish sometimes I could say the same for the National Union of Public Workers with respect. I make no bones in saying that any union that could wait for a couple of days before an election to call out seven thousand people had only a political motive in mind, and now five months after the general election when all the honeymoon is over you cannot hear a pipsqueak from them about representing the same position that they took before. Do not let us get around the place. They can attack me as much as they like, but the point remains that there is a double standard which the National Union of Public Workers have adopted to the two political parties.

The Barbados Workers' Union has to recognise as well that there is a body of opinion which feels that they are not fair when it comes to the candidates who stood in the election, particularly their treatment of the former Senator Williams. We must not mince about these words. I want to put the position as is seen as well from another stand.

I can never say that any worker that I have ever sent to the Barbados Workers' Union on any complaint has never had proper representation. I know that it would not be correct. I have had dealings with my friend the honourable Member for St. Michael Central, my friend LeVere Richards, and the General Secretary, and whenever a complaint has been drawn to their attention, they have dealt with it properly, but the honourable Member has to admit something that is creeping into life, and it comes every time there is an election. It has come on our side; it has come on the Democratic Labour Party's side, and we have to be careful with it.

People are excited about a change of Government. I have seen in 1961, I saw again in 1976, and I have seen again in 1986 that each change of Government is a deliverance in the eyes of some people, and a new day has come until the next time when it is your turn to be out of power.
9.45 p.m.

I have seen the Right Honourable Prime Minister being booed in the yard and I have turned to some of our supporters and said: "I remember from Roman history when you called out the Gracchi came riding into Rome in all of its power and within some years, the Gracchi were being beheaded." I have seen that. I have seen our members, when we lost power in 1961 — I was not a member of the Party then — and now in 1986 being subjected to similar treatment.

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

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Take note of these things. All of this talk about three blind mice and burying people, that must have an effect on the representation that you get when there are political views at a place as highly politicized as the Transport Board. And the complaint is that people who are Presidents of divisions must recognize they have a responsibility, no matter what is their political allegiance, as indeed, the honourable Member recognizes and as indeed, the General Secretary recognizes.

And I am glad that we had this clear of the air statement here because workers of the Barbados Workers' Union or the National Union of Public Workers are members of their union first and foremost and they are DLPs long after that and BLPs long after that. And if they do not recognize this and give representation, you are going to get the very excitement that has come from this statement that has been made.

I believe that there is a very strong case for unionism in Barbados and will be for a long time. And there is no way, contrary to what the honourable Member in his wicked aside, Sir, — the honourable Member for St. Michael West — is trying to get the Labour Party in a position of saying that it does not want unionism. The Labour Party has never said so. And we could not say so! We were there long before they were saying that, Sir!

And I want to go on record, as I have gone on record as saying before that during our tenure of office, the standard of conduct that we got from the Barbados Workers' Union in industrial relations, vis-a-vis the Government and the country in general was of the highest standard, as high as I have seen in any country where free trade unions are represented. We have recognized that. It is in Debates by myself, it is in Debates

by former Prime Minister Tom Adams. I have heard him say it. That is our stand on that. But I want to counsel some people who in their enthusiasm believe that the new day has come. They must be careful in separating their roles. And I want to counsel politicians, Sir. Today we are out of power the time will come when we are back in power. Certainly if I have anything to do with it, the standard of conduct will never be that because a person is a DLP that they must not work nor will be standard of conduct be that because they have been victimized, some of our Party members have been victimized by some DLPites, that we must victimize them. That cannot be the the standard in Barbados ever.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: That is why I make bold, as the political Leader of the Barbados Labour Party at this time in its history in stating quite clearly that victimization and tribalism must have no role in the life of Barbados. Do not mind whether you harp back on what has gone before, what has happened a long time ago or even shortly, we must make quite clear that it is not the order of the day.

And I am prepared — tell the Minister of Employment, speaking outside

Mr. CHAIRMAN: It is time.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Yes, Sir. Give me one minute just, Sir, to finish off.

I know of cases where there is obviously a cause for investigating why people are being treated in a particular manner. And it must not be coincidence that they are all members or considered to be sympathetic to the Barbados Labour Party.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. M. A. KING rose.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Wind up.

Hon. M. A. KING: Yes. Mr. Chairman, perhaps I will start in my wind up quickly with the speech of the honourable Member for Christ Church West who in his statement sought to put his Party's position in relation to the Barbados Workers' Union.

My problem is that I am not clear. I am not sure that I clearly understand what the Barbados Labour Party's position is on it. Maybe I understand what the position of the honourable Member for Christ Church West is likely to be, but

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Let me assure the honourable Member — I do not want to prolong the debate —

that the stand that I have said is the position of the Barbados Labour Party. Quite clearly.

Hon. M. A. KING: I have heard the honourable Member say that

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Before the honourable Member continues, the debate should wind up at this time but I will allow further minutes for winding up purposes.

