

THE House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1986 - 91

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, July 21, 1987

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

PRESENT

His Honour L. A. Weekes, J.P., (Speaker)

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

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

Hon. B. M. Taitt, B.A., (Hons.), M.A., LL.B. (Hons.), (Minister of Health)

Hon. P. M. Greaves, Q.C., B.A., (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Transport, Works and Telecommunications and Leader of the House)

Hon. E. E. Greaves, B.A., Ed.M., (Minister of Trade, Industry and Commerce)

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

Hon. M. A. King, Q.C., LL.B., (Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs)

Hon. W. O. Franklin, A.I.C., M.I.A.S., J.P., (Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries)

Hon. N. K. Simmons, (Minister of Employment, Labour Relations and Community Development)

Hon. H. A. Blackman, B.Sc., (Econ.), (Minister of Housing and Lands)

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

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

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

Hon. C. V. Walker, (Minister of State, Ministry of Education and Culture)

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

Mr. E. Bourne

Dr. E. A. Simmons, M.D.

Hon. W. W. Hall, (Minister of Tourism and Sports)

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

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

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

Mr. P. J. M. Miller

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

Prayers were led by Father Ivan Harewood.

Mr. SPEAKER: The House is in session.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, July 7, 1987.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, July 7, 1987, be taken as read and confirmed.

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. SPEAKER: I am to announce that I have received a letter dated 20th July, 1987, from the Cabinet Secretary to the Clerk of Parliament. It reads as follows:

"I am to inform you that on 18th July, 1987, His Excellency the Governor-General received from the Returning Officer for the constituency of St. John the Writ which had been issued for a by-election in that constituency, certifying the election, in the poll held on the 16th July, 1987, of Mr. David John Howard Thompson, to serve as a Member of the House of Assembly for the said constituency of St. John.

I am also to inform the House that the said Member for the constituency of St. John has signed the declaration of qualification."

I now invite the honourable Member for St. John to take his seat.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON, escorted by the Hon. P.M. GREAVES and Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN, entered the Chamber and took his seat.

Mr. SPEAKER: David John Howard Thompson, it is my pleasant and honourable duty to welcome you to this Honourable Chamber. As I note your contributions, I hope you will conduct your affairs in the highest traditions of Parliament within the existing Rules of this House. May your term of office during this period be a satisfactory one.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege and honour to have the opportunity to represent the people of St. John in this august House of Assembly. I want to thank you for your warm welcome, and I promise I will always uphold the Standing Orders of the House.

Thank you.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am also to announce:

A Message from the Honourable Senate to the House of Assembly re amendments to the Occupational Training Act

A copy of the Message is being circulated.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:

The Guarantee granted under the Exempt Insurance Act, Cap. 308A, Section 32 to the ECS Reinsurance Company Inc.

Statements showing Net Customs and Excise Receipts for the months ended 30th April, 1987, and 31st May, 1987.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following:

A Bill to validate the collection of fees for international express mail service without the necessary legislative authority.

FIRST READINGS OF BILLS *On motion of Hon. P. M. GREAVES, seconded by Hon. B. M. TAITT, the following Bills were read a first time:*

A Bill to amend the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation Act, Cap. 332A.

A Bill to grant an additional sum of money out of the Consolidated Fund and appropriate the same for the

services of the Island for the financial year ended 31st March, 1987.

A Bill to validate the collection of fees for international express mail service without the necessary legislative authority. 12.25 p.m.

OBITUARY SPEECHES '

SPEECHES RE THE LATE LLOYD SMITH, FORMER MP FOR ST. JOSEPH

Hon. P. M. GREAVES (St. Michael North): Mr. Speaker, I rise sadly to move the following Resolution:

"WHEREAS Lloyd Ethelbert Smith, C.B.E. Member of this Honourable House for the Constituency of Saint Joseph from 1944 until his retirement in 1971, Chairman of Committees from 1956 to 1958 and Deputy Speaker from 1958 to 1961, passed this life on the 12th day of July, 1987.

"BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Honourable House, express our deepest and most sincere regrets at his passing.

"AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT our deepest sympathy and condolences be conveyed to the children, other relatives and friends of the deceased."

Mr. Speaker, as the Resolution indicates, Lloyd Ethelbert Smith was elected to this Honourable Chamber in 1944 as one of the two representatives for the constituency of St. Joseph, and he continued as the representative of that constituency for 27 unbroken years until 1971. As the Resolution also states, Sir, during that period he served as Chairman of Committees as well as Deputy Speaker of this august Chamber.

Sir, it was not my good fortune to serve in this Chamber with the late Member, as indeed we all were denied that honour, but the records do show that he was a man of indomitable spirit.

I well recall, Sir listening to a debate broadcast on the radio shortly after my return from England in 1963. It struck me then, listening to that debate, that what I was hearing was a very effective, earthy, possibly crude speech, but certainly a very telling contribution being made by the Honourable Member.

Mr. Smith was a great communicator, and he knew people well. He knew that he had his audience with him and he revelled in it. At that time, which was the first Legislative Session after his party, then the Barbados Labour Party, lost the election, he constituted himself into a one man army in Opposition and he single-handedly carried the fight to his opponents.

He fought many noble battles; very often he was bruised but he came back fighting. I remember his last fight of note, which was for equal broadcast time for the reply of the Opposition. He defiantly called for equal time, he demanded an assurance, before the then Prime Minister could speak, that that time would be granted, and he threatened in these words; "Mr. Speaker, I have my pliers and I will put it to work." I cannot say if in fact he did put it to work, but suffice it to say that somewhere in the area where he was sitting, the electronic wires were severed.

Laughter.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: The Member had his demands met!

Sir, that was not the only wire that the honourable Member cut, because fairly shortly after that he felt constrained to cut the link between himself and the Barbados Labour Party, and wisely, then gave his massive support to the Democratic Labour Party. About two years after that, he retired from this House, but he never retired from his care and concern for people, particularly the poor people, or retired his love for the parish of St. Joseph.

He was in many ways, Sir a unique man. He was a classic example of what people may call a self-made man. He began life as a chauffeur to a Mr. "Josh" Haynes, who himself was a Member of this House. He was born in those very humble circumstances, but by dint of his hard labour, and possibly a little luck, he was able to escape the fate of persons at that time born in those circumstances and he was able to pull himself to the pinnacle, so to speak.

He became a very successful businessman and politician, and he was a living example of the theory that service to mankind is the greatest service of all. He served his people in the House of Assembly, he served his people in the Vestry from 1936 when he became a member, he served his people in the reformed Vestry system of Local Government as District Counsellor and he served his people from his home. He was that rare being that never lost contact with his roots while at the same time being at home with the most fortunate of society and mankind.

Sir, he was jolly in spirit, and if he were not so fearless in battle, formidable in debate and magnanimous in victory, one would have thought, of him as a court jester. That was a gift that enabled him to soar above the pettiness of party political rivalry, to such an extent that many people believed that he had no enemies. People like the real Lloyd Ethelbert Smith are our real heroes.

It was a joy to hear him relate the story of his young life and life in the village. It was a job because no one else could relate it like him. It is sad, however, Sir, that people like him are allowed to pass the scene with so much of the history of the struggle of his time sealed off in his head. Nature has so

prescribed it that such examples of the real struggle must pass the scene even though we might wish to preserve them for all time. But who are we to question the workings of 'Mother Nature'?

Mr. Smith led a noble life, and let those who see themselves condemned to a life of poverty look again at the life of Lloyd Ethelbert Smith. In him they might find some hope or some purpose to their lives.

Sir, we thank God for people like the Lloyd Ethelbert Smiths of this world.

I am very pleased, Sir, to move this Resolution that I have just read.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE (Christ Church West): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to associate the Opposition and the members of my party with the words which have been spoken by the honourable Member for St. Michael North (Hon. P. M. Greaves) and the Acting Prime Minister.

Lloyd Smith neither was born great nor did he have greatness thrust upon him, but he achieved it nonetheless. I think it is very significant that at this time we are losing some of the great men of Barbados, and within the last two years we have seen the passing of some of the old stalwarts.

Lloyd Smith was among those who ventured forth, at a time when many men were afraid to venture forth, on behalf of the working class people of this country. Indeed, the pioneers in the movement resorted to those of the working class who had the courage, the conviction and the common sense to rally to the cause. Lloyd Smith rallied to the cause in the 1930s and never flinched from doing duty and battle thereafter.

The Acting Prime Minister has chronicled his legislative career. He performed exceptionally well in both spheres, and although none of us at present in the House of Assembly was fortunate to serve in Parliament with him, I believe that each one of us is knowledgeable of the outstanding contributions which he made to parliamentary debate and even, going wider, to parliamentary life. 12.35 p.m.

He entered fully into the cut and thrust of debate. He never flinched from putting his party's case, regardless of what odds were against him, but he was extremely magnanimous, and he had a sense of humour which, I believe, was unrivaled. Because in those days, Mr. Speaker, soon after the cut and thrust of debate had ended, Lloyd Smith was certainly always the outstanding Member to make all other Members laugh and forget political rivalry. Many are the stories which are told of him in the dining chamber, how, by his language, he would remove the frowns off the brows of those who may have felt themselves wounded in a particular debate. I believe that this quality

was very much appreciated by people from both political sides of the fence.

I recall him, too, Sir, making a contribution in the Vestry and in the Northern District Council where he served for many years. I believe that in some respects he was probably happiest in this role, because it gave him the opportunity to interact at a personal level with the people whom he represented. The passing of Local Government has, to some extent, removed that opportunity from some of us. But many of us could still learn from Lloyd Smith's example in this regard.

Sir, He remained a member of the Barbados Labour Party in the bleak days of the party between 1961 and 1969. We had met one of our severest defeats in 1961. There were only five members left, but Lloyd Smith fought, and fought manfully, for the cause he then believed in.

I believe the Acting Prime Minister has spoken of his threat once to use his pliers. I recall very graphically, from outside the House, of course, some of the debates and how he escaped being the first man to land on the moon. At that time the former honourable Member for St. John, feeling his strength, both political and physical, had threatened to send him to the moon by a kick. Lloyd Smith was not so propelled, but he was able to return the thrust, and I think he certainly never allowed that incident to blur his very cordial and friendly relationship with the honourable Member.

I knew him best as a person who gave encouragement in those days to young people like myself who aspired to public office. He would often stop on the streets and have a word of encouragement for us. I recall that at the time of the Foundation of the Under 40s, he certainly found the opportunity to exchange his ideas on West Indian unity and the Federal issue, and his counsel was always wise, based firmly in a native common sense which many of us again should try to bring in our own experiences.

I also recall, Sir, the friendly way in which he dealt with everybody at all levels of society. He was liked not only by the poor, but by the rich, by the intellectuals. I think we all recognised in him a man of deep learning, despite the fact that he had never had the level of formal education which is now so widely available to many of us. He was a person who had studied on his own, and who from his own native ability could hold his own in language, communication and in reckoning, for that matter. Because make no mistake about it, he was a successful businessman, and he ran more than one business successfully. I think this is testimony to the innate qualities which Lloyd Ethelbert Smith possessed.

Like the honourable Member, we regret his passing. We feel that our island is the poorer for it.

I deeply regret once again that one of the great politicians, one of the great nation builders, as he was referred to in a very moving tribute paid to him by Sir Ronald Mapp, has again passed and has really left no written record other than in the debates in this House of his knowledge of the period of the 1930s and beyond. It strikes me that we are going to have to do something at the public level to record the contribution of these great men.

I would like to join, on behalf of the Opposition, in seconding this Resolution, in expressing deepest condolence to his children and to his relatives.

Mrs. M. BARKER-WELCH (St. Joseph): Mr. Speaker, I, too, would like to join in tribute to the late Lloyd Ethelbert Smith. Many of the remarks made by the Acting Prime Minister, the Member for St. Michael North (Hon. P.M. Greaves) were not exactly known to me, but I have another dimension of Lloyd Smith and that is a very personal one. I grew up in the village of Clifton Hill, which is only about a mile and maybe a half, or less, from St. Bernard's, where Lloyd "Sonny" Smith - in those days he was known as "Sonny" Smith - had his shop, and as a child I remember the impact that he had on everybody with whom he came into contact.

I heard of him long before I became a teacher and went to teach at St. Bernard's Village, which was just a stone's throw away from his shop. From that time you could see that the late Lloyd Smith was beloved by everybody; and not just beloved, he held everybody around him, and he was able to ask questions in the House for the people of St. Joseph. He was able to campaign for things like getting a new school, and any sort of progress that was made at that time in the parish of St. Joseph was made through Lloyd Smith, and Lloyd Smith alone. I do not think the people of St. Joseph will ever forget the man Lloyd Smith.

I was also able to be with him in his family life, because I actually taught two of his daughters at the St. Bernard's School, and so from time to time I would go into his shop and his shop was the centre of everything in the village, especially politics, and he talked about what was happening around the place.

Of course, I remember Lloyd Smith with his unabridged 'laughter. He was always ready to laugh and make fun. Although behind all of that fun there was this seriousness about St. Joseph. I called him "Mr. St. Joseph", because I do not think any other person in the history of Barbados has made the sort of impact on St. Joseph as Lloyd Smith did. 12.45 p.m.

When I was nominated to the candidacy of the constituency, the first person I went to was Lloyd Smith, because I knew that he would be able to give me good advice and to cheer me on, which he did. I will never forget

his advice. It all concerned being with the people, never forgetting that it was the people who were going to be putting me in the House and that I would have to keep close to them, as he has kept close to them all of his life.

I do remember, even since I was elected, that persons who needed financial help and advice would still go to Mr. Smith. This, to me, was not belittling my effort, but it was just that the people of St. Joseph had such tremendous confidence in the man. Sometimes he would call me up and give me some of their complaints so that I would be able to look into them, but he himself did quite a lot. He was with them through their lives, he was with them when their people died, and he was able to, with a sort of sensitivity, look after their needs at their time of grief.

I was with him on the evening he died. The St. Joseph East Cultural Society had asked me to give a feature address at their anniversary. They also asked Mr. Smith. They asked him because they were going to make him an honorary life member of their society. I should say here that the St. Joseph Community Council honoured him this year for his contribution to the people of St. Joseph, so in St. Joseph the people were not waiting until Lloyd Smith had died to give him his due, but they were trying to do that even before.

On the Sunday afternoon, July 12, Mr. Smith, Mr. Gollop and I sat together. We got there a little early, we waited and we chatted together, and in his jovial style he was talking about things that happened around there, and how he was able to campaign to get the school from St. Bernard's moved to its present site.

I gave my address, and after giving my address, I presented Lloyd Smith with his certificate of life membership. I had to go to another meeting, so I left, and at the end of that meeting I was told that Mr. Smith had died. You can imagine the shock it was to me, because I knew that 45 minutes earlier I had left him in seemingly good health in the meeting.

I went back to the meeting place, because the youngsters were still there, and asked what had happened. They explained to me how he had given a fairly long speech, telling them all about his life in Parliament and his representation of the constituency, and of course you know he had to say something to make them laugh. As long as you were around Lloyd Smith, you had to laugh, and so he passed away like that.

I was deeply conscious of the contribution he had made, and I was a little bit, not saddened, put out that in an article which sought to say how wonderful he was - and this article is in the *Nation* - it says 'that was a serious blotch' - talking about his coming over from the Barbados Labour Party to the Democratic Labour Party. The date of the article is Friday, July 17, 1987. It was written by Sir Ronald Mapp. They talk of his coming over to the Democratic Labour

Party as a serious blotch on the otherwise illustrious and unblemished career of this outstanding man.

Mr. Smith believed in his country and his people, and anyone who was going the path that he thought should be followed for his people, he was with that person. So when his party seemed to have lost the way, he turned to the party which he knew was capable of making him realise what he had hoped for for the masses of people in Barbados. So I do take exception to this sort of belittling of part of what was a major part of his life, that of realising that the Democratic Labour Party was able to do what he had thought his party was going to do.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I associate myself with the remarks and the Resolution that is made to the late Member. I offer my condolences to his family of seven daughters and two sons.

i I wish to say

that I hope and pray that I will be able to carry on the work he has done in St. Joseph for all the years. I know he will rest easy in his grave if he knows that his beloved people of St. Joseph are being looked after.

I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. C. A. NEBLETT (St. Andrew): Mr. Speaker, I, too, would like to pay tribute to the passing of a great Barbadian, Lloyd Ethelbert Smith, who, I would say, had a marathon session in this Honourable Chamber from 1944 to 1971.

My earliest recollection of Mr. Smith was as a school-boy. He was then campaigning for the Barbados Labour Party. He had a famous campaigner by the name of Fields Lowe and they were the giants of the rural districts at the time. We all in that area, of course, referred to Mr. Smith as 'Sonny' Smith. That was the great name attached to him. Others referred to him as 'Boychild,' but basically most of the people, especially in the St. Andrew area, knew him as Sonny Smith.

He was of help not only to the people of St. Joseph, but he also contributed to the country life of the people of St. Andrew. He provided the small farmers with transportation, taking their canes to the factory. In those days there were no minibuses, and he converted his truck into a sort of minibus to offer transportation, especially to those folks who would travel from parish to parish attending their , evangelical services. He was also involved in a Friendly Society known as the Golden Egg. He was also a baker, and, generally, we accepted him as a shopkeeper.

These things, you would notice, all provided a service especially for the poor folk in the community, and even in his latter years he was involved in funeral directing, again reflecting his service to the poor folk in the community.

I think Mr. Smith will go down as a legend in the country. He not only provided amusement, but he brought some seriousness to bear about his politics. I must say that he fought a great battle for the people of St. Joseph and it was reflected in the establishment of the school at Lammings, the St. Bernard's School, and he had very much to do with the Lammings Development. I would not want to play a little politics here, but I must mention that most of the things he desired came to pass, and that had a lot to do with the fighting spirit that he had.

Mr. Smith was a good friend and he was an adviser. He was always ready to offer advice, he was willing to give us some sort of history of our area, he would reflect on the very difficult times of the twenties right through to the present day, so as to put us on the path of what he thought should be the future. He spanned an era moving from the plantocracy right through to adult suffrage, and he was always willing to share his experiences with you. 12.55 p.m.

We will miss him terribly, but we hope that many of the lessons he has taught us, we will be beholden to.

That is my tribute to a great man who has served 'his people, not only the people of St. Joseph, but all the surrounding parishes with distinction.

Thank you.

Hon. B. M. TAITT (St. Michael West): Mr. Speaker, the passing of Lloyd Ethelbert Smith is drawing the ring closer and closer around the demise of a rather unique brand of Barbadian. Constantly, as we hear of the passing of these great men, we become aware that whole generations and eras are going apace from Barbados. This is a man who, by virtue of his personal achievements in this society, has demonstrated that, in truth, some men are born great.

I have had the fortune to have known him from the time I was about six years old, when he literally presided over his shop in the parish of St. Joseph in the St. Bernard Village. And, Mr. Speaker, it can truly be said that if one did not know the meaning of the word 'credit', one had only to observe the goings-on at that establishment, for to call it a shop would not be to tell the true story, of Lloyd Smith, where everyone came, with or without money, every weekend to purchase the necessities for continuation of life in the week to come.¹ I think it is fair to say that almost every family in the parish of St. Joseph, and many in the parish of St. Andrew, would have benefitted significantly from the largesse of Lloyd Smith.

He was the first man I knew who was able to add continuously from any direction without committing the numbers to paper and I spend a considerable amount of my time trying to perfect that art. Mr. Speaker, some 42 years later, I confess failure in that regard, but one can still

remember the ease with which he would carry on a conversation with one of the many people who worked in the shop, argue with a man who was at the time having a libation and, at the same time, keep an accurate count for someone who said the familiar phrase, 'Check here.'

Mr. Speaker, I think to say that is to reflect also on the kind of country which existed in Barbados in 1944, when this very humble individual sought to become the representative of the people of St. Joseph. To do that in 1944 would have required a tremendous amount of courage on the part of a person who would have been educated to the level that Lloyd Ethelbert Smith would have been at that time. As a matter of fact, to say that a poor black man would become a member of any legislative Assembly in Barbados was in 1944 to discuss true greatness, and the fact that he was able to sustain that right up to the time of his retirement, in thickness, in thinness, in sickness and in health is to recognise that Lloyd Ethelbert Smith became a colossus in the political and social scene in this Barbados of ours. That he was able, at the same time, to nurture his nine children and to point them in directions of excellence, while becoming a surrogate father for almost every other child that came within his ambit in St. Joseph, is only again, to observe another aspect of the greatness of the man.

He had a characteristic which is slowly disappearing from serious life in Barbados. He was one of that rare breed of great men who are able to poke fun at themselves. When he told you that he was called 'Boychild' you did not have any other feeling than one of class, high-class, quality, a man who could poke fun at himself while demonstrating the innate capability of pure intelligence, because here was a man who, like many before him, had not had the benefit of the learning and the education which most of us in this Chamber now have. Even as I speak, I understand "The World at One" can be heard in one of the speakers, and if he were in this House now he would have been able to bring the whole conception of man's progress to nothingness. The fact that this expensive piece of equipment which we have can also broadcast 'The World at One' while we are getting a tribute to him would have been a great joy to Lloyd Smith. Would that we could have his pliers so that the honourable Member for St. Thomas could listen in peace.

Mr. Speaker, I think that it is just as well that we could have that kind of incident while we are discussing his passing, for, on the very last occasion we spoke, he made the point that men should not cry and bewail the death and the passing of other men if those men had lived a worthwhile life. He was making the point to a family, a family whom he was consoling on the passing of a dear one. He was making the point that we should be happy to rejoice at a good life, and I think that we in this Chamber can rejoice at the life and the witness of Lloyd Ethelbert Smith.

As an undertaker, as he liked to call himself, and not a funeral director - he always used to laugh at those who

called themselves funeral directors and he said that the undertakers got paid and the directors did not - he made the point on more than one occasion at funerals where I met him that true representation of people required that you be more present at their sorrows than at their gladnesses and he was always very pleased to see people of a certain kind attending the funerals of the poor and the lowly.

His two sons, Johnna and the other one whose name is Dudley but who is not known by that name, were replicas of Lloyd Smith in many respects, except that there were unable to move away from the tremendous reputation which their father had created, and so, for a considerable amount of their time, they were known as "Lloyd Smith's sons." That is a tribute to a father who did everything that it was possible to do to enhance the reputation and the careers of his children. I think he has gone to the Great Beyond in the full knowledge that he has fought the battle and that, in fact, he has run his course and, I believe, he has won the fight.

Mr. Speaker, wherever it is that humble great men go, I believe that Lloyd Ethelbert Smith will find rest there, and it is my hope that we will be inspired by the example which he provided for us as a man of complete selfless devotion to the service of his fellowman.

I join with all those who have spoken in tribute to him and offer to his sorrowing relatives the condolences of my family and the constituency of St. Michael West. 1.05p.m.

Mr. C. L. TROTMAN (St. Michael Central): Mr. Speaker, as a St. Joseph person, I would wish to identify myself with those other persons in this Honourable Chamber who have paid tribute to Mr. Lloyd Smith on the occasion of his passing. Indeed, I believe that my entire family in St. Joseph would wish me on their behalf to express to the family of Lloyd Smith their sincere condolences.

As a Waterford and Bush Hall person, I would wish now at the same time to pay the respects of the people especially in Waterford, and indeed in the constituency of St. Michael Central, which borders the funeral home where Mr. Smith had served for many years.

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, one may say very honestly that Lloyd Smith was everybody's person and everybody's friend. He was a family friend and was adopted by many members of my family as their own, I could not say funeral director, undertaker, and I believe my father had made certain plans in that direction, which I suppose, might have to be rediscussed now with his successors.

Just two days before he died, Mr. Speaker, we had the opportunity to talk - where else, but in the cemetery - and on that occasion he was careful to discuss with me his thought about the contributions that are made by public servants, contributions which are made to the quality of life in this country and sometimes the lack of recognition which

results from the contributions which have been made. He was concerned that many persons who give of the flower of their youth in service sometimes got overlooked when the time for accreditation and recognition comes.

I recall as well, Mr. Speaker, his advice to me in 1980 when I was being persuaded by some persons to come and have a look at St. Joseph and see whether I would wish to be a candidate in that constituency, and as any wise person would have done, I thought that before I made any such movements I should speak to "Boychild," as we all so well know him. His advice to me at the time was, "Boychild," anybody can speak and speak well on a platform, but representation is much more than that, much more than speaking on a platform and being able with the style of speech or manner of speech to sway persons. It has to do with the constant giving of yourself to people." I have always borne those very sage comments to heart, because I recognised that they had come from somebody who was a master at meeting people at their level and being able to address the issues that they had, or that they perceived they had, and left them at the end of the discussion satisfied for the encounter which had taken place.

Those of us, Sir, who aspire to great things can take comfort from the life and the example of Lloyd Smith, Sr. I think that he truly believed in the words of the wise man when he said to cast thy bread on the water and it shall return to thee after many days. Mr. Smith did not allow himself to be encumbered by grasping for the material things, but was prepared to accommodate his patrons, whatever their lack, and to make them feel that they had service at his hands, and I believe that the satisfaction that he got from the many people of St. Joseph, in Bush Hall, in St. Michael Central and in Barbados generally, the reward that he got was the thanks of those many people who were able to meet him many times after, and as one boy child to another, to express their appreciation to him for his many kindnesses to them.

To his bereaved family, one of the daughters within that family being a former pupil of my own, I should like to express my sincere condolences, the condolences of the Executive Council, the General Secretary and members of the Barbados Workers Union and indeed of my entire constituency of St. Michael Central.

Mr. SPEAKER: Although I was not a contemporary of the late honourable Member, I was privileged in my younger days to observe his performance in Parliament. He was truly an affable person, but above that he was an amazing politician. As a non-academic he startled and, in some instances, confounded those who were better educated than he was. I am sure many of us who have been privileged to witness him in those debates will always cherish the sincerity and the honesty with which he delivered his speeches.

Honourable Members have said much about him. I have not been privileged to live in St. Joseph, but certainly his contribution has spread throughout the length and breadth of Barbados.

I am sure that many a politician- has welcomed his advent into political life and the contribution that he has made. And so, like all other Members, I, too, want to express my sincere condolences to his family and relatives on this occasion.

I shall now request honourable Members to stand in their places for two minutes to give assent to this Resolution.

Honourable Members stood in their places for two minutes.

ORAL REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Hon. Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 22, asked by the honourable Member for St. Thomas, is ready.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 42, asked by the honourable Member for St. Andrew, is ready.

I also beg to give notice that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 68, asked by the honourable Member for St. James North, is ready. 1.15p.m.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, before we embark upon Government Business, I want to move the suspension of certain Standing Orders.

I move that Standing Orders Numbers 6, 16, 18, 20, 42 (5), 43 and 44 be suspended for the remainder of this sitting.

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

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (LEAVE PASSAGES) (AMENDMENT) ORDER, 1987

Order No. 1 was called - to move the passing of a Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (Leave Passages) (Amendment) Order, 1987.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES (St. Michael North): Mr. Speaker, this Resolution is a mere formality. Whenever there is an adjustment of salaries or a salaries revision in the Public Service, there is need to make some adjustments to the Civil Establishment (Leave Passages) Order, so this Order has been made by the Minister responsible for Establishments.

It has been circulated, Sir.

I move, Sir, that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

REVISED SALARIES OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S PERSONAL STAFF

Order No. 6 was called - to move the passing of a Resolution to approve the revised salaries of the Prime Minister's personal staff.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES (St. Michael North): Mr. Speaker, revision of salaries for public servants as well as those for the staff of Parliament have already been approved by this Honourable Chamber.

This Resolution, Sir, now seeks to make a revision of the salaries of the Prime Minister's personal staff to bring them in line with revisions that have already been approved and taken place.

There are three members of the Prime Minister's personal staff, the Personal Assistant to the Prime Minister, the Press Officer and the Executive Personal Secretary, and it is customary that when the emoluments for the staff of the Civil Service have been revised, those of the Prime Minister's staff are also revised, accordingly applying the same rates of increase.

I move, Sir, that the Resolution do now pass.

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

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

BORROWING OF US\$4 000 000 FROM THE INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT FOR AN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Order No. 7 was called - To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the borrowing of an amount in various currencies equivalent to U.S. \$4 000 000 from the

International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for the purpose of assisting in financing an agricultural development project.

Hon. Dr. R. C. HAYNES (St. Michael South Central): Mr. Speaker, this Resolution represents the parliamentary consummation of a matter which has been occupying the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Finance for some time now. The purpose of the borrowing is to enhance the capacity of the agricultural sector to respond to the economic requirements of the country at this stage in its development. There can be no doubt that with the market and other conditions relating to the sugar industry we need to stress our non-sugar agricultural development in a manner consistent with the ecological dictates which always reside in the background when we think of development in that area. We have to look towards meeting the needs of our citizens, catering to the expanding tourist sector and gearing the non-sugar agricultural sector towards contributing to the earning of foreign exchange for Barbados and, of course, in the savings of foreign exchange.

This loan, Sir, as you can see from the Addendum, is a soft loan, ideally suited for this kind of activity. I believe that the Minister of Agriculture will give some further details on the agricultural aspects of it.

We looked at the original agreement with the World Bank, which was not yet signed when the previous Administration demitted office. There were certain components of it which we thought should be adjusted. The Ministry of Agriculture was able to negotiate some alteration in the terms as to how the monies would be applied, and at the moment, we are satisfied that the best arrangement has been made.

The terms and conditions of the loan are set out in the Addendum. It is for the equivalent of US\$4 million to be used in the financing of an agricultural development project to bring about an appropriate balance between sugar and non-sugar crops and to increase the production of, and the income from, non-sugar agriculture.

The loan is repayable twice annually, on the dates set out in the Addendum, and in the amounts set out in the Addendum. The interest is payable as set out.

You will note that the precise interest rate is not stated in the Addendum. In these World Bank loans the interest is set in accordance with the qualified borrowings for the previous semester, the previous six months, and there is a fixed and agreed percentage that would apply to these loans. I should say that the interest rate is usually, under those conditions, far below market borrowings. The commitment fee is also a standard commitment fee. So the structure of the loan is consistent with the standard World Bank lending for this kind of purpose.

I am quite satisfied with the performance of the non-sugar agricultural sector so far this year, despite the cautionary notes echoed by the honourable Member for St. Peter (Mr. O. S. Arthur) in the past. It looks as though milk production is up some 13 per cent. Beef production is up some 65.3 per cent for the first half of this year as compared with last year. Pork production is up 10.6 per cent. Veal production is up 119.2 per cent. Mutton production is up 20.9 per cent. Egg production is up 57.9 per cent. Cotton seed is up 24.8 per cent and cotton lint up 25 per cent in the first half of the year. Cassava is up 861.5 per cent. 1.25 p.m.

Laughter.

Hon. Dr. R. C. HAYNES: There has been a slight fall in eddoe production of 21.4 per cent. The sweet potato is up 45.8 per cent. There has been a slight fall-off in yam production of 27.8 per cent. I gather this is associated with a viral problem, anthracnose I understand.

Asides.

Hon. Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Of course, as you know, as part of the deliberate policy on the part of this Government, sugar production would have contracted this year to avoid over-production and selling the excess production on the world market at a loss. However, thanks to the favourable exchange rates in terms of the dollar value, the Barbados dollar equivalent for the sugar crop, the sugar industry should be better off this year since it would avoid the losses associated with selling excess sugar on the world market whilst at the same time benefiting from the favourable exchange rates.

There has also been a significant increase in the production of beans, carrots, cucumbers, onions, melons, okras, peas, pumpkins, squash and tomatoes. Similarly, poultry is up some 19.5 per cent.

So, generally speaking, Sir, depending on the weather conditions and other factors, it appears as though there will be a significant increase in non-sugar agriculture output this year. Of course, it is a bit early. There is still another five months to go, but these figures are the most up-to-date figures from the Ministry of Agriculture.

I think, Sir, that we can be relatively pleased with the performance of the non-sugar agriculture sector. I gather that there are some areas in which pest viruses and other factors like rainfall have created some problems. But it would appear that there is a significant thrust on the part of the country in responding to the initiatives in non-sugar agriculture.

I cannot stress too much, as we look at the development of this country, that the agriculture sector will play a key role in the future, as it has done in the past. It is significant that, if you look back over the past 50 years, buoyancy

of the Barbados economy has almost always coincided with years of buoyancy in its agricultural sector.

I think that we are quite correct in putting so much emphasis on agricultural development in making sure that we are able to attract the appropriate financing, as is the case in this particular Resolution before the House, and to ensure that we continue to mobilise enough local financing, on concessionary terms over long periods, as is appropriate for the agricultural sector. I am quite happy that the Ministry of Agriculture has been able to negotiate this particular agreement with the World Bank which emphasises, in essence, the local component in relation to the entire exercise.

Mr. Speaker, I beg that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Speaker, I think it would be appropriate to give some quick background to the project.

Asides.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Speaker, I second this Resolution and will continue to speak.

In 1982, the Government of Barbados entered a loan agreement with the World Bank for the provision of technical assistance amounting to U.S.\$2.7 million for the purpose of financing an agricultural diversification project. The project succeeded in contributing significantly to the development of the non-sugar sector. Some of the achievements from the first World Bank Project could be listed as the successful re-establishment of the cotton industry, expansion of the local onion industry such that planting could be effected over an eight month period, the realization of high yields from vegetables and peanuts on the part of farmers and the adoption of efficient feeding by livestock farmers.

At a meeting held on May 22, 1986, the then Cabinet considered the proposal for the Government of Barbados to negotiate with the World Bank a loan for the financing of the proposed development project. The amount at that time was for U.S.\$5.7 million, with a foreign component of U.S.\$4 million and a local cost component of U.S.\$1.97 million.

The project is one of two parts. Part 1 will entail an in-depth analysis of the sugar industry and its future role in the agricultural sector of the economy. Based on this analysis and the potential of the sub-sector, recommendations will be made in Part 2 of the project with respect to the strategies and policies necessary to facilitate implementation of the development activities in the agricultural sector.

Assistance will also be provided to enable the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries to undertake an agricultural census. This was the original composition of the loan for technical assistance for agricultural diversification. At that time a consultancy of 104 man months was

envisaged dealing with farm economics in management, vegetable production, flower production, cotton production, mechanized farming, irrigation, extension techniques and marketing.

The terms and conditions of the loan are already outlined. The loan is to be advanced to the Government of Barbados for 15 years with a 3 year grace period at the standard various interest rates. 1.35p.m.

When I took over as Minister, I was not particularly happy with the way the loan was structured, and I directed a comprehensive review of the project to be undertaken. As a result of this review, it is felt that the project should be redesigned. The first thing we did was to maximise the use of locally available expertise, in that we reduced the consultancies from 104 man months to 49 man months. Secondly, we wanted to have greater flexibility with respect to the supply of consultancy services. We did not pin it down, we left ourselves at the end with unallocated expertise, consultancies, that we can put to use whenever we wanted it. I strengthened the training component with some of the savings on the consultancies and the saving of about U.S.\$1 million on consultancies went towards the increase of the agro-industrial credit component. The agro-industrial credit component was increased considerably as a result of the restructuring.

The Ministry has accordingly proposed that the agricultural census would now be financed by local costs, since in the Ministry of Agriculture and in the Statistical Department of the Government we feel there is enough expertise to conduct our agricultural census. I did not feel at that time that I needed to use loans by foreign exchange to do that.

The need for updated information on the size and structure of local agriculture is well appreciated. The original project included a component to assist in the taking of the net agricultural census. The assistance offered in this regard is however not necessary, since there is expertise available within the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries and the Statistical Department capable of planning and organising the census. Additionally, the Inter-American Institute of Co-operation and Agriculture is currently providing the services of a statistician/computer programmer to the Ministry and this expertise will be available to assist with the census.

It must be pointed out that the major constraint with the taking of the census is in respect of the financing of the field enumeration exercise. This is the main cost, paying field enumerators. This is normally a local cost, so therefore we took out the component of the census from the original World Bank loan and we reallocated that.

We also sought to have the component for consultancy services reduced from 104 man months to 49

man months, an allocation of U.S. \$100 000 included to facilitate export market promotion; the allocation for training increased by US\$150 000; the allocation for laboratory equipment increased to US\$150 000; the foreign cost allocation of agro-industrial credit component increased from US \$1.5 million to US \$1.84 million and that the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries be given full responsibility for co-ordinating the agricultural sector study.

Appendix "A" will show a breakdown of the local and foreign costs. The restructured consultancy is as follows -

Farm economists Year 1, 2 months; Year 2, 1 - Total 3 mths

Vegetable production Year 1, 3 and Year 2, 3 - 6 months

Cotton production Year 1, 4 months; Year 2, 2 - 6 months

Flower production year 1, 2 months; Year 2, 2 - 4 months

Mechanised farming Year 1, 2 months; Year 2, 2 - 4 months

Irrigation Year 1, 3 months; Year 2, 2 - 5 months

Marketing Year 1, 6 months; since we attached quite a lot of importance to developing our marketing technique - Marketing, 6 in year 1 and 3 in year 2, for a total of 9 man months; Agro-Industry, 3 in Year 1 and 2 in Year 2 for 5 man months, and allocated expertise, 2 in the first year and 5, which will give us some flexibility in the allocation of that resource.

Experience shows that during project implementation, unexpected problems can arise, so such problems will sometimes be addressed through the deployment of appropriate expertise, which we allow ourselves to do.

In relation to the Agro-Industrial Credit Fund, the sum of \$2 million is being provided to facilitate agro-industrial development. Three major projects have been identified for this support, upgrading of the cotton ginnery, the establishment of the export marketing complex for non-sugar commodities and the establishment of an onion/peanut drying and storage facility.

There may be additional projects which would serve to boost agro-industrial development. Some provision should therefore be made to finance such projects.

This is project cost which as now restructured, and we have converted this in Barbados dollars now. The sugar industry study - foreign component, \$180 000; consultancy services, \$880 000; export marketing promotion, \$100 000;

overseas fellowships for the training of the local staff, \$300 000; the incremental staff necessary as counterpart - local, \$560 000; the input for demonstration plots - local \$280 000; foreign component \$830 000; \$1.1 million; laboratory equipment, \$300 000; the agro-industrial credit - local \$2 million, foreign component \$3.8 million, giving a total of \$5.8 million; physical contingencies, foreign \$200 000 and a price contingency of \$810 000 local, \$1 320 000 foreign, giving a total of Bds. \$11 650 000.

The Minister of Finance has given you the latest figures we have in our agro-unit. These seem to indicate that from a point to point basis, January to June 1986 as compared to January to June 1987, there have been increases in most of our non-sugar, particularly the ones dealing with protein. To highlight a few, milk production has gone up from 5.43 million gallons in the six months to 6.184 million, an increase of 13.7 per cent. Our beef production in kilos has gone up from 128 800 thousand to 212 000.

What is important to note is that when you take the increases of our protein section, particularly chicken, there has been a commensurate reduction in the importation of beef during that period. The figures I have are: October 1985 to May 1986 we imported 1.307 million kilos of beef; October 1986 to May 1987, down to 913 000 kilos, a reduction of about 393 000 kilos of beef imported. The money we expended on the importation of beef between October 1985 and May 1986 was \$5.6 million as against October 1986 to May 1987, \$4.9 million, giving us a saving on the importation of beef for that period of six months of about \$640 000.

I believe that if a comparative study was done throughout - time did not afford it - we would see that we have already started to put some slight dent in our import food bills as applied to a few of these items. I would want to believe that it is due to some programmes that we have put in place, for instance, our food promotion programme, our encouragement to the local farmers. We expect to have a considerable increase in export of non-sugar crops this year. 1.45 p.m.

Asides

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: When the statistics are available, I will make them available to the House, but to do this, I have put in place an Export Marketing Section in the BMC. We have used the staff available to us with the specific instructions to do planned production to match the markets that we have, and we have considerable interest in our markets for non-sugar crops. I am very hopeful that at the end of the winter season, we will be able to report a considerable increase in exports of non-sugar agriculture.

Our production of sugar is down from 111 000 tonnes in 1986 to 83431 in 1987. That is in keeping with our

programme since we did not want a lot of world market sugar to deal with. Fortunately for us, I think the average price we got for sugar is approximately \$1 071, which has meant that the earnings from sugar should be a little better than the earnings from sugar last year.

I hope, very shortly, to update this House with the latest development on the cotton industry. It is beginning to be very exciting at the moment. The negotiations are at a very delicate stage, but what I can say very broadly is that Cabinet has agreed in principle for me to have discussions with Antigua, St. Kitts and Montserrat on a joint arrangement for the processing of the Sea Island Cotton in Barbados. The processors of Sea Island Cotton are very, very keen. We have linked up with a Japanese Company which has indicated its interest in being part and parcel of any proposed development.

The proposal at the moment is that, in the first instance, we should move one stage to the spinning of the yarn from our local cotton. The feasibility study that we have available to us indicates that a plant to use about 2.5 million pounds of lint would cost us approximately Bds. \$24 million, and overall, when we put the housing in place, we are looking at an investment of approximately Bds. \$30 million.

There are two overseas companies that have shown an interest in the acquisition of up to 49 per cent of the shares in any proposed spinning operation that we have. We propose that the joint parent company, which will be owned by the West Indian Governments together with a Canadian company, will be the holders Of 51 per cent. Therefore, as soon as I have negotiations with Antigua and Montserrat -I hope to be able to meet with them this weekend when I go to Antigua - and we have got their compliance to have a joint approach to our Sea Island Cotton development, we will move ahead, because we do not want to have a situation in the Caribbean where we have a plant in Barbados and a plant any place else. That would remove our ability to control Sea Island Cotton on the world market and therefore be able to demand a premium price that Sea Island Cotton demands.

I can only say to the House that there is so much enthusiasm by spinners around the world for Sea Island Cotton that there is no shortage of interest. We have had interest indicated from England, America, Japan, Switzerland and as far away as Norway. We have had enough time to sit down and select the persons that we need to go with. I think we have a tentative decision on going with a big Japanese Corporation, which will be announced at the appropriate time when we have all the documentation. We have signed a letter of intent and we have already pre-sold the 1988 cotton crop at a price of US \$3.50 a pound. We are hopeful that we would have formulated a company early enough to get royalties from any lint that is spun from the cotton in the 1988 crop. This is the line we are moving along until we have put in place the operation here in Barbados.