Hon. M. A. KING: My only problem is this: that the honourable Member for Christ Church West praises the Barbados Workers' Union — and not the first time as he said — for the role which it has played in this community, and rightly so.

In the same speech he makes the point that yet some people in the Barbados Labour Party perceive the leadership of the Barbados Workers' Union to be too closely aligned to the leadership of the Democratic Labour Party, and I gather from that that he goes on to make the point that there is a large segment of the Barbados Labour Party which is concerned about the fairness of the Barbados Workers' Union in dealing with matters which fall within its purview when it has to deal with representation at the broadest spectrum.....

(ASIDE: Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I am very careful what I say.)

Hon. M. A. KING: No. But you make the point that there are members of the Barbados Labour Party. Your words are that, "there is a body of opinion who feels that the Barbados Workers' Union is not fair. There is a body of opinion which feels that because of the closeness of the relationship between the top members of the union and the DLP, they cannot entirely rely on the Barbados Workers' Union." So that you are still saying that there is, within the Barbados Labour Party, that strong body of opinion which has its greatest suspicions: A body of opinion which finds representation and articulation in the statement made by the honourable Member for St. Thomas because, mark you, in your statement you have not addressed the speech made by the honourable Member for St. Thomas at the St. Matthias meeting on Sunday. That statement is lucidly clear:

"BARBADOS LABOUR PARTY (BLP) SUPPORTERS have been called upon to drop out of the Barbados Workers' Union (BWU).

David Simmons, representative in the House for St. Thomas, yesterday at the St. Matthias Girls' School urged his Party's supporters to withdraw from the BWU because they were not being properly represented."

That is not an ambivalent statement.

Aside.

Hon. M. A. KING: Well, the honourable Member for St. Thomas said that he did not deny anything that was printed. He accepted every word that was there. So therefore we must take him at his words.

So that what we are seeing here is that here is a clear statement from one of the leading members of the Barbados Labour Party which takes what I say is the opposite position from yours. That is why I am saying that the Party's position has to be ambivalent if we take what you have said and what the honourable Member for St. Thomas does not deny himself to have said.

The speech of the honourable Member for Christ Church West has been very skilful. He has sought to indicate from the historical perspective, the long and good relationship between the Barbados Workers' Union and the Barbados Labour Party, and in fact has made the point that the Barbados Workers' Union is a child of the Barbados Labour Party and he would seem, it seems, to try to use history to justify the continuing good relationship. But what may be good ten years ago may not be the same today. And if the honourable Member for Christ Church West is of the view that the Barbados Workers' Union is a child of the Barbados Labour Party and that is the relationship which must be seen to exist and which in fact does exist. I think he should quote to his honourable colleague from St. Thomas that injunction which I have heard from time to time; "he that troubleth his own house shall inherit the wind."

Asides.

Laughter.

9.55 p.m.

I would like to refer very quickly to one or two points.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Very quickly, one or two minutes at the most.

Hon. M. A. KING: Yes. A couple of questions which had been asked by the honourable Member for St. Peter in relation to the operating deficit. The Board estimates that the operating deficit for 1986 – 1987 will be in the vicinity of some \$14 million.

In relation to the accumulated deficit of \$8 million which is the amount in respect to which the subsidy is being sought this year, that is the accumulated balance as at the 31st March, 1985 and from the way how things are going it appears that if serious steps are not taken to deal with the problems of management and malspend-

ing that the deficits are likely to be in the vicinity of \$14 million

Aside.

Hon. M. A. KING: \$17 million plus \$8 million – you are running somewhere in the vicinity of \$26 million yearly.

I would not trouble the Honourable Committee anymore, Mr. Chairman, and with that I would beg to move that Head 42 stand part.

The question that Head 42 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, I beg to

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the Resolution in the sum of \$8 883 744 do now pass.

Asides.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Sir, it has in two Heads, and I am advised that you put the Resolution for the total amount. We have been passing the Heads separately and now we have to put the motion for the total amount of the Resolution, and that is what I am doing now.

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

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

On the motion of Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, seconded by Hon. B. M. TAITT, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of two Resolutions in Committee, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, each seconded by Hon. B. M. TAITT, the Resolutions were read a first and second time, and passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, that concludes Government Business for today's sitting, and in moving the Adjournment of the House I would wish to thank all Members for their cooperation today in getting through the business of the public, and I would wish to thank Members particularly for their forbearance and fortitude during our sitting and within the constraints under which we have been working all day. In particular I wish to express appreciation for the work of the staff of Parliament under these particular conditions.

I beg to move that the House do now adjourn until Tuesday, November 4, 1986 at 12 o'clock noon.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, I beg to second that.

*The question that the House do now stand adjourned until Tuesday, November 4, 1986 at 12 o'clock noon was put and resolved in the affirmative and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.
10.05 p.m.*

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