We are having a contractual arrangement to have that cotton spun so that we can get royalties from it. It is, indeed, an exciting situation.

One of the other areas we are looking at is the development of cherries. Our cherries are coming very much on stream, and of interest is the fact that very shortly I hope we will have a Pine Hill drink from our local cherries. They have already done all the testing. They have developed the drink and it is just a matter of having the equipment in place to provide the pulp.

At Fairy Valley, we have started to renovate a building to put in our food laboratory, which will do the pre-testing and development of the produce.

We are hoping, as soon as we find some funds, to put in a Commercial Division which would start, in the first instance, with the packaging of frozen carrots. Only this week we got the good news that we have obtained from Trinidad the first set of ECOs for TT\$200 000 which have been released for the purchase of carrots from Barbados. We expect another TT\$360000 to be released. The understanding is that they will release up to T.T. \$560 000 in ECOs for the importation of carrots from Barbados. Already private farmers are in contact with Trinidad buyers and they are very close to concluding arrangements in Trinidad.

We are also looking at beets. All in all, we have moved from a stage where markets were problems to the stage where we now, this year, have markets that we cannot supply this year.

My only regret to date is the reluctance of some of the sugar cane farmers in Barbados to get meaningfully involved in the non-sugar diversification programme. I will ^ have more to say about that at the appropriate time. I have issued a notice to them and a warning that if they do not get involved, legislation is there available to me, so that I can dictate to them. This year alone, from one importer the requirements for non-sugar crops would need 1 630 acres. We have only been able in this year to put in for that importer some 780 acres of non-sugar crops and in the second year we hope to be able to make up that. But the programme seems to be on its way.

I want to place on record again my appreciation for the support that I am receiving from the technical and administrative staff, the Barbados Agricultural Society and, a little bit grudgingly sometimes, from the Barbados Sugar Industries Ltd., because we must admit, these are dye-in-the wool sugar farmers. They do not like to do anything besides sugar, because they know sugar, they like it. *

Asides.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: There is also the support from the Minister of Finance. 1.55p.m.

Mr. Speaker, I hope I have been able to give some background to this, and I beg to second the Resolution.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, at this juncture I think it is a good time to suspend for lunch.

I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until 3 o'clock.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: I beg to second that.

The question that the Sitting be suspended until 3 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly. 1.57p.m.

ON RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed.

When the suspension was taken, the Honourable Minister of Agriculture had completed his speech.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR (St. Peter): Mr. Speaker, the Opposition is very thankful to the Minister of Agriculture for his very explicit statement regarding the particular features of the project to which the House is being asked to commit itself. We thought that his reflections on the state of agriculture were particularly sobering, especially, Sir, as it came after the statement by the Minister of Finance, who perhaps gave too glowing an account of the state of affairs which face this country where agriculture is concerned.

We cannot help but be mindful of the Economic Review of the Central Bank for the first quarter of the year, in which it was noted and recorded that there was, in fact, a moderate decline in the output of the non-agriculture sector and the fisheries sector. We on this side were left to wonder as to the magic and the miracle which might have been wrought in the second quarter to put the Minister of Finance in a position in which he spoke in such exaggerated and glowing terms.

The Minister, Sir, has really, if he has done one thing, indicated that the problems of the agricultural sector are not likely to go away swiftly, and there is one aspect of his speech which I should want to talk about in particular, the role of the sugar sector to the effort being made by the rest of the agricultural sector in the drive to bring about agricultural diversification.

We on this side have no difficulty in supporting this particular Resolution, neither do we have any fundamental

difficulties as regards the broad uses to which the funds will be put. Indeed, Sir, the records will clearly show that certainly since 1982 there has been a very concerted policy effort to bring to bear in the non-sugar agricultural sector a wide range of supports and incentives to boost the production in many critical areas. The 1982 Budget, if you will recall, laid out a fairly extensive regime for support of non-sugar agriculture, stressing particularly areas such as livestock and orchard development, the results of which, Mr. Speaker, are now being very wonderfully achieved. So I am particularly gratified to hear that the increased production of commodities such as livestock products and milk continue apace, because a clear policy framework, including a fiscal component, was deliberately put in place by the Barbados Labour Party to make these things a reality.

I am also pleased, Mr. Speaker, to hear the Minister of Agriculture report that the first World Bank agricultural diversification project did make a substantial impact from the point of view of its effect in re-stimulating cotton and peanut production, onions and livestock production. If this particular project, Sir, could give rise to similar tangible production related gains, then I do feel that the monies that we are now being called upon to approve would be monies that are well spent.

Having said that, Sir, I must go back to the point that perhaps there is no task greater in Barbados today than to bring about agricultural diversification, and I thought that it was very instructive of the Minister to cite the particular difficulties being experienced in getting the sugar industry brought directly into the act. I submit to the House that if we were to conceive of an agricultural diversification programme as just simply representing a relationship between the Ministry of Agriculture, the ADC and the small farming community, we are not likely to have any substantial diversification in the use of agricultural resources in Barbados. There will be agricultural diversification when there is recognised within the sugar industry the fact that the resources which that sector engrosses have really to be used in support of the national drive for greater agricultural self-sufficiency and increased agricultural output, and a particular point I want to focus on is the use that is being made, or not being made, by the Ministry of Agriculture of the provisions set out in the 1985 price support mechanism for sugar.

The Minister seems, Mr. Speaker, to have been a little at a loss somewhat as regards the way in which the sugar industry should be levered into performing a more direct and substantial role where agricultural diversification is concerned. You will recall, Sir that the initial price support mechanisms for sugar were mechanisms which were really so liberal in their conditionalities that they did not enjoin upon the sugar industry any requirement to move into non-sugar agriculture. That changed in 1984, when the provisions were so drafted that the sugar industry was

allowed to treat any acreages going into non-sugar agriculture as if they were in sugar production for the purpose of being able to convert loans into grants, and the 1985 price support for sugar not only built upon that principle that the sugar subsidies would be used as a lever to cause the sugar industry to go into diversification, but for the first time, Sir, real power was vested in the Minister of Agriculture to ensure that these two ambitions were translated into reality.

If I must remind the House, Sir, the 1985 price support programme for sugar was such that, year by year, the sugar industry was to be called upon to draw up a production programme on an acreage by acreage basis, and that the Minister of Agriculture had to approve the acreages going into not only sugar but also non-sugar commodities as a pre-condition for the release of the funds. In fact, Sir, the sugar industry and entities of the sugar industry stood to lose the benefit of being able to convert the loans into grants if they failed to comply with the agreed acreages as approved by the Minister of Agriculture.

One would want to enquire of the Minister of Agriculture as to exactly what progress has been made as regards bringing the sugar industry directly into the act of agricultural diversification. It is not good enough, Mr. Speaker, for the house to from time to time agree on a programme of support for the sugar industry, attach conditionalities to that support such that it could achieve desirable national goals, and then hear that the sector from which we are expecting a positive reaction is not complying. I want, Mr. Speaker, therefore, to enquire of the Minister exactly where the production programme as specified in the 1985 price support mechanism is now, whether you have had a situation in which a very deliberate programme has indeed been drafted, whether the Ministry has approved a programme and what efforts are being made by the sector to give effect to that programme.

Mr. Speaker, in dealing with agricultural diversification, I cannot help but make the point as well that we have now to recognise the danger of various different entities in the sector going in their separate and distinct directions, and I want under the general ambit of the discussion on agricultural diversification to raise the broad issue as to where the ADC is going in this particular direction.

One of the first things that was done by this Administration, the Democratic Labour Party, on assuming office was to issue an invitation for persons to tender to advise the Agricultural Development Corporation as regards the use of the lands under the auspices of the Agricultural Development Corporation. It has taken the corporation one year, as I understand it, to agree on the firm to carry out the consultancy to study the programme, and we expect, Sir, that the firm which has been so contracted will spend another year before it submits its report, so much so that one cannot anticipate any serious activity by the ADC where

agricultural diversification is concerned until at least the end of 1989 going to 1990. I believe that this is a tremendous mistake on the part of the Government and on the part of the Agricultural Development Corporation. *

In 1983, the Agricultural Development Corporation was in the position of having at least 90 per cent of its lands tied up in sugar production and 10 per cent in non-sugar production. Through a very concerned effort that whole ratio was changed between 1983 and 1986, so much so that by 1986 the Corporation was in a position where 60 per cent of the lands were in sugar and 40 per cent in non-sugar agriculture. More to the point, Mr. Speaker, the Corporation was using the experiment of agricultural diversification to build up a very systematic record as regards the particular cost of producing alternative commodities on ADC's lands, with a view eventually, Mr. Speaker, to be able to advise any entities interested in agro-processing as to the type of cost situations which they would likely face if they were interested in the purchase of alternative commodities for processing. That whole programme of agricultural diversification on the ground has really, Sir, been destroyed in preference to a study to be done of the need for diversification at the ADC. And I think, Sir, it is perhaps the supreme irony that the person who was responsible for the diversification at ADC, the former General Manager, is now being called back by the consulting firm as the Chief Agricultural Adviser to advise the ADC as to how ADC's lands should be utilised. 3.10 p.m

ADC and its role in agricultural diversification is something that should be integrated really within the whole context of agricultural diversification from a national point of view. It is absolutely clear to me now, Sir, that the ADC has lost its direction. ,

It is not by chance that the ADC moved from a position of a 90:10 ratio where agricultural sugar and non-sugar commodities were concerned to a 60:40. We cannot move into the area of agro-processing unless a lot of systematic in-the-field work is done as regards the relative cost of producing different agricultural commodities. And ADC was attempting to make an effort for the national welfare by treating in-the-field experimentation in new commodities as one of its chief contributions to agricultural development in the country.

We can recall, Sir, the work that it did regarding the revival of the cotton industry. We can recall the work that it did with regards the revival of the peanut industry. We can recall the work that it did as regards the introduction of new products such as the tamdew melon. It was doing a lot of field trials in the area of cassava production to work out the types of costs that would accrue if one were to think in terms of using cassava as an animal feed.

One senses, Mr. Speaker, that there is now at the Agricultural Development Corporation less of an emphasis on field experimentation and more of an emphasis on the high profile consumer promotion approach to agricultural diversification. The emphasis of the Corporation, Sir, the image that the Corporation now projects, is one in which we seem to have reached the stage where we believe that all that is left to be done is to persuade the consumers to buy Barbadian produce, as if there are not more fundamental problems awaiting us, Mr. Speaker, as regards actual cost effective production at the level of the field. I made that point, Sir, to come back to the general point. I would like to enquire as to exactly how much of this \$8 million we are approving here this afternoon is actually going to find its way into support at the level of the field?

The Barbadian agricultural sector has really been studied to death. From the Fifties through, one finds a vast range of studies advising as to how the problems of the agricultural sector should be resolved. We have had about six or seven different studies on the sugar industry. We have had the Jacobson Report, which looked at the institutional arrangement surrounding the management of the Ministry of Agriculture as an institution. We have had major studies on agricultural commodities. There have been a lot of studies, and a lot of money has been spent on studies, but not enough money has actually been spent in the field to make sure that we find cost effective ways of producing alternative commodities in Barbados.

When I say, therefore, that the ADC has lost its way and that its former model could be a model of the way forward, I say that, Sir, because the decision at ADC was to actually spend the money in the field to establish what can and cannot be done, rather than conduct broad macro studies about institutional arrangements and things of that character. My enquiry, then, is how much of this actual project financing is going to go out to the field to the farmers? How much of the actual project financing is going to go into research and development related activities such that at the end of the day we can truly say that we have made a basis for further diversification in the future by the investments we make today in agricultural activities *per se*, designed to increase our knowledge of the actual production process?

I am, Mr. Speaker, concerned about the situation with the cotton industry. A year ago, the Government announced very large plans to move Barbados to the position where it would be, in a short period of time, producing two million pounds of lint per year. Clearly, Mr. Speaker, if one could realise that level of production, one would be speaking in terms of a fairly substantial new alternative to the sugar industry. But it seems to me, Sir, that no real work has been done to bring any such goal near to the point of fruition. I must really, Mr. Speaker, again enquire very specifically of the Minister as to exactly where plans and programmes are now as regards cotton production in Barbados. We are

being advised that there are continuing difficulties in relation to the availability of good seeds for planting.

We recognise, Mr. Speaker, that if we are going to go anywhere near the production of two million pounds of cotton, some portion of the sugar lands have to be deliberately earmarked for the purpose. If the Minister of Agriculture is indicating that the sugar sector seems to be disinclined to participate in the diversification process, I can only infer that the types of targets that the Government is setting as regards cotton seem to be in danger of being frustrated from the very start.

Mr. Speaker, this project is really a continuation of an effort by the past Administration to bring greater resources available to the non-sugar sector. We have no difficulty supporting it from the point of view of the broad concept, and except for one or two concerns as regards distribution of funds as between pure studies and actual activity in the field, we would obviously, Sir, not want to raise any considerable grouses in relation to the direction of the proposed expenditure.

But we still want to insist, Mr. Speaker, that the very rosy complexion that the Minister of Finance has put on the state of agriculture in Barbados is not truly borne out by the facts available. We still have a massive task ahead of us, and the very high incidence of rural unemployment bears out the fact that we have not yet been able to bring Barbadian agriculture to the stage where it can be a safe and • guaranteed generator of income and employment on a scale which we would all wish for.

I merely, therefore, want to temper the enthusiasm of the Minister of Finance, who would seem to want to have the House believe that all of the problems of this sector have been solved in one fell swoop. The problems of diversification are as massive today as they were 20 years ago, and we await the Minister of Agriculture's statement in relation to his relationship to the sugar industry before we reach a final judgement as to whether we can, in the immediate future, see any real progress as regards agricultural diversification.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

- Dr. E. A. SIMMONS (St. Michael North East): Mr. Speaker, I support this Resolution. But there were some comments made by the honourable Member for St. Peter (Mr. O. S. Arthur) which I cannot let pass without making some reference to them, because I think that at all times we must set the records of this country straight. 3.20 p.m.

The honourable Member for St. Peter made reference to diversification as though diversification was something first spoken about since 1976, and I want to put the record straight. In 1976, when the Barbados Labour Party assumed

the office of Government, they found a situation - the honourable Member mentioned cotton - where in 1975 there were 350 000 pounds of cotton produced in this country, and of the 1100 acres of land under cotton, the ADC had 800 acres of land under cultivation in 1975. By 1981, there was no cotton at all produced in this country. Therefore, I find it rather strange that the honourable Member for St. Peter can get up and talk about the development of the cotton industry as though it is something that was happening in Barbados for the first time.

I also want to remind the honourable Member for St. Peter that in 1971 the Democratic Labour Party started a yam processing plant in Wildey, part of the constituency which I now represent, and after 1976 that building was destroyed and the yam processing project abandoned.

He mentioned the role of the ADC. I want to refer to the Barbados Labour Party's manifesto of 1976, which on page 8 says they "were going to have the reorganisation of the Agricultural Development Corporation to make it an effective instrument for research and a stimulus to diversification of the agricultural economy." The records of this country have shown that there has been a total abandonment of diversification by the Barbados Labour Party, and that only within the last few years prior to the demise of the Barbados Labour Party, when it was coming up to the election, that they frantically tried to do something about diversification. It was haphazard, not well planned, *ad hoc*!

(Asides)

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, the honourable Member from St. Peter made some comment about wanting to know what is happening to the BMC. Again I quote.....

(Asides)

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: He talked about ADC and then he spoke about the BMC. He said that the BMC should be a good instrument.....

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, Sir: The honourable Member is misleading the House. At no stage during my speech did I say a word about the Barbados Marketing Corporation. The honourable Member obviously has convenient ears, and he is attempting to mislead the House.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I am still going to go back to the BMC, even if he said he did not mention it.

The BMC was an instrument for the development of the small farmer, to make him more effective. The small farmer existed in Barbados because he carried his produce

to the Barbados Marketing Corporation and he did not have to deal directly with the supermarket. Therefore, he had an intermediary to help him.

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In the 1976 manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party, they said they would be recapitalisation, restructuring and redirecting of the policies of the BMC to ensure that it fulfils the basic objectives of providing service to farmers by assuming responsibility for marketing their produce. That is what they committed themselves to as far as the BMC was concerned, but we know today that what we knew as the BMC no longer exists, because they dismantled the BMC, thereby causing small farmers in this country to be at a great disadvantage.

Mr. Speaker, I think that when we talk about agricultural diversification we are coming to the bedrock of the development.....

(Asides)

Mr. SPEAKER: I cannot continue to ask for order please.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: We are coming, Mr. Speaker, to the heart of the development of this country. In 1975 the food import bill of this country was \$92 million, by 1984 the food import bill had gone up to \$160 million. We are talking about some \$70 million in a nine year period.

If we are to seriously address the problem of agriculture in this country, especially diversification, we must look at it against the background of the food import bill, because that is very, very vital, and there are two things we must strive to do. We must strive to grow more of what we eat, thereby reducing the import bill, and we must strive to grow foods for the export market, thereby increasing the foreign currency that we bring into this country. That is why it is so significant that in the ten years of Barbados Labour Party's rule Sea Island Cotton, which fetched a good foreign currency, was completely dismantled. The yam project, through which we were shipping yam flakes to New York and London, was dismantled, thereby again denying this country of proper foreign currency. The shrimp industry was destroyed by them. Shrimp is a prime commodity throughout the world and we were able to sell shrimp in the United States and other places, bringing in good U.S. currency, but they took the shrimp boats and turned them into gun boats.

(Asides)

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: And of course called in Duffus to investigate it! It is against that kind of background that I want to talk about diversification in this country.

I am happy to see on page 4 of this document that one of the things laid out is that private people should be

involved in diversification. I think it is very important that we get small people in this country involved in diversification. It is paramount. When you drive through this country, you see the big plantations all ploughed up and growing vegetables, and I would also like to see the small farmers being involved in the project.

I know that in the constituency that I have the honour to represent, for years there has been an agricultural project run by the young people of that constituency, mainly Rastafarians, and I think that it has been a bad feature that every five years people like USAID can come along and give them a \$5000 project and that no real meaningful study has gone into that agricultural project. I am sure that the people who give the money must be aware of the fact that the kind of project which these youngsters carry out in growing vegetables must be a failure because the water bill alone is something like \$1 000 every four to five months. The overhead is so great that the project is doomed to failure. When we go to young people with projects and we put them in a situation where year after year they are in a failing situation, what we do is to turn them off. I think here is where Government and the consulting people that we will make available must play a greater role - we have to advise small people in this country. 3.30 p.m.

I think, too, that agriculture must be seen no longer in this country as a situation where you go into a field with a hoe and a fork. We have to bring a scientific dimension to agriculture. Barbados is teeming with young people who have had the advantage of a secondary education and have had the opportunity to be exposed to scientific training, and if we are to make a move on in agriculture, we have got to move very quickly in bringing scientific concepts into agriculture. I think I have spoken on this theme already, but I think it is important that we repeat it, because as we go through the country, we see a lot of unemployed youth who are not interested in going and working in anybody's field, and we cannot capture their imagination by the mundane kind of work that is done, but I am confident that if we bring scientific concepts into agriculture, we can capture the imagination and bring these young people to work.

In Barbados we have a situation where we have lying idle a lot of what we used to call windmills, where there is water underground. I think it is time that we look at the refurbishing of these windmills in order that we can get at least water from underground to help with some of the agricultural projects, especially during the dry season. We must also look at those windmills in terms of producing wind energy for the projects which could be coming on stream, because young people of today, with the kind of educational background that they have, will be fascinated by these types of scientific concepts.

We must also use the concept of biogas production, young people especially in the country should be encour-

aged to keep their own livestock and we can do that if we introduce to them the concept of biogas production where a youngster can experiment with using the dung from the animals to produce gas in order to fuel the stove and cook the food, and we can also look in terms of the use of solar energy. Barbados happens to be situated in the temperate zone where we have sun almost 365 days a year, and here is where we must capture the imagination of the young people. We have an educated set of young people and if we are to capture their imagination we have got to come with new ideas.

There is one thing we have to be very careful of in terms of our food bill and the new initiatives that we must bring into this country. There are developed countries who are finding it very very difficult to find export markets, to find countries to which they can sell their produce, and we have to be very very careful when we are getting consultants that we know the colour of the consultant. I mean that we have to know if the consultant is really truly interested in the development of an underdeveloped or developing country, or whether he is really interested in only lending to developing countries money and at the same time hoping that the projects fail, because if that is so, our country will be destined to be for ever on the receiving end of the food produce that the developed countries do not want.

This is an area we have to look at very very seriously, because as we have our lunches, I find it difficult to accept that at this time of the year in Barbados the fruit that we eat with our lunch is an English apple and not a beautiful mango, but that is how we have been brainwashed.

(Aside)

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: Oh yes, we had some good bananas, but I also saw English apples. I am worried about that at a time when all the mango trees in Barbados are full and in full bloom, we could be eating English apples. It is a psychological block that we have, and it is something we have to look at very very seriously. If we are to make a serious dent in our food bill, one of the things we have to teach ourselves and our children is that home drum beats first.

Mr. Speaker, in supporting this Resolution, I am quite confident that this Government, of which I am a part, has a role for the small farmer. When the time comes again, I will have a lot more to say about banking policies in this country with respect to the small man and how the bank must pull its weight in the support for the small farmer in this country, because in the final analysis, the future of this country is dependent on the small farmer.

I thank you.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS (Christ Church East Central): Mr. Speaker, when the honourable member for St. Peter spoke

I recognised a certain mellowness. I was not sure whether it came from the fact that we are in the post-prandial period or perhaps the soberness resulting from what happened on July 16, but it seemed to me that the honourable Member for St. Peter gave a very level-headed discourse which supported very much what the Minister of Agriculture had to say.

I am glad that he is in agreement that certain steps are being taken in agriculture that seem to augur well for the country. I recognise that he had to ask certain questions about ADC and so on as a matter of form. Quite frankly, I am not too sure that he is very serious about the statement that he made or the queries that he raised, tongue-in-cheek, of course.

But, Mr. Speaker, I think that it is important that we need to re-emphasise certain points whenever we debate an area as important as agriculture in this Chamber. I believe it is important that even though these things would have been said before, they should be restated.

I listened to the Honourable Minister of Agriculture stating that he is finding certain difficulties in encouraging the planter class to adopt a policy in support of non-sugar agriculture. That is a normal expectation, and I am sure the honourable Member for St. Peter will recognise this, as he has said so on several occasions. Those are not the people that we can look to in Barbados in terms of pushing non-sugar agriculture. Let us understand that it would be going against the grain of their very being, they very nature. You cannot expect people who have spent 300 years in sugar all of a sudden to turn around and move out of what they best know, what they best understand. Therein is a basic contradiction. There has to be a basic contradiction between planting sugar and planting anything else in terms of land use and other factors. So I do not see how we can be looking to the very people who must constitutionally be against a particular programme of activity to deliver that programme to us.

But where will that leave us? It must leave us with a recognition that there are certain things that have to be done in Barbados, and we have to say this over and over again.

The point is that I do not see in the immediate future that there can be any programme of getting rid of sugar as we have it today. That is not what I am saying. But I believe that we have to be thinking very clearly and very constructively of land reform in this country. You cannot talk about generating non-sugar agriculture without talking about land reform. You are wasting time.

Barbados has never had an exercise in land reform as, for instance, Trinidad in the 1830s, Puerto Rico at a later time and other countries in the Caribbean in the early 20th century. Our small farmers and small people have come to the ownership of land almost by default. They really come

into house spots - quarters of an acre, sixteenths of an acre - and one of the greatest tragedies I witnessed in this country was an attempt by the Barbados Labour Party to articulate a rural development policy based on those same quarters • and eights and sixteenths of an acre of land and carrying expensive irrigation projects to land that is not suitable for rural diversification. That was a tragedy and a waste of money, let us be clear on this, and I think either side of this House would understand what I am talking about. There can be no real development as far as diversification is concerned without a significant amount of land reform. 3.40 p.m.

Much has been said about the role of the ADC. My own view, Sir, is that a lot of the land owned by Government should only be held in trusteeship for the people. A lot of that land came to Government because nobody else could make any use of it, and while some of that land should be used for experimentation, as far as I am concerned, it would only be a matter of time before Government starts making that land available to young farmers in our country, and I want to go down a further road on that. I want to be very clear. I do not see Government holding on to these massive holdings if they are not going to make use of it for the benefit of this country. It is a waste of time.

I am suggesting that two things have to be considered in this regard. One is a matter of training. I was very happy when the Minister of Agriculture said that he tried to make sure that the component of the funds for training was increased, I think he said, to about \$150 000. I do not know where the direction of the training is going to be, I do not know who are the people being targeted to be trained, but I am hoping that this money will not be spent on Ministry officials only, because I believe that the need for training will be for those persons who will be operators out there. Those are the ones who need training.

I am happy to be associated with a programme that is being conducted at the Barbados Community College. It is called the Young Farmers Training Programme. It started a short time ago, about four years ago, and during that time has been co-ordinated by a teacher at the Community College by the name of Mr. Whitehead -he is really a biology teacher. He is not an agriculturist, but he has the will to help the young farmers in this country. It also has an Advisory Committee that has on it persons like Ronald Baines from Barclays, Jeffers and others who have had experience in agriculture. There has been an attachment of young farmers to a number of farms selected from throughout the country. Some are farms dealing with animal husbandry, some are dairy farms and some are just into ground produce. They are also exposed to a rigorous academic training at the same time they are doing practical work. So far, there have been two graduating classes. At this particular time, I think that that particular project is in jeopardy of discontinuation because of lack of funds, but

that is the kind of programme that I think should be supported, and supported very strongly, in this country.

I have always said that it is one of the major contradictions of Barbadian and Caribbean people that agriculture is our livelihood and we do not have a Faculty of Agriculture except at St. Augustine. That is the faculty that should be replicated throughout the Caribbean, not the Law Faculty, with all respect to the lawyers. I believe that you need Law Faculties, too, but if there is one faculty that should be replicated throughout, it should be an Agriculture Faculty, because we have not begun to tap our resources in the sea, we have not even begun to tap our resources in the land.

I read some newspapers coming out of Puerto Rico. Puerto Rico had now put thousands of acres into aloes, something that we used to grow around Barbados, something that we used to grow wild. We never appreciated the value of aloes. Puerto Rico is massively cultivating aloes for medicinal purposes, for cosmetics and so on, but we have never been able to understand that the land that we live on is a mine of valuable resources. It is this nonsense that we were brainwashed into believing that the only worthwhile resources were gold, silver, platinum and steel. We do not understand agricultural resources. Plants coming out of the soil are extremely valuable resources and we do not understand that we have to experiment with them.

I just came back again from St. Lucia. There I saw an exhibition that was part of a marketing thrust. What is Dominica selling - breadfruit leaves dried out, soursop leaves dried out, which are going to be used, as Barbadians would call them - as tea. Anything that is used at all as a beverage we call it tea. But "what is wrong with that? All of us are drinking peppermint tea, camomile tea, rose herb tea, gingseng root tea and all that sort of thing.

We do not appreciate that agriculture, the fruits of the soil, the plants in the soil around us, are extremely valuable. We have not yet decided and understood in our minds that we need to put up research faculties and we need to have an Agriculture Faculty here to really appreciate what we have. Training is vitally important. If you are going to talk about any diversification programme, put training in place first if you are serious about it, and I am serious about 1 agriculture, because in my concept of the revolution that our country has to go through still, two areas are important, agriculture and housing.

The Democratic Labour Party is moving on the housing, 2 000 houses a year is our programme for now. That is going to transform this country in several ways. We cannot postpone the agricultural revolution forever. Do not let us have any sweetheart attitude to sugar forever and ever and blind us to realities. We have to deal with sugar, but we have at the same time to be prepared to look past sugar, and you cannot look past sugar only by getting a loan

on a piecemeal basis to carry through projects. We have to take some strong positions sooner or later in terms of land diversification, but I am saying that any programme in land diversification must come first after training, after you have developed a core of Barbadians who understand the land and who have a certain basic loyalty to the land.

I have no fears in my mind whatsoever that young Barbadians would be profitably involved in agriculture. I believe that the mechanism for their involvement, however, must not necessarily be the mechanism of private initiative in the sense that each little farmer has to struggle by himself. I believe that the development of co-operatives in this direction is vitally important in this country. I want to make it clear that if you are talking about diversification, do not look to sugar for it, do not look to the planter class and do not look to a group of small farmers who by themselves do not have the resources nor the skills nor the training - look to co-operatives.

We do not have a very happy history in Barbados in terms of agricultural co-operatives, but this is something that has to be fostered. It is something that we have to pay serious attention to, and I was glad when the Minister responsible for Co-operatives informed us that he is trying to strengthen that department to bring in people with varied expertise, because my vision down the line is for assistance similar to what has happened in Austria and other European countries, where the credit union is used as the basis for funding agricultural co-operatives and you do not have to be looking outside of your country for funds to push agriculture.

The credit unions would have so much cash that they can turn around to help people buy the land that I am talking about. Once that land distribution policy is set in action, people seeking funding would go to the credit union to buy four acres of land, and once you have started there, it is your credit union that you would be looking to in terms of getting seed money for all other ventures. So you would have a relationship in the co-operative movement along with a diversification policy in terms of land distribution and so on that a different Barbados would come to take shape. Because I will insist that it is unwise basically to look to the planters to destroy their own institutions, and, therefore, we have to be planning to move in a different direction.

When I hear the honourable Member for St. Peter speak about the programmes introduced in the last Administration to bring certain constraints and controls to sugar, I recognise that those attempts were made. The sugar support price scheme, the Sugar Industry Act, the attempt at changing the arrangements in relation to insurance, the scheme in relation to burnt canes and also extraneous matter were innovations, no doubt about that at all. But I do not know how sanguine he was, because I always got the impression that dealing with sugar, even though you put in those constraints, it was

like a novice jockey getting on to the back of a horse that is really very, very wild; that even though you have the reins, you are not going anywhere -sugar would carry you where it, wanted you to go. I have always felt that even though the Barbados Labour Party was trying to set up these structures, they were just being carried along by the sugar people. 3.50 p.m.

The sugar people had a way of taking the schemes that you establish to control them and turning them around to control you. That is my impression when you are dealing with sugar, because sugar understands its importance in this country and there is no wonder that there were quarrels between the sugar people and their advisers like Heigelberg, because they could agree on the non-material things, but when it came to the substantial things they could not see eye to eye at all. You have to be very careful with the sugar people.

I got the impression that the sugar industry never faithfully lived up to certain aspects of that Act. I am sure that at no time under the former Administration did the sugar people provide the kind of information that was necessary. That Act provides that certain information has to be given to the Government, to the trade union and other interested organisations. The sugar people never gave that information. They would never give that information because they do not feel that it is in their best interest to disclose certain information to people who are not involved in sugar. Whether you are a Government and giving them support prices or not, they feel that you have to continue supporting them, they do not have to go by your dictates. So what you have, in fact might be a paper Act, but in terms of its implementation there would be a lot left to be desired. I believe that they would have used that situation for ever and ever, because they would hold the country to ransom. I say this even though I recognise that you cannot get rid of sugar, but I believe we always have to know on what basis we are dealing with the sugar industry.

Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that the Minister of Agriculture has chosen three projects that we can all support: a project relating to the export marketing complex, the further development of cotton and for an onion/peanuts drying facility. I think all of these have possibilities of increasing foreign exchange for our country, and it seems to me that if there is one area of our economy that needs serious attention at this time, it is the area of our tradable goods. We have to get trade to external markets going, and it calls for the support of everybody in this country, we need to recognise that, and I believe that this project is in that direction. To that extent, therefore, it is a useful project for the entire country, and I think it points a good direction in terms of non-sugar, and I therefore give my full support to this Resolution.

When I heard the Minister expanding on his ideas, it seemed to me that he has a lot more information and he was just holding back some, he could not give all today. It does give me some hope and I am very optimistic, that in ^ that, very important sector of our economy things are happening. We look forward at some future time to further debate on what is happening in that area, when I am sure the Minister of Agriculture will be able to give us the full information.

I thank you, Sir.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE (Christ Church West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to underscore a few points made by the honourable Member for St. Peter (Mr. O. S. Arthur). I believe the honourable Member for Christ Church East Central (Mr. R. L. Morris) said the honourable Member for St. Peter has been much more restrained in his presentation and much more measured in his tone either because of the post prandial session or what happened on July 16. I cannot recall exactly what he referred to when he said July 16, neither does the honourable Member for St. Michael South East (Dr. E. A. Simmons), because he is obviously not an * agriculturalist, he obviously does not live in an agricultural society. He talks of the bloom at the moment of the mango trees, but really he is talking about the post-bloom of the mango trees, because those of us who live in the country know that they are going off, not coming on at this time.

The honourable Member for Christ Church East Central, coming from the country like myself, recognises that we know about growing of sugar cane and the planting of fields. I can support a lot that has been said, Sir, but perhaps I should issue a cautionary note. In our anxiety to make changes, sometimes we do not recognise the difficulties that confront us in making those changes. Hopefully, in this case the difficulties are not the difficulties posed by a group of men standing in the way of progress, but it is a fact of life that the soils of Barbados are mostly suited to grass and grasslands, and hence one of the reasons why sugar cane has predominated for a long time over other crops.

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At the time of the settlement in 1927 and until about the 1940s, we experimented largely with tobacco, cotton and several other crops, and we came to the conclusion, after the Brazilians introduced sugar to this country, that sugar was perhaps the sole crop that could withstand the vicissitudes of ecological circumstances and factors. It is still true today, if you talk to the agriculturalists, that sugar or anything with a grass component is probably still the best crop for Barbados. That does not mean that we should not continue to experiment with agricultural change and with the programme of diversification. But I am afraid, Sir, that the cost of diversification is going to be much heavier than either my own party or the present party has calculated * for. We have made certain structural changes in the last ten years, and we have set out on various programmes of

research, the benefit from which we are only now seeing quite clearly.

The Minister, in his very careful introduction, spoke of the fact that there was a significant increase in onion, peanut and cotton production from the period 1982 to 1986. The honourable Member for St. Michael South East would have us believe otherwise. He is going to re-write history in such a way that the last ten years has produced nothing positive in this country, whereas, in truth, the statistics show that during that period non-sugar agriculture reached its highest level of production ever in the history of Barbados. It is an undoubted fact that the programme implemented by the Barbados Labour Party has paid off significantly.

Only a few days ago the Minister of Finance, in his new role as public relations expert on financial matters, in his new role of putting everybody to sleep, with a bit of Dr. Webster rubbing off on him from the psychological position of charming people, recognised very carefully that the fiscal measures of the former Government in relation to livestock production were correct. Although when we came to the House and introduced the tax on non-regional importation of beef we did meet some criticism, it is right to say today that it has had the effect of increasing the local production of beef and at the same time encouraging intra-CARICOM trade, particularly out of Belize. In fact, the incoming Minister of Industry has now agreed with this. Belize is now cleared of foot and mouth disease, although there are certain other conditions that the Ministry of Agriculture has laid down for the importation of Belizean beef.

But it was not only the fiscal measure which we introduced. We at the same time introduced various incentives in the livestock industry for the development of livestock, and nowadays you will notice that lands that were formerly marginal lands are now going into livestock development. In the constituency in which I live, Sir, ...

Hon. Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of elucidation: I am very pleased that the Honourable Leader of the Opposition has taken time to illustrate that the tax on extra-regional beef has stimulated domestic production and that he has given full support to taxes on other agricultural products to stimulate local production. 4.00p.m.

Laughter.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I am not surprised, Sir, that even at this very late hour the honourable Member is trying to elucidate *his faux pas* in trying to tax local carrots, beets and other vegetables. There is no point of elucidation, Sir.

The point is that we really in this area did give careful consideration to measures which can stimulate and give incentives at the same time to agricultural production and diversification.

The honourable Member for Christ Church East Central speaks rather regretfully, he says, about the attempt at diversifying agriculture by the integrated rural development method because we did not face up at the same time to land reform. I believe I am paraphrasing and summarising what he has said. The Rural Integrated Development Project had several components. One was to ensure that there was adequate water supply to the small farmers in areas such as Hanson, Windsor, Heddings and Sunbury, in the constituency of the honourable Member for St. Philip South (Hon. H. A. Blackman), and I think in some parts of St. George as well. Therefore, a component involved the use of back-ground water, a matter referred to by the honourable Member for St. Michael South East in his speech. We were very conscious of the necessity to use the brackish water in Barbados for irrigation. In fact, out of the money which we borrowed from the Inter-American Development Bank, a large portion of this money was used for providing water for agriculture.

Another component was enabling the farmers to bring their produce out of their lands and the constituencies in Christ Church, particularly Christ Church East and Christ Church East central, have benefitted significantly from the improvement of the roads, and at the same time, I think contributed to people improving their circumstances. So the project had some very good components.

It is a fact that we did not tackle the wider problem of land reform, if you consider land reform as changing the dominant ownership of a few people to the mass of land of Barbados. But we did have a component of land reform in the agricultural Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act, in which we gave persons who had been renting agricultural land from the plantations the right to purchase, which they still have in law, those areas of land to add on to their house spots as well. The plantation owners cannot now deny a tenant the right to purchase the acre lot or two acre lot which he had.

It had always been intended by the Barbados Labour Party Government to look at the problem of land reform in its wider sense a little later on. We tried some measure of land reform following on the Democratic Labour Party's policy then, although we argue as to how well this was achieved at the Spring Hall Land Lease Project. That was an experimental project about which both sides of the House are obviously not happy at its outcome.

We have to recognise that the Government is the biggest land owner today. But, frankly, all the Government has done - and I am using Government not in a party sense now, I am using Government representing the Crown - through ADC and otherwise, is that we have taken over plantation land and we have tried to follow the policies that have been followed by planters before. We have not at all really seriously tackled the changes that are necessary and

that must come about, in my view, if agricultural production is really to increase.

I believe, like the honourable Member for Christ Church East Central - fortunately we share the same philosophy, although I acknowledge his, he never acknowledges mine - as a democratic socialist I believe.....

Laughter.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE:.....that the Government has - I am using Government not meaning the DLP or BLP Government again - a duty to use.....

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Sir, I hold my political reputation very dearly.

Mr. SPEAKER: On a point of?

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: On a point of order, Sir.

(Aside: Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Elucidation.)

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: A point of elucidation, Sir: I hold my political reputation very dearly. Sir, I am a democratic socialist. I just want to be very clear in mind exactly what the Leader of the Opposition is. I am a democratic socialist in a democratic socialist party, a practising democratic socialist!

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Sir, I believe the honourable Member protests too much. I genuinely believed he was one, but he seems to have doubts about it. I have no doubts about mine, Sir, no matter what statements are made. I have been very, very clear in my philosophy and policy.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Sir, on a point of elucidation: I have not heard the honourable Member state clearly what is his philosophy and that of his party.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The honourable Member is obviously not listening, Sir.

Laughter

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The honourable Member knows, and has himself repeated in this House on several occasions, that the Labour Party is a democratic socialist party. He has repeated it, Sir. And not only that, Sir,...

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Mr. Speaker, there are two parties in Barbados. Both of them have the name 'Labour' somewhere in their title. Normally, Sir, the Democratic Labour Party is the only real labour party. Sir, there is a historical explanation as to why the Barbados Labour Party still revels in that particular nomenclature. But we know for a fact, Sir, that there is nothing at all, nothing whatsoever in 1987....

Mr. SPEAKER: Are you making a speech?

Mr. R. L. MORRIS:.....! will be closing now, Sir....there is nothing at all about their philosophy that reflects labour. This Democratic Labour Party is the party with four representatives of labour in it, and there is a labour lawyer and a labour doctor. Let us be very clear on that one.

Laughter.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: You know, Sir, the honourable Member who just sat down honestly must have disappointed < his father terribly, if his father should hear him say that there is nothing in the Barbados Labour Party that has anything about labour in it other than the name or its philosophy Sir?

Laughter.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: He wants me to give way to him again. When I am finished the statement I will give way.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS rose.

Mr. SPEAKER: What is the honourable Member addressing now?

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: A point of education, Sir.

Laughter.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Elucidation, Sir! Just to quote a famous English poem, Sir, the child is father of the man.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Yes, Sir! The honourable Member must know that his party, having been untimely ripped from the womb of the Barbados Labour Party, at least it had a beginning within the socialist tradition of the Barbados Labour Party. 4.10p.m.

I am willing to engage the honourable Member on another occasion and in another place in the banter on these" particular points, Sir, if the honourable Member has any doubt.

The point I am trying to make, Sir, is that perhaps the Government should use the co-operatives as the means of affecting land reform on Government-owned estates, and that if one wants to make a start, the start can be made on the ADC lands itself.

Honourable Members will recall that in this House as recently I think last year or early this year, I appealed for the giving, leasing if you like, Sir, of part of the Graeme Hall Plantation to some of the young farmers of Forde's Road. People believe that Forde's Road in my constituency is a suburban region and that we will have nothing to do with farming. The contrary is really what is correct. We •

have in Forde's Road farmers who have reached an extremely high yield of Black Belly Sheep. The honourable Member will know that we have some of the best Black Belly sheep and the most productive Black Belly sheep grown in Forde's Road. The honourable Member will know that in terms of milk production, again in Forde's Road, this is a serious activity.

Asides.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I do not expect you to know these things. You do not move around. In Forde's Road, Sir, the honourable Member would know that we have several people in beef farming and milk production. '

I had great difficulty finding a source of finance for some young men who were out of work and tried to become self-employed, who had rented just over an acre of land in Sargeant's Village. All they wanted was a limited amount of funds to enable them to buy agricultural equipment, including hoses for irrigation purposes. But there was really no institution in Barbados, the Development Bank, National Bank or anything, which was prepared to lend the money to these young men. Eventually, it was left to the Caribbean Congress of Churches and myself to advance money to finance a group of young men who were intent on maintaining themselves on agricultural purses. It seemed to me then that the Government - again using that in the sense in which I have been speaking - ought to look at strengthening the 4-H and co-operative movements to include these young people who are obviously interested in getting into agriculture.

I have also detected among young Barbadians a desire to go into agriculture on even a wider level. I know the sons of former plantation owners who have gone to agricultural colleges. They have run away from taking the standard degree in Agriculture. They have gone to the practical training schools, have come back and are now working on some of the family lands, and they are farmers in the total sense of that word. They are able to repair their own equipment, they experiment on the type of equipment that is necessary and that you have to adapt for use in Barbados, they are reaping and they are ploughing - they are doing everything that is called for.

It seems to me that, more and more, what we are going to have to train is really a farming class

Asides.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: to use your word - a holistic farming class which would approach the subject of farming in the wider sense and not in the sense in which farming was understood. You rode around the plantation on a horse with a cork-hat and you drove a couple of labourers, and when the midday sun got too much for you, you went in to breakfast between 11 and 12, you slept and you drank as

much as possible and that was you for the day. You very seldom came back out in the afternoon. I believe that agriculture nowadays will call for a completely different approach than that, and I am happy to say that I have seen signs of that different approach coming young farmers in Barbados, including people who have been dispossessed of land and those who had been dispossessed of land through their forefathers.

Sir, the honourable Member for St. Michael South East advocated that Government had to go back to windmills and biogas projects. Once again, I must remind him that these are areas that the Barbados Labour Party was pursuing. The biogas project, as the Minister will let him know, is one that is now getting a little bit beyond the experimental stage.

There are several farmers who are producing energy from the refuse coming from farm animals whether from pigs or fowls. The Caribbean Development Bank, for instance, has been funding similar projects. We negotiated with the Caribbean Development Bank- for money, and Barbados, like a few of the other Caribbean countries, have projects in this area.

In addition to the Rural Integrated Development Scheme, where we went to improve the underground water supply, we have been experimenting with wind energy. I believe this House had the benefit earlier this year of the explanation from the Minister of Finance as to why the Wind Energy Project was discontinued.

So the honourable Member's ideas are not new to us. We started and left in place for the incoming party projects along this line. We are pleased to see that some of those projects have already begun to bear fruit, even if the Democratic Labour Party wants to claim the benefit of them, I am satisfied once the benefits go to the people of Barbados as a whole. I really could not allow the debate to pass with the revision of history occurring to the extent that it would be believed that there was nothing done during the period of the Barbados Labour Party for agriculture.

I am satisfied that efforts of diversification have started. They are not total efforts. There is room left for improvement on those efforts, as I have no doubt that when the Democratic Labour Party loses power, there will be room left to improve further on this effort.

Asides.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I only have to stir up that. The honourable Member is convinced otherwise. He has not learnt the lessons of history that times change and people change, too. I learned the lessons of Roman History over and over again, and I recall the Gracchi brothers. When the Gracchi brothers rode into Rome in their heyday, everybody came from their houses and applauded and what not, but it was not long before the Gracchi brothers were being driven

through the streets of Rome on their chariots in another form. One must remember that.

Asides.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Well, yc-u make your first speech. I am going to have to applaud, but when I start putting the blows in you, you will know if you can butt or not.

Laughter,

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I am pleased that the Minister of Agriculture is a little bit more realistic in the way in which he addresses his subject in this House and has given the House much more information than the Member who first introduced this Resolution. I think the Minister of Agriculture has got the basic statistics of his Ministry, and he has not been the person so far - I do not know whether he will change, or whether he does otherwise - to come in here and really try to undermine the achievements that have gone on. Sometimes, in our desire to show that one party has achieved more and has done better than the other, we forget in this House that the same people who have advised the past Government, advises this Government, and a lot of the work and the achievements of the Government must go to the credit of the officers in the various Ministries. It would be strange if the officers who have not changed since the change of Government have all of a sudden become so productive that they can get beef to a new stage of production in such a short time, and that the cherry trees would have blossomed overnight, in one year, from the time they were incubated, and that nothing happened prior to that period. The honourable Member who lives in St. Andrew, who is the Member for St. Andrew (Mr. C. A. Neblett), would know, as he has been in those hills, that the propagation of trees was going on and that the Orchard Project is a project that has been going for some time, and that it is now succeeding. 4.20 p.m.

I want, before I sit down, because we have not adverted to this at all at any stage in the debate on agriculture during the past year or more, to emphasise the case in the diversification effort for the banana planters. I believe that Barbados has a future in bananas, that we could become fully self-sufficient in the banana industry and that we could also be reaping part of the harvest which is now being reaped by the OECs countries, particularly Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia and, to some extent, St. Vincent, in becoming the main exporters of bananas to the United Kingdom. Those of us who are familiar with the parishes, particularly of St. Joseph, St. Andrew and St. John, can state that those areas have the farm lands and offer the best opportunity for us to expand banana production.

There is a gentleman called Mr. King, who lives in the constituency of the honourable Member for Christ Church

East Central, who has used his private enterprise initiative, in some respects, for the farmers of Newcastle and the Bathsheba area. He guarantees them a market, he buys most of their produce, he helps arrange the financing for them, he helps arrange the fertilisers, weedicides and pesticides, and his initiative is one that I really must praise on the floor of this House. He has not just gone into it for the purpose of making money, although he does make money, but it shows where the link of the commercial man with the agricultural man, the total linking of sectors, could go a long way towards stimulating production in this field. If there is one thing I would like to hear the Minister on when he replies, since I have not got the detailed information on it, although I have taken an interest in banana production in this part of Barbados - at least those of us who appeared before a certain former judge would have to have an interest in banana production, Sir - it is that I really want to know the measures that the Government is giving, supportive of this sector of agriculture.

I want, finally, Sir, to declare a little interest here though. I am a little bit disappointed in the pace at which the Ministry of Agriculture's extension personnel react to requests from small farmers, or people who want to get into farming, for the services which they advertise over the radio. I can state that from the beginning of this year, my wife and I have been phoning the Ministry asking for ploughing services and still have not got them, and asking for advice on the treatment of plants and fruit trees that are suffering from blight. Two people came and there has never been a follow-up, and when I went around and asked other people in the area, I was told that their experience is the same and that it is quicker to get this type of service from the private sector, to the extent that I am now trying to get a private sector person to come in and offer this service.

It is a bit of a pity that the services in this area are not being adequately provided. It is a matter the Minister should give some consideration to.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER (City of Bridgetown): Mr. Speaker, I hope that the honourable Member for Christ Church West (Hon. H. deB. Forde) does not believe that because he has just moved into St. John, that makes him a farmer or an expert on agriculture, because I find that we have a problem in this country where every time consultants, so-called experts, walk through the airport and tell us anything, because they do not sound like us we believe what they are saying and take it as gospel.

I do not know where this belief came from that we can only grow grass type crops in Barbados. I remember as a boy seeing pineapples being grown in Barbados. I do not know the reason why they are not being grown now. I am not going to pretend that I am an agriculturalist, I am not one. Maybe the Member for Christ Church West, after the Member for St. Michael South East (Dr. E. A. Simmons)

teaches him a bit more about the farmers in his constituency, will be able to enlighten us a little more, but until that time I believe he should do like me and listen more. .

Mr. Speaker, in Barbados during the Second World War we planted, I believe, some 13 per cent of the land in sweet potatoes. They used to call it "big grain rice." I was not born then, but my grandmother told me that. They seemed to have been very successful in growing the sweet potatoes then. I do not know what happened with the soil between then and now that we can only grow grass.

When the Member for Christ Church West talks about nothing much could have happened since we got in, in terms of the Ministry of Agriculture, and that the trees could not have put out more fruit and we could not have produced more beef, I think he is, wrong. I think that the policies, attitude and management of this party encouraged the civil servants in the Ministry to do a better job. This is why we are seeing better results. You keep looking and you will see over the next four years how much better the results are going to become.

Sir, when we talk about agricultural diversification, I think we have to carefully examine the linkages. I heard the Member for St. Michael South East talk about the former yam plant in Wildey which used to produce yam flakes. Every time I pass that spot, it is sad to see what the Barbados Labour Party did to that project upon assuming office in 1976, and I believe that every time we speak of agriculture I must reflect on that yam project. What was called a pilot plant at the time had really become a commercial enterprise....

Aside.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: You want to talk about DaCosta and Musson? I can tell you about that too. If the honourable Member for Christ Church West would listen, I will enlighten him.

The yam project had become a commercial enterprise, because the product was accepted by the consumer. It was an excellent product. They had gone on to do experiments in sweet potato flakes. Hotels were beginning to experiment and use it in place of what we call English potatoes, which are white potatoes, and I can tell you all this because I have first hand knowledge.

I went on a trip to Canada with a group from the United Nations. We were doing a study tour on marketing and one of the things that were said to us by a buyer from a large chain of supermarkets in Toronto known as the Loblaw chain was that, providing the packaging was improved, we had a product that had tremendous potential. He was talking about the yams flakes. Unfortunately, Sir, that was in 1975. The BLP came in 1976 and put a stop to that.

DaCosta and Musson, yes, were the agents or the people who did the marketing for the product, and DaCosta and Musson would know, it must be recorded somewhere, that they were told that something had to be done about the packaging. That has nothing to do with the quality of the product, it has to do with the presentation. That is a marketing problem, not a problem as far as the quality of the product is concerned.

The reason why we were also able to produce such a good quality yam flake is that Barbados produces some excellent quality yams. I was on a trip to New York and a company there which buys a lot of produce from Africa and the Caribbean, particularly Jamaica, was very interested in buying a particular yam from Barbados. I do not remember the name off-hand, but it is very tasty and stands up well. I believe "Lisbon" is the right name. 4.30 p.m.

At the time the Barbados Labour Party was running the country, and I transmitted the information to the then Minister of Agriculture, to the BMC and to ADC. I do not know if anything was ever done about it. I believe we grew less and less crop Lisbon yams, if I am not mistaken. I gather from the Minister that something is being done again in that area.

We have to understand that we have a lot of reconstruction to do. A lot of damage was done, particularly in the last five years of the Barbados Labour Party Administration. Let us face that. Whether the honourable Member for Christ Church West wants to accept that or not, it is a fact. They have done a lot of serious economic damage to this country, and it includes damage in the agricultural sector, and we have to reconstruct. So there can be no overnight miracle. The Minister has a tough job on his hands, but we will do the job.

The Member for Christ Church East Central (Mr. R.L. Morris) mentioned the Aloe Vera plant. He said that he read somewhere, or heard somewhere, recently that Puerto Rico was doing a massive job in producing Aloe Vera. About four years ago, a group came here from Canada; they were looking at buying Aloe Vera from Barbados to produce cosmetics. They are buying the Aloe Vera from Phoenix, Arizona. They wanted to buy the Barbadian plants because they said, and I have it in black and white studies that were done by scientists, that the Barbados Aloe Vera has the best quality in the world. That is not a grass plant, as far as I am concerned. It is something to do with the soil, something to do with the air, I do not know what it is, but it has the best quality and they were interested.

There is a man called Bill Miller - no relation of mine, Sir - in St. Philip. The Minister of Agriculture would know him well, because it is in his area, and he had done a lot of experimentation in growing the Aloe Vera plant. It is just

growing wild now, because there was no programme to work on the Aloe Vera. But we talk about diversification!

We have to recognise that some of the things we produce, we produce the best. When you talk about what is known as the acerola cherry - internationally that is what it is called, in Barbados we call it the Barbados cherry - ours has the best quality in the world.

There is a place in Texas to which they took plants from Barbados and planted and produced a hybrid. There is a gentleman here called Michelini who is doing a lot of work on the cherry plant. There is a demand worldwide for it.

If we market what we produce well, our diversification plan can go a long way. Right now in the United States of America, Canada and in Europe there is a very good market niche for what they call specialty foods, and our exotic type fruit and vegetables fit into that niche as well. We produce the best, and if it is properly handled and marketed, we can export, and this is why I was so pleased to learn that we are going to have an Export Marketing Unit that would be looking and dealing with that, because it is a problem.

We have to get our marketing right. That was the problem with the yam flakes, the only problem. It was a marketing problem, it was not a quality problem, but the then Administration was too myopic, they could not see where the problem was, so they just decided to scrap it. They handle problems the same way all the time. If you cannot get it handled, scrap it.

I listened to the honourable Member for Christ Church West talk about what you can grow here and what you cannot grow here. As I opened by saying, I do not know where he gets his expertise from, but I know that the Israelis have proven to all of us that a lot of things that could not be grown in the desert are being grown there now. They are shipping avocados and fetching good prices for them in the United States. The Jaffa oranges are famous worldwide now. They are grown in the desert now where you could not grow anything before, not even grass.

I listened to the member talking about the tremendous work they did in livestock production. I do not know where it is. I do not know if he was talking about Barbados. I get a little difficulty, in that I remember the story of Rip Van Winkle when I hear certain Members get up in here and talk about what is happening and what is to happen now, as though they were asleep in the last ten or so years.

The figures that the Minister pointed out for beef production are very interesting. Even if you go back beyond the last two years, they were dismal. Do not let us fool ourselves that it does not have something to do with the present programme of the Ministry of Agriculture, or this present Government's programme. It has a lot to do with that.

We import a lot of corn to use as an additive in feeds. I am sure that the Minister is looking at alternatives. We can grow things like sorghum, what we call Indian corn, and cassava, and use those as substitutes. I heard other Members saying that we used to grow a lot of that before, and I heard the honourable Member talk about all the things we have diversified into, but when we look around Barbados, we cannot see anything. All I see is wild bush growing everywhere. That is why I say that we have a very serious job in this Administration to do a lot of reconstruction. We now have to bring things into order.

Asides

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: The honourable Member keeps making comments but, as I said, in my opening, the honourable Member should do like me. I live in St. Peter now,, but I do not call myself a country man. I know that there are a lot of things I have to learn. I come from town, too, but I am quietly learning. The things I talk about here are things that were taught to me by people who know. I am only repeating.

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Asides

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: One of my grandfathers was a merchant and one was an agriculturist.

Sir, some 4 000 acres of cassava dried and chipped can produce 20 000 tonnes of feeding for animals, and it could be at a terrific saving if we can substitute some of that corn we are presently using. The EEC imports millions of tons of cassava to use for feed for animals and we are here in the Caribbean where we can grow it. These are things I am sure that the Minister is looking at already, because I know the Minister is aware of them.

Successive Administrations in Barbados, with probably the exception of the last Administration, which tried to destroy it, have recognised the importance of Caribbean unity.

Asides

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Sir, there is no secret that the last Government had serious diplomatic difficulties with Trinidad. It was all over the newspapers and otherwise. We have to be very careful that if we have policies, we follow these policies.

The Minister of Trade, the Prime Minister, the honourable Member for Christ Church East Central and others were in St. Lucia recently talking about CARICOM and talking about Caribbean unity, particularly trade. We do not seem to have much difficulty with culture, or education, but we have a serious difficulty with trade.

We talk about looking at a Caribbean approach to things. I do not see how we can be thinking that way and still thinking of producing bananas when we know that St. Lucia, St. Vincent, in particular, and probably Grenada are supposed to be producing bananas for exports. I do not think that we should go down that road.

Asides

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: The honourable Member says I am joking, but I am very serious about that. We talked before about the harmonisation of industry in CARICOM and then everybody put up a flour mill. It is nonsense. Everybody wants to put up a cement plant. A myopic Barbados Labour Party Administration would look at it that way, and the same type of myopia exists in the present Administration.

Asides

4.40 p.m.

I could say that in Newcastle. If the honourable Member wants to say that Newcastle should produce all the bananas that Barbadians can eat, I have no difficulty with that. I am not talking about that at all.

The honourable Member talks about things that people do. I do not think it is right though, Sir, that I should bring anyone's name in here, so let me control myself with that. Suffice it to say that if we are talking about Caribbean unity, Caribbean trade and asking Trinidad to buy our carrots or beets and we agree that Barbados can supply all the carrots or beets, I do not think we can just get up and say that we should try and take away the little export market that anybody else has for bananas. If the honourable Member is saying that there is a worldwide shortage of bananas or that the markets that St. Vincent, Grenada and St. Lucia currently supply have a shortfall that we can pick up, I have no difficulty with that.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of explanation: I do not like to repeat myself, but I made it quite clear that, first, there is room for the expansion of production of bananas particularly in three parishes, St. Andrew, St. Joseph, and St. John; secondly, that we were not fully satisfying our own needs; and thirdly, that there was an export market out there which we should be also satisfying.

In terms of being a Caribbean man, the honourable Member is really a neophyte as compared with me. Obviously we support Caribbean unity, but it does not mean that the market which is now being used by Costa Rica and other Latin American countries should not be penetrated by the Caribbean as a whole.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, it is simple. Does the honourable Member really believe that St. Lucia can sell all the bananas they are growing? They cannot!

When the honourable Member tells me that he is more Caribbean man than I am, I tend to still want to question why when they were having problems with Trinidad the honourable Member did not.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I wish the honourable Member to stick a little closer to the Resolution.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Sir, I am trying very hard, but I had to reply to the honourable Member.

Mr. Speaker, as far as I am concerned, Barbados is in a position, with the correct diversification, and I am satisfied that the Ministry of Agriculture is going down that road, to produce high quality produce, what are internationally known as exotics. We can not only produce them, but we have the mechanism in place to market them if it is properly done, and we also have, to a large extent, the processing facilities to process what we produce.

I have heard the Minister on an occasion before, speak of the possibility of our having a fruit or vegetable processing plant. I believe that if we go down that road and develop what we have here and what we are very good at already, some of the fruit and vegetables that other Members and I spoke of before, we would be able to do an excellent job in earning more foreign exchange for the country and producing more jobs, without interfering with any nice relationship we now have with our CARICOM partners.

It is with those few comments, Sir, that I would like to support this Resolution.

Mr. R. P. BYER (St. George South): Mr. Speaker, coming as I do from a rural constituency, I could not allow this opportunity to pass without my making a contribution to this debate.

The Resolution states that the purpose of the loan is to assist in financing an agricultural development project to bring about an appropriate balance between sugar and non-sugar crops. I want, if I could, to put this Resolution in some historical perspective, because I believe it is accepted that it speaks to diversification as is being practised in Barbados and diversification as we seek to practise and understand it in Barbados.

The foundation of modern agriculture, as distinct from the straightforward cultivation of sugar, was formed in Barbados following the enunciation in 1961 of the first diversification policy in this country. At that time the Democratic Labour Party, which formed the Government of the day, followed a strategy which highlighted, amongst other things, resource assembly and management, which included the reorganisation of the Department of Agriculture into a comprehensive Ministry, and introduced the notion of self-sufficiency.

The party also enacted social legislation in sugar agriculture. The trade unionists amongst us know, and I suppose it is generally known as a matter of history, that many pieces of legislation affecting the sugar industry were introduced around that time as part and parcel of the diversification effort.

It also sought to develop and keep in place a good land use project, and tried to secure land titles by the passage of, for example, the Security of Tenure (Smallholdings) Act, amongst other things. It also sought to develop and conserve the environment.

The balance between sugar and non-sugar agriculture has always been a goal that the DLP sought to achieve, and that is why, as I said, the notion of policy of diversification was part and parcel of the package that it brought to the country in the early Sixties. At the time, it was thought that the development of a corporation, which eventually turned out to be the Barbados Marketing Corporation, was a necessary plank in this approach to diversification. We can recall that the Barbados Marketing Corporation was set up in June 1963, that to a large measure stimulated agricultural production, that, despite problems, the total sales moved from \$87 000 in 1963-64 to \$3.6 million in 1975-76, that it purchased around that time 305 000 tonnes of fresh produce and that by 1975-76, this had gone to over three and a half million pounds. So as an arm of the diversification effort the corporation was indeed performing its role, and it was sad to see that the Barbados Marketing Corporation was allowed to fall into disuse, that the policy goals of that organisation as laid down in the Barbados Marketing Corporation Act were not followed to the letter, and that the organisation was not allowed to function in an atmosphere where the whole policy of diversification as perceived by the Democratic Labour Party could have been carried out when the Barbados Labour Party assumed the reins of office or came to power in 1976. 4.50 p.m.

From 1976 onward, Sir, it has been my understanding, and I have often come to the conclusion, that no consistent or concentrated policy of agricultural diversification was followed by, for example, the last Minister of Agriculture. He chopped and changed his agricultural policy as he liked. One moment when you wended your way from what is now the Grantley Adams International Airport you could see large fields of sorghum being grown, the next time you passed, you could see none. At one point you heard that as much idle land as possible would be brought back into sugar cultivation. This was done and sugar production was high, but because of the low prices on the world market, we found ourselves in a very sorry state. This was because, in my own view, the Barbados Labour Party sought to put all their eggs in one basket, so when the rain finally came down, when the sugar turned sour, we were faced with many problems.

I have always said that if we as a country had sought to pursue the diversification plans as set out by the Democratic Labour Party between 1961 and 1976, we would be far better off today, we would not be faced with many ^ of the problems that we have today. It is as though we are restarting the whole diversification effort, even though we can claim a history of diversification stretching as far back as 1961. That is a relatively young period, "but not young enough that many of the problems that presently occupy our minds could not have been solved in the 25 year period between 1961 and 1987. Subsequent events, meaning the fall and the bottom dropping out of the world sugar market, have shown that the policy pursued by the Barbados Labour Party was a wrong policy. They ought to have pursued and concentrated on diversification. We would have been better off today.

This is why we had to spend a lot of time in our manifesto of 1986 to spell out our policy in relation to diversification, a policy which was earlier spelt out in 1976. And this is why today, Sir, I was very heartened when I read the document that the Honourable Minister of Agriculture made available to me to see that most of the * ideas spelt out in, that document more or less harmonise with the objectives that were set out in the manifesto of the Democratic Labour Party in 1986. This document is a document of the House, and I want to refer to page 10 of it to highlight the point that I am making. Under the heading of "AGRICULTURE", it says:

"Diversification and . modernisation are the watch-words of the Democratic Labour Party's policy in agriculture. We appreciate that in present circumstances, sugar cane cultivation must be accorded a priority claim on our land resources."

It goes on in the middle of the second paragraph:

"The first tenet of the DLP's agricultural policy is that agriculture must provide an adequate livelihood for all persons employed in agriculture.

"Special emphasis will be placed on agronomic and market research.

"The intention will be to infuse Barbadian agriculture with a new dynamism, which will enable it to reach the frontiers of scientific agriculture and become responsive to local and international market conditions."

The specifics of this broad policy guideline, Sir, were earlier spelt out by the Ministry of Agriculture. Today we are able to say that many of the manifesto promises as laid down in the manifesto of the Democratic Labour Party concerning agriculture have been realised. For example, we can talk about the abolition of the Agriculture Levy.

This document also says:

"Government will lead by example by ensuring that Government-owned agricultural land is fully utilised and efficiently farmed."

Work has already started on this.

We have also had debate in this Chamber concerning the Spring Hall Land Lease Project. It is the intention of the Democratic Labour Party Government to make sure that this project comes to fruition and that efforts would be made to reorganise it so that people can have: "plot sizes which are determined and manageable and appropriate to the type of cultivation envisaged."

There are other aspects of the agricultural policy that the Democratic Labour Party has for Barbados, for example, the contribution to the Barbados Agricultural Society. We heard earlier on that beef and mutton production have increased, and efforts will be made to ensure that the importation of powdered milk by the Pine Hill Dairy does not restrain the growth of local milk production. I would not bore this House with a chronology of what has happened in agriculture so far under this Democratic Labour Party Government, but if the Minister of Agriculture should continue in the way in which he is presently going, it is my firm belief that we will see opportunities and avenues open up for the young people of this country in agriculture. We know the stigma that is attached to this form of enterprise. If we should only follow our manifesto pledge by making it more scientific, scientific in the manner earlier expressed and earlier hoped for by the honourable Member for St. Michael South East (Dr. E. A. Simmons), the young people of Barbados will find it a viable alternative for employment.

Mr. Speaker, I want to address this Resolution in another light. In a sense, the legacy of the brutal system of slavery and colonial plantations that dominated life in the West Indies for let us say, Sir, two and a half centuries may indeed be still with us. For example, we still depend in large measure on exporting our crops to what were formerly the colonialising nations. Even though we may say that the plantation is dead, it is my belief that everywhere you go in the Caribbean you can see aspects of the plantation being reborn time and time again. I would even go so far as to say that we have not up to this moment been able to break the bonds of the plantation economy. So even after achieving national independence, there have been no essential changes in the heavily export-oriented, import-dependant structure, let us say, of the Caribbean economy. I believe that if we are to pursue the diversification effort, along the path which we are going, that in time we would be able to achieve that goal of breaking that bond of what we call the plantation economy. ; 5.00 p.m.

Sir, if we examine food production, one would see that the total domination by export crop production of cultivable land set the stage for the current strategy of inadequate food production. We heard, I think sometime back in 1985, that our import food bill was astronomical. I do not want to pretend to know the exact figure, Sir, but it could be in the region of \$165 million a year. I stand corrected that, I may be a couple of million out one way or the other. But, Sir, this is nothing new, because very early after Barbados was settled, around 1647, as far as I can recall, an observer reported that men are so intent upon planting sugar that they would rather buy food at very dear prices. They did not see any long term benefit to be gained from engaging in the worthwhile exercise of producing food.

My warning, Sir, is that this reliance upon imported food will be our undoing if we do not take stock. So it is heartening to know that the import food bill is slowly being reduced, and that efforts are being made for Barbados to become self-sufficient in food, or certain aspects of food production. I am saying this in the context of our notion of Caribbean integration, and I heed the warning given earlier by the Member for the City.

My point, Sir, is that the presence of foreign food on the shelves of even the most remote shops effectively hinders the development of self-sufficiency in basic food production. Foreign food items also tend to have better access to retail and wholesale networks and advertising facilities than the small number of local projects. If we go into any supermarket at all, you will see this being the case. I am certain that the Member for the City would attest that many of the local products that are produced for consumption in Barbados are not given prominent displays on the shelves of the major supermarkets in Barbados. In other words, rather than being put at the eye level, they are put way down bottom, at the foot level - you can hardly see them there - while the imported foods are given very prominent displays.

Something must be done about this. The Ministry of Agriculture must impress upon the supermarkets of Barbados, the food chains, that local produce should be given prominent display. If that is not done, as I said earlier, Sir, our attempts to be self-sufficient in food will be severely hindered. There is no point in producing something if it will not sell, and most of the local food processors suffer this problem.

We can take an example from the story of beef production sometime ago. It was in large measure helped along, by the increase in the consumption of local beef by the Consumption Tax and so on. But if local beef was not given a prominent display, and its qualities and by-products not consciously put before the people of Barbados, my own view would be that it would suffer just like any other locally produced product, be that product liquid or solid. We have got to be very conscious that when we try to diversify, we

not only get markets, but we do some very serious marketing. And as earlier pointed out, we saw what happened when the yam flakes were not properly marketed.

I go a little further and make the point that psychological factors may also contribute to the sorry state of the production of food for local consumption. Stenched with memories of slavery young people have shied away from agriculture because it reminds them too much of what it was like in the past. Employment in agriculture conjures up notion of slavery in some people's minds and this is why we have got to make it more scientific. The negative aspects of agriculture are even brought out sometimes by commentators on the radio. Whenever a batsman makes an atrocious shot, it is referred to as "an agricultural shot." That makes the airwaves every cricket season. It is something that we have got to educate our children about.

Asides.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Huh! He does not know what we are talking about!

Laughter.

Mr. R. P. BYER: That is something that we have got to be very careful about. I have heard it on more than one occasion. You have these negative connotations being made about agriculture. But yet, on the other hand, we come in here and try to highlight in the newspapers the virtues of agriculture, while not realising the serious damage that is being done to it by even some of the most innocent comments, because I do not even think that the cricket commentators themselves realise what they are saying.

Sir, this brings me to my constituency. It is one area in which unemployment is very high among young people, and as it is a rural constituency and most of the unemployed people usually get work during the crop time. But crop time is finished now, and the boys are back on the corners, and naturally, Sir, as we are all politicians, you will understand it is causing me tremendous problems. I need to find some employment for people.

It would be a good thing if we make agriculture attractive so that the young people in my constituency and other constituencies would consider it to be a viable alternative for employment. Agro-industries must be established in some of these rural constituencies, because agriculture dominates in the rural constituencies. We have to do this if we are to make young people conscious of our efforts to make agriculture attractive.

I do not have any difficulty in supporting this Resolution, not only its broad concept but also the specifics. I know that, given time, it will bear the fruits which it is now setting out to achieve.

I thank you.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS (St. Thomas): Mr. Speaker, I had not intended speaking in this debate, but several other Members have spoken with a view to ignoring the contribution of the Barbados Labour Party during the period of 1976 to 1986. It behoves me to try and at least set the record straight and put the balance back into the debate. 5.10p.m.

The honourable Member who just spoke would have us believe that nothing was done by the Barbados Labour Party for agricultural diversification in that period of time. He made some excursions into sociology, borrowing on the Beckford thesis at points, with little relevance to the practical situation in Barbados today.

But perhaps the content of the speech of the honourable member for St. George South (Mr. R. P. Byer) was betrayed when he drew a cricketing analogy, Sir, and then got into some by-play with the Minister of Tourism, because he was saying that an inelegant shot in cricket is often referred to as "an agricultural shot." He was seeking to suggest that * the Honourable Minister of Tourism may have been guilty of playing some such shots in his time. I am glad that the Minister drew to my attention what the honourable Member for St. George South was trying to imply, because if there is one thing that can be said about the Minister of Tourism as a batsman, it is that he had one shot which, when he got it on, was played with the greatest finesse and elegance, a flick through mid wicket, Sir, and after he got that on he could get out, or get hit on his toe, as Freddie Truman did to him at Lords in 1966 - having played the shot, he was then reduced to the stretcher.

Be that as it may, in this area of agricultural policy, one must surely see Government's role as a continuing one. As I understand it, time was when agricultural production in Barbados was largely that of sugar cane, with the next ^ emphasis on what we used to call ground provisions - yams, * potatoes and the eddoes - all coming out of the system of slavery and the plantation system, except that as boys, honourable Members in here will recall that most plantations had a certain head of cattle and pigs, what we used to call in those days "stocks," which provided a ready supply of meat in the immediate vicinity of the plantation and what was then called stable manure, pen manure. The emphasis on vegetable production was certainly less in the early Fifties when I was a boy than it is now. Certainly in those days no one thought of export of non-sugar agricultural products.

The need to diversify and have the production of crops and products other than sugar was recognised in the early Sixties, and attempts were made to diversify. But I think that honourable members must remember that in the earliest j^ days of diversification, the Ministry of Agriculture was certainly not as developed, as sophisticated and as properly

manned as it is today, and has been for a number of years. So the availability of research available between the period 1961 and 1970 was limited, and we were virtually groping in the dark.

Well recognising the principle of diversification as an ideal, we were far from achieving the reality of that ideal because of the constraints that were then hampering the whole development of Barbados. But over time, we were able to expand the Ministry of Agriculture and put in the necessary research units and do the research that had to be done before one could go out and foist a policy of diversification on the people, or even try to sell it.

When we took over in 1976, the thrust for agricultural diversification was continued, and all that one has seen over the years has been a gradual expansion of the process of diversification based upon the research and the information that has been coming out of the Ministry and the other agencies that are involved with agricultural development in Barbados, and it is a continuing and developing process. But to suggest, as at least two honourable Members have suggested in this debate, that we achieved nothing by way of successful agricultural diversification in 1976 to 1986, is not only misleading, Sir, but it does not accord with truth.

Let us take the Economic Report for 1986. I am going to read these figures into the record so that no one can be in any doubt as to what the position was in 1985. I am going to use the Head in the Report on page 54 which deals not with non-sugar agriculture for local consumption, but that amount of non-sugar agriculture that was surplusage and that was exported, and the heading is Non-Sugar Agricultural Exports 1985-1986. -We exported in 1985 542 kilograms of avocado - all the figures are in kilograms, there is (Kgs) at the top - 24 831 kilograms of breadfruit. Perhaps other than the Minister of Agriculture, none of us probably realise that Barbados had a little business exporting breadfruit. Eggplant, 37 697 kilograms; hot peppers, 515 kilograms; limes, 196 kilograms; water melons, 530 kilograms; okras, 1 051 kilograms; sorrel, 393 kilograms; sweet peppers, 27 140 kilograms; sweet potatoes, 134 584 kilograms and yams, of which we have heard much today, 200749.

That was in the last year that the Barbados Labour Party was in power. We were producing enough to export in those quantities. They may not be monumental, but at least it is an effort to the export sector. 5.20 p.m.

The Honourable Minister has woken up to hear me talk about yams, potatoes and sorrel. I did not come to fish. If I was on to fish, he would have been more at home. I mean the "Honourable Minister of the Mental Hospital."

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Health, Sir. Sorry. The Minister of Health.

The narrative in the report is also instructive. For example, at page 51 the report says: "In 1985 cultivation of land under eggplant, peas, eddoes, melons, corn and peanuts increased by significant rates of 33.3 per cent, 42.9 per cent, 41.7 per cent, 91.7 per cent, 81.8 per cent and 176.2 per cent, respectively.

The Central Bank Reports in the period, but particularly in the period 1982-85, will reflect that Barbados under the Barbados Labour Party became self-sufficient in chicken, eggs, fresh milk and pork. I believe the Honourable Minister of Agriculture will be able to tell this House if I am lying or not. Prior to 1976 that was not the case. We were not yet self-sufficient. We were moving, let us be fair. Under the Democratic Labour Party we were trying to achieve those targets of self-sufficiency. You did not have all the time in the world to do it. Nobody was going to kill them. They started, and we came along and completed the job in those areas to render ourselves self-sufficient in pork and chicken.

I believe I am right in saying that it was realised that we needed to have a drive in beef and in mutton, and the Barbados Labour Party put money to develop a revolving fund for beef production, so much so that this same Economic Report gave the figures to show that there was a steady increase in the production of beef under the Barbados Labour Party. So it is no good politics, no good sense, to suggest in the face of the figures produced by the Government that we did not make substantial strides in terms of feeding ourselves in the period 1976-1986.

I do not have to talk about what was done in the Scotland District and the work of the Soil Conservation Unit in terms of fruit tree growing. All of that was discussed during the Estimates, and honourable Members only need to take a drive to the Scotland District to see what was done.

The latest figure for beef for 1986 was 308 000 kilograms, as compared with 1985 when we produced 245000 kilograms. We are producing about 20000 kilograms of mutton, according to page 59 of the Economic Report.

There are times of the year, particularly at Christmas, when pork production will have to be supplemented by the importation of pork from overseas. I think everybody appreciates that. But apart from that, Barbadians are producing enough pork and chicken, eggs and milk and basic vegetables.

We are concerned, having regard to the downturn in manufacturing and the consequential fall-off in export earnings from that sector, about trying to develop the non-sugar agricultural industry to such an extent that it can

try to fill, if not totally, to some substantial extent, that gap in foreign earnings which we need.

I believe, Sir, that there are certain constraints on the export of exotic vegetables and non-sugar agriculture, and there is certain basic work which has to be done by the Ministry, which I am satisfied that the Ministry is doing, from all that the Minister has said, in the Estimates and today, in terms of, for example, the onion production post harvest drying with a view to the longevity as well as the export of the product. The Ministry has to develop that sort of thing, and some of this money that is being voted today is to be used for that, but there are certain basic things that we have to realise about agricultural production in Barbados.

I speak as one who has dabbled a little bit. I am no expert. I have not just moved into St. John, as you all say, or Neils, or St. George, and hold myself an expert. I am going to try a little thing shortly. In another three weeks I am going to try 15000 hot pepper seedlings which I am putting in.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: If the honourable Member for the City (Mr. P. J. M. Miller) will give me a better price than I would get overseas, he can have all. I have ploughed up already, but I really must say I know there has been a problem in getting equipment. Perhaps the honourable Leader of the Opposition should have talked to me before. I did not pull any strings, but I got mine ploughed, rotavated and furrowed. I have one more to do, Sir, and it is going to cost me \$1 104.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I got assistance through the Ministry, but there are small farmers who will do it, so I cannot complain of the availability of equipment. I am satisfied that the technical people in the Ministry and the ADC are keen on the export programme and are going all out to render whatever assistance they can to the small farmers.

One of the problems we have in Barbados is the dwindling amount of arable soil. We have a problem with erosion and honourable Members had better be aware of that.

Secondly, we have as a definite constraint against large scale production of exotic vegetables the cost of labour. You have to pay a man \$25 a day and a lady \$22. I think those are the rates, they might even be a bit more, and when you compare what is happening in Grenada, where the wage is some US\$4, in St. Vincent, US\$3, and in St. Lucia, US\$4 or US\$5 with what our labour costs are in Barbados, this is a real problem. It permeates the whole society. It is

permeating manufacturing, and it has rendered us largely uncompetitive in manufacturing. The people in Grenada and St. Lucia and so welcome the foreign companies because they will give their labour for little or nothing. We cannot go back to the other days when we were willing to sell our labour at a cheap price. Foreign investors must realise that they come and take us as they find us, highly trained, very intelligent, and you have to pay for that, too." 5.30 p.m.

Sir, you also have the problem of the cost of pesticides. The honourable Member for St. Michael South East (Dr. E. A. Simmons) did say that we were a temperate country. I disagree with that. I believe that we are a tropical country, and that we tend to suffer more from the problem of pests and insects and so on than people in temperate countries, and the cost of pesticides is very very high. That is a disincentive, but to my mind the greatest disincentive of all - I do not worry about thieving, you get hit all the time - the problem under the Barbados Labour Party which I recognised and spoke about, and for which there, was no solution forthcoming, it was a gradual thing, was the problem of marketing, getting the markets.

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When CARICOM shut down, when we could not get into Trinidad, you had people producing vegetables in Barbados, not getting a market in Trinidad, and coming across the bridge, dumping them there and making a spectacle of it. Richard Williams did it, the brother of "Cow" Williams from Holborn plantation, once with carrots. It is a hard thing to tell a man to go out and plant vegetables and then when he comes to you, you tell him you are going to give him five cents or ten cents a pound. That cannot even cover the cost of his water, as the honourable Member for St. Michael South East said. This is a real problem. If the Ministry, as I suspect, is now trying to identify markets first and then encourage production, I think that is the way to go.

If I know that I have a market in Miami for my peppers, or that Windmill are going to take them in six months' time, I will plant them if I am going to get a price then. But if I am going to plant cucumbers and then I find the plantations and everybody planting cucumbers and I only get five cents, I would do as I did once In December 1984, put back 3 000 pounds in the land and plough them up and leave them there.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Declare an interest in what? Do you mean I am farming three acres and I am going to put in some peppers? What interest? I do not know if I will get any interest off that. I think, Sir, that if the Ministry is able to identify for the farmers the overseas markets which would take egg plant, okras, sweet peppers and hot peppers and there is some programme through the Ministry or BAS to get out to the small farmers and tell them all their okras can be sold, produce for such and such a month, then you

will be able to target your various small farmers, some of whom are going to produce okras and some hot peppers and some sweet peppers, and we would know what we are working for, otherwise it is going to be "ole mass" and you will get complaints. We have to structure the programme of marketing very carefully and involve the local growers so that they target crops for specific times. I may be totally wrong on all this, but this is how I see it. I am only expressing a personal view. I would not even call myself a small farmer. I just want to grow a little thing there. I am a little garden farmer. I want to put the land to productive use and try something.

The Honourable Minister of Health is saying the most derogatory things about the Prime Minister in his absence, about his farming capabilities. I know the Prime Minister had a lot of interest down at Husbands plantation in St. Lucy, with a lot more pigs than four in the Seventies.

Sir, in the area of fruit production, the honourable Member for the City, who said that the Labour Party did nothing for agricultural diversification, must know that the very first shipment of cherries by frozen container to Sweden or Holland was made at the time when the Barbados Labour Party was in power. I do not care if they spoiled.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: On a point of elucidation: The company's name in Holland was Paul Products and I arranged for the frozen cherries. The BMC took it over and in fact ended up shipping a container of cherries with sticks and stones in it. That was the extent of that project.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The point is not whether the cherries were admixed with sticks and stones. The point is that the shipment came about in a year when the Barbados Labour Party was in power, and cherries had been so produced in Barbados as to have been available for export. The point I was making is that the effort was made. How long does it take to grow a cherry tree? I know that Dr. Boyce up by me got a whole set that he put in in 1985 and most of them are ready to bear now.

The movement to export the local cherry, the movement to export the Tamdew melon, and we did export some, came at a time when the Barbados Labour Party was in power. So my thesis is that we were actively promoting, as a matter of agricultural diversification, all these various things of which I have spoken, and the scene is set for the present Government to go ahead and expand on that, to try and correct any mistakes that we made, and let us have over a time - it cannot be done next year, but three or four years - a thriving export agriculture. The wicket has been rolled, all you have to go and do now is bat. And do not make agricultural shots, otherwise you will get caught. 5.40 p.m.

It is not true to say that the Barbados Labour Party's policy of diversification was wrong. The basic policy that

, we had on diversification which was announced in here, which was argued in here in the Estimates and which the Minister readily agreed with, was

(Aside: Hon. B. M. TAITT: Which Minister?)

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: ... the present Minister of Agriculture..... that we diversify around sugar. You do not just get rid of sugar one day; you have it as a pivotal crop and you grow your onions, tomatoes and lettuce, around sugar and try and develop. You cannot get rid of sugar for the time being.

Sir, I hope that this second stage of this World Bank project will bear fruit, such as we saw in the first project. I do not agree with the honourable Member for Christ Church East Central (Mr. R. L. Morris). My experience of the rural development programme in St. Thomas is not that the lots have been too small. People have had sizeable lots in excess of quarter acre in Sturges. I can only speak of Sturges, it is the one scheme that we have in St. Thomas. They have a proper road, but we have had some difficulty with the electricity.

Sir, so that you do not think I am going off track, as I understood it roads and water would be carried to these rural areas where there is some arable land and people have evinced an interest in the development of agricultural lots, and you would upgrade the basic infrastructural facilities. The problem we have found in Sturges is with electricity. Some of these small farmers who bought these three and four acre lots have been able to build what we call wall bungalows on the property, but the Light and Power says that under its rural development programme to carry electricity to the poorest areas and areas in need of electricity, it is not carrying the electricity to these people. They have to pay \$2 000 and \$3 000 for poles to run electricity. The Light and Power will carry electricity down in the back of Rock Hall or up in Forty Acre and put in services for the residents free, but it is calling on the small farmers in Sturges and Bloomsbury to pay the cost of their own electricity.

I think it is something that needs to be looked at. Some pressure ought to be put on Light and Power, because they make assumptions that because you live in a wall house, you have a lot of money. That is not necessarily so. Certainly in the case of two of the people I know in Sturges, the bread winner is overseas and is making remittances from time to time. They are very thrifty, industrious and resourceful people. They are saving and putting on a couple of blocks here and putting on a couple of blocks there. Light and Power sees that and says they have to pay \$2 000 for a pole. So, to some extent, that development has been incomplete. I think, as a matter of policy, if you are aiming to develop these rural communities by the provision of services, we should also try and assist them with the provision of all services, including electricity services.

Mr. SPEAKER: I know the honourable Member would continue on and on, but his time has expired.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am very grateful to Your Honour.

Asides.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have had a very long debate on this Resolution. As usual.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Is the honourable Member winding up the debate?

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Yes, Sir. A few points were raised during the debate that I would like to respond to as I make the final contribution to this debate.

I want to start with the large plantations and their contribution to the diversification effort. One has to remember, Mr. Speaker, that up until about six years ago, when sugar was still reasonably attractive and lucrative as a crop, because the plantations in those days were able to - using a Barbadian expression - paddle their own canpe, there was very little interference in the policy of the big plantations by the Government of the day or the Ministry of Agriculture, since they were making money from sugar and they were doing their own thing. So much so that over that period the plantation, under the Barbados Sugar Industry Limited, built up their own infrastructure in every way. They had their factories, own technical staff, own research and own management, and were almost completely self-contained. As a matter of fact, it is the only industry in Barbados, maybe outside the dairy industry, whose infrastructure is completely in place. So one of the problems we were faced with in our diversification effort was putting in place the infrastructure for non-sugar crops.

Within recent times, with the collapse, almost, of the price of sugar on the world market and other places, and the need for the Government of the day then and now to come to the assistance of the sugar industry, for obvious purposes - because of its capacity to earn foreign exchange and the employment opportunities it offered - by subsidies and in some cases grant, the Government of necessity became a lot more involved in what happens on these large plantations. Over the last 15 months or so, since I have had the opportunity of being the Minister of Agriculture, we turned our attention to a total development plan for Barbados which sees us treating the total agricultural acreage of Barbados as if it were one big farm, and designing a programme, a farm plan for that, in keeping with certain basic objectives. The objectives naturally would have to be:

1. To know the types of soils we have and those crops that we can grow.

2. To make sure that the crops we can grow that would be taking over from sugar would have the capacity to bring in some of the foreign exchange that we will be losing from sugar.

3. To see that we have developed the technique, to control what would obviously be the development and the increase in pests, and diseases, with the consequential increase in acreage in these crops, because it is well-known that the moment you expand any one crop, you will have to deal with diseases that you would find in extended acres that you would not get in small ones. It means that the Ministry of Agriculture would have to go hand in hand developing its technical know-how to keep track with the diversification programme.

Of necessity, we have to start the diversification programme by focussing on a limited number of commodities to realise the desired impact of production and productivity for foreign exchange purposes. Hence, we have made a conscious decision that the focus in the diversification programme would be on food production, fruit, vegetables, root crops, agro-processing, peanuts, beef and mutton, and our export oriented crops would be vegetables, the winter vegetables, to get into that small market during the winter, cotton, cherries, cut flowers and foliage, as well as the continuation of an acreage of sugar cane in keeping with our declared policy of producing enough sugar for our preferred market, our domestic market, at about 10 per cent plus. 5.50p.m.

As a result of the policy we are pursuing, the Ministry has been working extremely hard in finalising our new sector plan, and to finalise that sector plan, there have been ongoing consultations with the private sector. Because there is no point in the Ministry doing a sector plan on paper without the full co-operation of the private sector and the people who have to put that sector plan at work. So we have been having ongoing consultation with the small farmers, through Barbados Agricultural Society, and the big ones, through BSIL. We are at the stage where the plan has been completed and drafted, and our final consultation will be by way of a farmer's forum, which is going to come off very shortly.

We in the Ministry are now satisfied that we have a plan that has taken all the constraints into consideration, that has the balance of crops for domestic purposes and foreign exchange purposes, that will allow the orientation and the rotation around sugar, and that would allow the agricultural sector to do exactly what we want it to do, to add to the export earnings, to Barbados' foreign exchange, and provide additional employment in the sector for our people. That is where we are. Having done that, we are now in the position where the Ministry of Agriculture will dictate, if need be, or direct, if need be, Barbados Sugar

Industries Limited to form part and parcel of that programme, and we will give them the acreage for other crops.

I must go on record as saying that we have had a very cordial relationship with Barbados Sugar Industries Limited and have made it a point to consult with them on all levels when matters affect them. We are also making full use of their technical expertise. We have a committee dealing specifically with the professional requirements of our diversification programme, and we have roped in the full research capacity, in person and facilities, of Barbados Sugar Industries Limited. BSIL is part and parcel of that research committee that we have in place in the Ministry; which is under the chairmanship of the Chief Agricultural Officer.

So we have done a comprehensive research and we have a comprehensive plan, taking all into consideration. We are now at the stage where we are happy in our minds that we can now move forward. We have been getting the co-operation of the Barbados Sugar Industries Limited as well as the small farmers.

One of the things raised was the role of BADC in the diversification programme. Contrary to what the honourable Member of St. Peter (Mr. O. S. Arthur) has said, I am extremely pleased with the direction of the Barbados Agricultural Development Corporation. The management has been working extremely hard in planning. We can see this from this year's programme, and I would like to give some factors that would illustrate what I mean.

The Member for St. Peter said that when the BADC was on stream, there was a mix of 60:40 sugar to non-sugar, and he figures that we have lost our way. I would like to tell him that we have not lost our way - far from that, we are far more on stream. At present, out of a total acreage of 3160 acres, the breakdown for the Barbados Agricultural Development Corporation is as follows: 1500 acres in sugar cane, 1300 acres in cotton, peanuts, and export crops, which include hot peppers, cucumbers, watermelons, sweet potatoes, butternut squash, 200 acres in preparational lands, which is a mixture of sugar cane, yams and potatoes, 85 acres in tree crops, and 75 acres in grass, which would give a total acreage in non-sugar of 1560 acres as against 1600 acres in sugar, or 49.2 percent in non-sugar as against 50.8 percent in sugar. I am certain that the Member would realise that, far from losing our way, we are plumb bang on schedule in keeping with the diversification effort.

I have also directed that the Barbados Development Corporation be the fore-runner of these projects. So where there are crops that need to be tested, the Barbados Development Corporation has gone into those areas. And because there has been a reluctance by the private enterprise to get into agro-processing, the Barbados Agricultural Development Corporation is now involved in two projects.

One is the establishment of an agro-lab, and we have already appointed a Food Technologist. We are now looking, and I will be talking very shortly to the Minister of Finance about funding, at a commercial agro-processing plant, and we are well on the way. We feel that to start the process rolling, we should use the Barbados Agricultural Development Corporation in this direction.

So the BADC has not lost its way. It is very much on schedule and is doing a good job towards the carrying out of the policies of the Ministry of Agriculture.

The second point raised, concerned the BADC's land policy. I have been discussing this, and we have a deliberate policy in BADC that we are going to divest some of the lands under the BADC....

Applause.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN:.....and at the moment we are actually considering applicants for leases. .

One of the programmes we are looking at relates to fruit production. We believe that this can best be done by families, because it is an intensive programme. So our policy in the Scotland District is that we will go ahead and develop the fruit orchards, and when they are near maturity, we would lease them to families who would then take over. We will charge them a small lease which over the years of productivity of the orchards, would reimburse us for the lands we put in production. That is the policy of the BADC.

In the effort to assist the dairy industry in Barbados, we are looking at the BADC to put in a certain acreage in grass, so much so that we have recently had discussions with the Ministry of Civil Aviation, because we believe that we can use the acreage of land around the airport that is fenced off and is not presently being used to grow grass. BADC will be going in on the extremities of the airport and we will be cultivating some 75 acres of land that is agreed on. We will put in proper grass and in turn lease those developed grass lands to farmers in Barbados who have been looking to us for further lands to assist them.

Water has been one of the constraints. I have only recently commissioned a study. We are of the opinion that the-total water resources in Barbados should be treated as a national resource and not be treated as any private enterprise thing, and as soon as the appropriate legislation is looked into and the study is finished, we will be maximising the use of every available gallon of water in Barbados for the diversification programme. We will have to arrange some method of paying royalties or have some other arrangement for persons. So our water policy is presently on the drawing board, and we will very shortly be able to come to the people of Barbados to tell them about the availability of the water resources and wherever we are going to be doing a programme.

As far as cotton and the policy of cotton, I would like to assure the honourable Member for St. Peter that we have been doing a very detailed study of the cotton industry. Because of the erosion effect on cotton lands....

Mr. SPEAKER: There are too many noises around.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Because of the possible erosion effect on cotton lands, we have a deliberate policy that we would not put cotton on any of the lands with a steeper slope than 8 per cent. We have a possible 6 200 acres of land with less than an 8 percent slope that we can rotate cotton on, but we will not do more than about 5 000 acres at any one time, and that is the reason why we are discussing cotton production with Antigua and Barbuda. 6.00 p.m.

We are on schedule. This year we are going to be putting in 2 000 acres of cotton. We have the seeds already, we have propagated the seeds from special planting, the seeds are well in stock and we have been testing them. We have been getting between 75 and 90 per cent germination for the seeds. They are properly stored, they are cool, 'and if need be we will put them into cold storage, but we have enough seeds this year for well over 2 500 acres.

The problem we had last year is that we had to bring some seeds in from Antigua and, unfortunately for us, the seeds we got from Antigua last year were the seeds from the wrong storage. There are two types of seeds stored in Antigua, those for planting and those for cattle feed. Unfortunately they gave us the cattle feed seeds and we had a very bad experience last year with germination. But we have done our own selection of seeds this year, because at the moment the quality of cotton in Barbados is the best of the Caribbean islands. We are now way above the other islands in quality, so we have done our own seeds and we are well away in seeds for this year.

In relation to the point drawn about biogas, we are also well on our way with that.

I have instructed the CAO that we should now put bananas as one of the specialty crops. As soon as we put something as a specialty crop, we allocate an agronomist to specialise in that crop, so we have an agronomist on it. BADC is actively considering the lease of about 25 acres of land for additional growing of bananas in the Martin's Bay area. We are very pleased with the expansion in the development of the banana industry and we will do everything possible inside the Ministry for that, particularly in relation to St. John.

Going hand in hand with the bananas are pawpaws. We have identified pawpaw as a very good crop for export.

As a matter of fact, through the efforts of the Ministry, IICA and the agricultural sector of the Barbados Bank and the Ministry of Finance, at the moment we are going into the planting of approximately 150 acres of pawpaw over the next two year period, which we believe will realise us somewhere in the capacity of a possible foreign exchange earning of about Bds. \$6 million during that time. It is one of the fruits that we are putting particular emphasis on as a foreign exchange earner and it is one with tremendous potential. Research has shown us that a market is readily available and we are working on it. The technology has been perfected and our agronomists are now on top of it, and there are new pawpaws.

Strange enough, the whole yam flake project seems to be coming back again, because only three weeks .ago an industrialist started to discuss with us the possibility of the re-introduction of the yam flake project. The technology is already available and known. We are looking at it, and there is a distinct possibility that, as part of our agro processing sector, we will re-introduce the yam flake project.

Our present problem with sorghum is not that we do not realise the potential for sorghum as an animal feed, but there is an expense in the reaping of sorghum. To date, we have not been able to find a mechanical harvester of the size to do it, and as a result we are not doing a lot of work. But we are actually looking at a design of a mechanical harvester for the sorghum.

We have expanded cassava this year. We are well aware of the figures given by the Member for the City, but it is a matter of the cost of production. Our figures show that if we can produce cassava at about seven cents per pound, so we would have possible chips at about 19 cents per pound, we could easily use about 50 000 pounds of chips per year as a part substitute for the corn in our feed concentrates. The work is going on on getting the correct varieties and doing the testings, and very shortly we should be making some positive decisions on that.

The role of co-operatives. I am certain you have seen recently that I have just signed an agreement with FAO for some consultants to work on the fishing co-operatives in Barbados, because my Ministry, in conjunction with the Ministry responsible for Co-operatives, sees this as one of the ways of distribution of land in a way that would stop the fragmentation and the consequential reduction in yields, so we are very keen on this. As a matter of interest, the Spring Hall land lease farmers, with the assistance of the honourable Member for St. Lucy (Hon. E. E. Greaves) and the Co-operative Society, have just formed themselves into an agricultural co-operative with all the assistance and encouragement from the Ministry of Agriculture, and we will continue this. I am in consultation with the Minister responsible for Co-operatives about the expansion of this • programme, which we will continue to assist.

Wages is one of the constraints in the agricultural industry. We have decided in the Ministry of Agriculture to get around this constraint by having higher productivity. It is a fact that right now our productivity of comparable vegetables and other crops, in comparison with St. Vincent, St. Lucia and the other places, is far higher because of the better agronomic practices that we have had carried out, more research on varieties and so on. So our yields tend to compensate for the high cost of wages.

What is very obvious to me is that due to the work of the Ministry over the last 15 months, we have now developed a climate in Barbados in which there is a renewed interest in agriculture by most people. I am heartened by the number of young people who have been calling us about the possibility of leasing land, by the number of persons who have been calling in asking for the assistance of the Ministry.

That brings me to a point raised by the honourable Member for Christ Church West (Hon. H. deB. Forde), and that is the lack of response on some occasions by the technical section of the Ministry of Agriculture to some of the calls. You must understand, Mr. Speaker, that as you get larger acreage of land in non-sugar crops, the demand for these services would increase, and you have a situation now where, because the large plantations are now doing a lot of planting of non-sugar crops and their farmers and their overseers and managers are not as knowledgeable as they should be in non-sugar crops, our extension service is being more and more used by the larger plantations, and as a result of the requirement to service that larger acreage, we find ourselves under pressure to respond immediately and readily to the persons with a quarter of an acre or two trees in the backyard. It is a demand that we are looking at, but we must understand that we have to make a conscious decision on the allocation of our technical resources, and at the moment we respond where the demand is more by way of acreage planted and the possible return to the non-sugar effort in Barbados. To those people who have the few backyards and cannot get a ready response, we will get around to you as soon as we get some additions to our extension staff. I have got that complaint and we have put in place a system now where we have a record.

Our Pathology Department and our Entomology Department are working extremely hard. With diversification, you get additional pests coming into crops, and we have to stay on top of diseases to keep up production. These sections are extremely stretched out and it is very difficult to find persons trained in these disciplines, so we cannot recruit them overnight. It is a very difficult thing to do.

Mr. Speaker, in closing this debate on this Resolution, I am of the opinion that with the re-allocation of funds under the second World Bank project, with the remotivation of the technical, professional and administrative staff, with the support of the Ministry of Finance for the role that the

Ministry of Agriculture has to play, I am certain that we will see very meaningful results. I am hopeful, and I am sure that when we come to debate the Estimates in 1988, the Ministry of Agriculture will have a very good story to tell. 6.10p.m.

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

Order No. 5 was called - To move that the House resolve itself into Committee of Supply to consider the grant of sums of money for the service of this Island.

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY Mr.

CHAIRMAN: The House is now in Committee.

I take this opportunity to welcome the honourable Member for St. John to his first sitting in a Committee session.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1987-88 No. 6

HEAD 19 - MINISTRY OF FINANCE

SUBHEAD 6 - ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Hon. Dr. R. C. HAYNES (St. Michael South Central): Mr. Chairman, this is a relatively straightforward matter. Under Subhead 6 of Head 19 we are seeking a supplementary sum of \$57 000, which represents the rent payable to the National Petroleum Corporation for the use of its space by the Energy Division.

At first it was hoped that that division would have been relocated in the old Bay Street Boys School, but because of pressure of space within the system that decision was reversed. Therefore, it has become necessary to provide for payments to the National Petroleum Corporation at Wilkey for the space used by the Energy Division of the Ministry of Finance.

I therefore beg to move that Head 19 stand part.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: I beg to second that.

The question that Head 19 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 34 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND
CULTURE

SUBHEAD 8: ASSISTED PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Hon. C. V. WALKER (St. George North): Mr. Chairman, it has been customary to adjust the grant paid in respect of the salaries of teachers in approved private secondary schools to bring these salaries in line with those of the Government schools whenever the latter salaries are revised.

In accordance with the policy, the Ministry has a formula of assistance of one teacher to 40 pupils up to 240, and one teacher to 80 pupils thereafter. Of course, these salaries are related to the scales payable in the Government Teaching Service.

No provision was made in the Current Estimates to meet the increased salary grant, and the arrears payable to the assisted private schools in order to reflect the increase in salaries which came into effect in April 1986 to teachers in the Government Service. Therefore, a supplementary provision of \$182 305 is required under Head 34 - Ministry of Education and Culture, Subhead 8 - Assisted Private Schools - to accommodate the increase in expenditure.

In the Approved Estimates of 1987 \$3011288 was approved. This accounted for 2 900 bursaries, the salaries and the grants which went to the assisted private schools, and subventions, which took in such things as assistance to specialists in terms of Science.

We are speaking of 15 schools which are involved, and the total number of teachers involved is 81.

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 34, Subhead 8, Assisted Private Schools, Object No. 13 - Subsidies do now pass.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: I beg to second that.

The question that Head 34 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1987-88 No. 7
HEAD 73 - MINISTRY OF FINANCE
SUBHEAD 4 - ENERGY CONSERVATION

Hon. Dr. R. C. HAYNES (St. Michael South Central): Mr. Chairman, in 1984, as part of the Public Sector Energy Conservation Programme then undertaken by the Ministry of Energy, it was decided that the Queen Elizabeth Hospital would be one of the institutions where significant energy savings could be made, but a decision was taken, because of the complexity of its operations, not to bring in any outside contractors. The reason for that being that the workers would have to work at times convenient to the staff

and the patients of the hospital and, also, because of the peculiar layout of the wiring systems of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, the staff at the QEH had far more intimate knowledge. So taking all the factors into consideration, it was felt, and I think justifiably so, that the existing staff of the QEH should be retained to do the work outside of normal working hours, not overtime. 6.20 p.m.

This arrangement was satisfactory, but a slight hitch has arisen. It would appear that when the subject of Energy was taken over by the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, a decision was taken to expand the work to cover the residences in the Enmore area. The net result of that was that several persons have applied to be paid sums in excess of the \$10 000, which would be allowed under the Financial Rules. The Financial Rules stipulate that contractual arrangements entered into for work valued in excess of \$10 000 should be dealt with otherwise, of course. We in the Ministry of Finance have had a careful look at this request. We are satisfied that the general principle apply in getting the work done by staff of the QEH outside of normal working hours, and that that was a reasonable principle..

We are also satisfied that the work has been done and, therefore, we feel that those who did the work should be paid for their labour. But out of an abundance of caution, because such payments would be in conflict with the Financial Rules, I felt that, on balance, it was better to come to Parliament and have parliamentary approval for it.

With those few remarks, Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I beg to second that.

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

On the motion of Hon. P. M. GREfi/ES, seconded by Hon. E. E. GREAVES, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of two Resolutions in Committee of Supply, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On separate motions of Hon. P. M. GRE/S/ES, seconded by Hon. E. E. GREAVES, the Resolutions were read a first and second time and agreed to.

THE EMPLOYMENT LEVY ACT, 1987

Order No. 2 was called - To move the second reading of a Bill to provide for the imposition and collection of a levy on income to be known as employment levy.

Hon. Dr. R. C. HAYNES (St. Michael South Central): Mr. Speaker, this Bill seeks to give effect to one of the

Budgetary Proposals of this year. The proposal, you may recall, was to the effect that, as a temporary measure, a new Employment Levy would be introduced, and that the rate payable on insurable earnings would be 0.5 per cent by employers and employees.

This Bill is the standard piece of legislation giving legislative effect to a budgetary proposal, with one exception. It should be noted that in one of the clauses of the Bill it does repeal a former Employment Levy Act which was introduced some time ago and was largely inoperative, because it did not have the desired effect, and so as not to have two pieces of legislation on the Statute Book with the same name, although one has ceased, to all intents and purposes, to have any functional effect, we thought it best to repeal that in order to tidy up the situation.

The Bill provides for the collection of the levy, that is, it gives it a legal basis, not that it did not have a legal basis before, because under the Provisional Collection of Taxes Act, following a Budgetary Statement you can collect taxes until such time as such instrument is brought before Parliament in the form of a Bill or Order or other legislative instrument. So what this does is provide a legal framework for the continuing collection of the Employment Levy, but the legal authority was the statement made at the time of the Budget, which is a standard procedure.

There has been considerable debate on this matter, on all the levies, and I do not propose to detain the House any further, except to say that as we promised earlier, as the funds from the levy come in, we will expand employment opportunities within the public sector and we will bear in mind the suggestions made by the task force that was appointed by the Minister of Employment to look into the problems of unemployment in the country. That report has been further examined by a sub-committee of the Cabinet, and their report will be examined by the Cabinet in the not too distant future. So one can expect a sufficient expansion of public sector employment opportunities in relation to the amount of money we collect from this levy. 6.30 p.m.

With those few remarks, Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: I beg to second that, Sir, and reserve my right to speak.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR (St Peter): Mr. Speaker, the Opposition shall not be supporting this piece of legislation. This year we in Barbados will be celebrating some time in July the 50th anniversary of the 1937 riots in this country, which were riots inspired in part - the disturbances - by a genuine desire to improve many different things in Barbados, but included among them was the lot of the working class and to spawn a genuine labour movement in this country. I really do feel that it would be a bad gesture

for us, as one of the final acts of Parliament before we recess, to put on the Statute Books of this country a piece of legislation which by its broad concept really amounts to a penalty on the right to work in this country. I really think that as a grand gesture, this piece of legislation should be withdrawn, and I want, Mr. Speaker, to go into the various reasons why I am of that opinion.

This Employment Levy, Mr. Speaker, as you know, differs from the previous Employment Levy by reason of the fact that it falls not on the employers, but on the employees. As an Employment Levy, it is being imposed at a time when Government had previously said that it was not looking to the public sector to be the major source of expansions in jobs, or even indeed, Sir, a source of expansion in jobs. From that point of view, one had, initially, a major difficulty understanding the very reason for it, since Government was saying that it was not the responsibility of Government to create jobs, yet at the same time it was raising a levy for the purpose of public sector job expansion. The Minister has this evening served notice to the country that we must expect an expansion in employment in the public sector. But, initially, one had a tremendous difficulty with the concept behind this piece of legislation, since it seems obviously to have been at variance with the very policy as enunciated by Government.

This Employment Levy, Mr. Speaker, is really an Income Tax called by another name, and Income Tax, however, with a difference, the difference being that one will not be able to get back this Income Tax. And like the other levies which have been introduced by the Minister of Finance, this particular piece of legislation can really be construed as allowing the Minister of Finance to work his way around the very generous provisions which he brought to the House in July 1986.

In July, 1986, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance made substantial adjustments to the Income Tax regime of this country. He is now finding it difficult, having done that, to come back to the House and.....

(Aside: Are you making that point again?)

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: I have to keep making the point. He finds it difficult to come back to the House, having made substantial adjustments to Income Tax in 1986, to say that he is increasing income taxes now. He is using the levies as a means of doing that. An Employment Levy really falls on income, and it is now being made to fall on income in a precise way, that you pay the levy but you cannot get it back, as you would if you had paid Income Tax.

In addition, Sir, by reason of the fact that the Minister of Finance has now removed the provision whereby levies can be claimed as tax deductions, the imposition of these levies, including the Employment Levy, has the effect really of putting some people in a higher tax bracket than they

would have found themselves in had the old provision continued to exist in Barbados. I am saying that the whole point behind this Employment Levy is to allow the Minister of Finance to recoup some of the ground that he gave away last year in July, and I find it sad that he has to use the guise of a levy on employment.

Trifling pieces of legislation such as this tend to be more fiscal irritants than anything of substance or worth. Our Statute Books have from time to time, in my view, become too cluttered with little pieces of legislation which are not designed to raise substantial amounts of revenues but are more irritants to the persons who have to pay them. The financial purposes for which this legislation has been designed, the raising of about \$2 million a year, could be accomplished by an adjustment to an already existing tax. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, a quarter of one per cent rate of growth of the economy over and above that which is projected could under normal circumstances give rise to a revenue yield which is greater than that being sought by this new piece of legislation.

I am saying that, from a purely fiscal point of view, it is always bad form to introduce new legislation to just raise trifling pieces of income, that it is always better, if you really want to have the fiscal system run as efficiently as possible, to use existing taxes to give rise to the increment in revenue, except there is some special area of the economy on which one wants to impose an additional burden. For example, if there is a view that Barbadians might have been travelling too much, one can understand and sympathise, in some respect, with the use of a change in the travelling tax in order to curb that tendency. But things like this type of legislation, introduced as a completely new Act just to raise perhaps less than \$2 million, when that kind of money could be raised by the improved collection of stamp duties or the improved collection of Consumption Tax, is bad form.

I really feel, Mr. Speaker, that a tax on employment in Barbados really does not solve the problem. We can, by trying harder to make the economy grow, raise more money than this particular piece of legislation is designed to raise. It really would be better for us to have the most efficient collection of Consumption Tax or things of this character to raise the additional money that the Minister is seeking rather than bringing an entirely new piece of legislation to the books of this country which has an offensive ring about it.

The Minister seems not to be satisfied, that the notion of a tax on employment has an offensive ring about it. It really amounts to a penalty. We are really saying in Barbados that in 1987 we are putting a penalty on people merely because they happen to be finding themselves in a job in this country. That is offensive.

One can understand, Sir, the raising of a levy for the purposes of building roads. You can understand the raising

of a levy for the purposes of training. But the notion of a levy on persons merely because they happen to be employed is bad form. A Government which professes itself to be so in sympathy with the working class is a Government which, to my mind, should in the year 1987, 50 years after a labour movement in this country was formed, feel itself disgraced that it has been put to the necessity of introducing an Employment Levy in this year. 6.40 p.m.

From a fiscal point of view, from a philosophical point of view, from a financial management point of view, Sir, this legislation really has no worth to it, and I say to the Minister of Finance that if your projection of Consumption Tax and overall growth of the economy is one-quarter of one per cent better than you had hoped for at the start of the year, you are going to end up getting more revenue than this piece of legislation can bring. We are now a \$700 million public sector economy. This legislation is \$1.17 million. We do not need this legislation, we really do not, and I think it will be a reasonable gesture if the House could in this year agree that this legislation should be withdrawn. I need to implant the idea in the House. The House will have to get bold, Sir.

Asides.

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Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: As regards, Mr. Speaker, the overall financial impact of this Employment Levy, it is obviously going to create a number of administrative postures which are going to put Government in the situation of having to extend. The fact is that our fiscal legislation is inefficient from a fiscal point of view. For example, the Entertainment Tax which applies to many tents is inefficient in the sense that sometimes it costs as much to administer the provision of the law as what is collected. This legislation, in my view, also falls within the realm of taxation legislation which is inefficient from the point of view and the fact that one has to put in place a whole administrative mechanism to manage a system which will give rise only to a very small yield in revenue.

Taken, Mr. Speaker, as a whole, I cannot imagine why the Minister will want to persist with this piece of legislation, given the very rosy picture that he is now painting about the state of Government finances. I cannot understand, Mr. Speaker, why the Minister will be put to the need to introduce this entirely new tax if the Government revenue position is as wonderful as he claims. If it is as solid as the Minister has recently indicated that it is, surely the initial thinking that would have caused him to conceive of this legislation in April no longer exists, and we have an even greater reason to want, Mr. Speaker, not to have this piece of legislation passed. I will not be supporting it, Sir, and I really think that the Government should rethink its position on this entire matter.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS (St. James South): Mr. Speaker, I never fail to be amazed by the arguments of the honourable

Member from St. Peter (Mr. O. S. Arthur). I want to ask one simple question. Whether it is a consumption tax or levy, who pays it? The person who is working has to pay. So whether you couch it in that term or any other term, only people working pay taxes. It is a simple matter.

I do not believe that he took time off to read the Task Force Committee Report. I am going to read a few sections for the House, Mr. Speaker, so that he might understand the direction from which we are coming. At page 20, paragraph 45, and this will indicate why we have had to take such action, it says:

"The rate of unemployment has steadily increased from 10.9 per cent of the labour force in 1981 to 18.7 per cent in 1985 under the Barbados Labour Party. During this period, the unemployed males increased from 4 600 to 8 600 and that of the females grew from 7 600 to 12 600, and of these 12 000 persons were in the age group of 15 to 24 and 8 300 persons were in the age group of 25 to 44."

At page 23, Section 3 - "Short term measures to generate employment" - paragraph 54, it says:

"In January 1986 the Government introduced general tax concessions to individuals and the business community as a means of stimulating the economy. While these measures are appropriate and desirable, it seems to us that in the short term they are unlikely to generate the number of new employment opportunities necessary to reduce substantially a level of unemployment which can only be described as unacceptable."

Immediate action had to be taken and some recommendations were made by this committee. One was beautification programmes. I do not want to go into detail because we have the beautification programme going. Road maintenance was another, in other words, programmes which would be high intensive employment programmes. The committee also recommended house maintenance, parks, and playing fields. All of these are tasks which a Government would have to undertake. You have to find money to pay the people. It is a simple matter. It is no academic thing. We are out of the university and now into the real world. We are in a world of living people, not books, and we have to adapt these problems as we see them.

I must be grateful to the Minister of Finance, because last December, when we took on the 500 people, I heard from the other side that it would be two months or three months we would be having them. I believe a year has passed, and he is asking me if I can take on some more. So I do not know where he is coming from.

The point I am trying to make is that we must be realistic about life. Life is about people, and money must be had to get the people in work. I am absolutely sure that

when the economy takes off as this report indicates, then we could reduce that level. But until such time, we have to put money into people's pockets so that they can exist.

In one year, our measures have been successful. When you are successful you can boast about it. I think in today's paper it said that unemployment went down from 19 per cent to 15.1 per cent, according to the Central Bank. The measures are proving worthwhile, and all I can say to the Minister of Finance is, continue, you are doing a good job.

Thank you.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS (St. Thomas): Mr. Speaker, I believe we are dealing with the Unemployment Levy. There is no doubt, Mr. Speaker, that unemployment is the most serious and pressing social problem in Barbados today, and in 1986, prior to the General Election of May 28, the Government, then in Opposition, represented to the public that it had a solution to the unemployment problem. I remember the Honourable Minister of Health on May 28 in a party political broadcast - yes, Sir, the Honourable Minister of the Psychiatric Hospital has now come in - saying on television to the country that 'a vote for the Democratic Labour Party is a vote for a job.' It was part of the sloganeering of the Democratic Labour Party. But notwithstanding those promises, Sir, and using the analogy or the language of a former person in politics, if there has been a reduction in unemployment in the past year, it is not discernible by the naked eye. The late Prime Minister, Mr. Barrow, in September last year in Bermuda said that the unemployment rate in Barbados was then 20 per cent. He said it at a function held by Mr. Swan for him. The Government is now seeking to find some solace from the published figures as at the end of the first quarter of 1987 that unemployment has dropped to 15.1 per cent, whereas at the equivalent time in 1986 it was at 15.6 per cent, as compared point to point with last year, Sir, 400 persons. 6.50 p.m.

There is no doubt that in the meantime, between May 28 and today, there have been layoffs in the private sector. I do not blame the Government for this, I am not unfair. I am not blaming INTEL, Playtex or CORCOM. I am not blaming the failure of the private sector to sustain employment on the Government. I challenge any Member of this House to listen to the tapes of my speeches during the recent by-election and hear what I said. I am talking about myself, I am not talking about anybody else. I made many speeches during the by-election on unemployment and I never blamed the Government for the layoffs in the private sector. What I have done, and I will repeat today, is to say that the Government itself contributed to the level of unemployment by its policies in the public sector, and it started with the NCC when they sent home 322 persons.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You do not want to hear it! I asked a question in here last year about MTW and I was told by the Minister on the floor of this House that they sent home 459 persons from MTW between July and August last year. I am dealing with the public sector, and I am dealing with the admitted confessions of the Government that they in MTW sent home 459.

Asides

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I asked the question, Sir. It is a matter of record. Let us get the debate.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES (St. Michael North): On a point of order, Sir. The honourable Member is misleading the House. The Ministry of Transport and Works sent home[^] nobody. Two hundred and forty nine persons were given letters of contract for a specific period, and when that time ended they went home on their own. They were not sent home, they had to go because the time had expired. They were given four months. It was a Cabinet decision on their part.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, after the recess we will be able to put that to the test. That was not the answer given by the Minister at the time. We have the answers downstairs in the Opposition's office. I do not care how long they kept them on, Sir, they took the decision to send them home. At Soil Conservation, Sir, 131; at the Transport Board, a hundred and forty something.

(Aside :Hon B. M. TAITT: Finish the little nay-nay speech and let us get on, do!)

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Well, since the honourable Minister of Health has been so insulting, I will carry on for the full half an hour, Sir, with your permission of course.

The point I am making is that the Government itself has contributed in a positive and direct way to unemployment in this country.

Secondly, by reason of its announced policies, the Government has shown itself unwilling to take a lead in the provision of employment. It has said that it is relying upon the private sector to create employment opportunities, and that policy was repeated as recently as last week by the Minister of Finance, once again on television. He has been on television more often than the poor Prime Minister since the death of the late Prime Minister, Mr. Barrow image building and so on, and one understands that. At a meeting of an interest group last week he said that they are still relying on the private sector to create employment.

Fundamentally, Sir, it is the philosophy of the Labour Party that the assumption that the private sector is going to create employment as a result of enhanced profits from reductions in Corporation Tax is a false assumption. The

Government certainly is assuming too much of a social conscience on the part of the private sector, and it will catch up with the Government in due course. They know in their heart of hearts that the private sector is not going to create the kind of employment they are hoping for.

(Aside: They employ you.)

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Employ who? You ever hear I worked as a clerk at Dacosta or anywhere else yet? Are you mad or what?

Mr. R. P. BYER: On a point of order, Sir. He could not mean you, Sir.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: No, Sir, I was referring to all of them on the other side who are heckling. You know I have the greatest respect for you, Your Honour, and if I inadvertently used the word 'y^{ou}' » i* was not meant to be used in the singular, it was meant to be used in the plural, referring to all of them on the other side.

I think, Sir, that fundamentally the Government is making false assumptions, as I say, about the social conscience of the private sector to create employment. No more than two weeks ago the Minister of Finance had a meeting with members of the private sector pleading with them for support, and he was told by one of them who was, up to that time certainly, a staunch supporter of the Democratic Labour Party, but who is now having reservations, that the policies are not working. I challenge the Minister of Finance to come here and deny it. Too much too soon, Sir!

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You see, they got on platforms and said that if they tell me things, I would talk them out. What I want to talk out I will talk out, but not all, not now. I am not going to call the gentleman's name.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: No, it was not a public forum, it was a meeting with members of the private sector. The Honourable Minister of Health is raising himself out of his chair, leaning across the table.....

Mr. SPEAKER: That is why I am trying to imply to the honourable Member not to listen to Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am going to turn around and face you, so that I would not see his handsome face, Sir.

(Aside:Hon. B. M. TAITT: But when you do that, you back your leader, the Leader of the Opposition.)

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: It does not matter. I am safe backing him, Sir. His name is not Cammie. He is not named like your neighbour. Behave yourself!

Mr. Speaker, with 4 000 school leavers coming on the job market at the end of last month, the Government still has to answer, because, do not forget, 1 per cent represents 1 000 people, .5 per cent is 500 people. The diminution from 15.6 to 15.1 is 400 people. That is all. 7.00 p.m.

Asides

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: We added them in last year. The figures that we are dealing with today are the first quarter figures. We do not have the second quarter figures, which have to take account of the fall-off in tourism

Asides

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Tourism declined about 2.7 per cent last year, according to the Central Bank Report. They have not even read the Central Bank Report for the first quarter. The figures are here, published by the Central Bank in the green book. They fell off for the first quarter this year, 1987, and the Central Bank says that.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. The honourable Member has a responsibility to this House when he is discussing figures. The Central Bank Quarterly Report, which was laid and discussed at the end of March, discusses tourism in the context of Caribbean performance. It seeks to place tourism performance for the first quarter of this year in the context of last year and in the context of the Caribbean.

What the honourable Member just said would give a wrong impression. I do not mind if he makes his point, as long as he makes it in the proper context, because the information which goes forth from this Chamber is important and, therefore, he should make sure that he says it accurately.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I accept the strictures of the honourable Member. I would never seek to mislead this House and I apologise for saying 2.7 per cent. What I will do is to read page 2:

"The tourism industry in Barbados was unable to keep up with competing destinations in the region. The number of tourist days recorded by Barbados declined by 1 per cent in contrast with a 12 per cent increase for other Caribbean destinations. Stopover arrivals in Barbados were 2.5 per cent..." - that is where I got confused - "...though the number of cruise ship passengers rose 26 per cent."

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, they are talking behind me about CTRC, even the Leader of the Opposition. Tell them to give me a chance to talk, Sir. He has spoken already, I believe, or may yet speak.

In the context of the second quarter, the quarter dealing with the economy of Barbados after the crop, or when the crop is coming to an end, and then the end of the official tourist season, certainly at an end April 15, those unemployment figures will show an increase from 15.1 per cent, in my submission, for the second quarter. After that you have summer activity in the country, and all that is keeping Barbados together in terms of employment is some work in the construction sector and the Central Bank Report - I have only had a chance to glance through it today - speaks of the highway work, which was work contracted before the present Government became the Government, and there is some increase in housing activity.

(Aside: A lot.)

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Not by the public sector. What is Rambo talking about, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: I did not hear what the honourable Member said.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am being heckled by the other side, by the Honourable Minister of Housing, who has said that there is public sector activity in housing. Apart from West Terrace, what is there? He came and found West Terrace and is continuing West Terrace. Were it not for the highway work that we started, were it not for West Terrace that we started, where would the activity be, bearing in mind that the late Prime Minister said that the present Government does not have a Development Plan for Barbados for three years? The manifesto was a one year Development Plan.

Sir, in the context of unemployment, which, I believe, all of us agree is still unacceptably high, the Government has to find stratagems and devices for the creation of employment. A task force, of which we were not told before the General Election, was set up after the election. Seventeen large-scale Dems or Demish people constituted the task force. They came and asked the public to give them solutions to the unemployment problem, whereas before the election they proffered a solution to unemployment.

Sir, the consultative process that they went through, I will hear in the best traditions of democracy, threw up a report which was laid in here on the day when we dealt with the Appropriation Bill. Thus far, that Task Force Report has not been circulated to honourable Members for our study. Every other report that was laid in here has been circulated to honourable Members. Significantly, the Task Force Report has not been circulated, but on this side, following the example of the Minister of Finance, when he was able

to get hold of a Central Bank Report before it was official, we have one. I read it to the people at Baxters Road in March this year.

Asides.

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Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I ran somewhere?

Sir, the 544 votes notwithstanding, the honourable Member for St. John now has to find work for all of those people in St. John who are going to be coming to him for work, and he concedes that unemployment is very, very high in St. John.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, the Task Force Report, in terms of the short term measures it recommended, recommended nothing new for the solution of unemployment. They recommended, as I recall, debushing and beautification programmes, which were being done under the Labour Party. They recommended the repair and maintenance of highways and pavement construction, which was being done under the Labour Party. The late Prime Minister, immediately after the election, complained that people in Maxwell cut down two or three mahogany trees,...

(Aside: Mi; E. BOURNE: Twelve)

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: ...twelve mahogany trees - to build a pavement in Maxwell to ensure the safety of pedestrians. The task force is recommending more of this type of activity. 7.10p.m.

They have recommended repairs to old people's homes. We were doing that. They have an enquiry going on. They want to lock up a few people and all that, and in the meantime they are doing 12 houses a month with a limit on repairs of \$4 000. That is what the present Government is doing.

They recommended some afforestation. Some youngsters are running about and sticking in some trees here and there.

They also recommended, I must say, the establishment of playing fields in every community. I find it very strange that in 1984, when the by-election involving the honourable Member for St. Peter (Mr. O. S. Arthur) was being fought, all the Members on the other side criticised the playing field programme of the Barbados Labour Party in St. Peter on the ground that it should be planting yams and potatoes. Now 17 Dems and a task force recommend that we should build more playing fields and parks! Mr. Speaker, get the report and read it. You cannot believe the hypocrisy not of any honourable Member in here, not one of them was on the task force, but you cannot believe the political hypocrisy

that allows them before an election to criticise public works on behalf of the Barbados Labour Party, but after election to recommend the said public works that the Barbados Labour Party was carrying on. ^

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am discussing unemployment, Sir, because, as I understand it, this Bill is the second Employment Levy Act that we have had. When the Barbados Labour Party was in power, it tried an Unemployment Levy device, I believe it was in the late Seventies, maybe early Eighties, with a view to encouraging firms and companies to create employment. As I recall it, if a firm expanded its employment and was able to justify it, it was able to get certain tax benefits. It followed what had been done by the late Eric Williams in Trinidad. The idea originated in Trinidad in this region, they were the first to do it. It operated for two or probably three years, but the levy was not imposed on the employee. The difference with the present Bill before this House is that Tout, Moon, Backeye and La, everybody, all and sundry, if you do not know your vernacular, is affected. There is chargeable on ^ the insurable earnings of every person gainfully employed in Barbados, whether self-employed or not, a levy to be known as an "Employment Levy", of an amount to be determined in the manner provided in subsection (2). Employer as well as employee is now affected by the imposition of this levy.

As far as self-employed persons are concerned, I want to make one point. It is going to have an inflationary effect. Any of us in here who are lawyers and have offices to run and doctors will know what we are in for in terms of the various levies we have to pay. The cost of administering a self-employed business has increased substantially. That cost will have to be passed on to the customer, client or patient. It is bound to have an inflationary effect. I believe that since it is all pervasive, and not discriminatory as it , was under us, in the sense that it was imposed on companies and firms, it is going to be a severe disincentive. I do not believe that this Bill provides for the deductibility of the levy from your Income Tax. To that extent what incentive is there? Like all of these levies which have been imposed by the present Minister of Finance, or increased by him, whereas under the Barbados Labour Party you were able to deduct them for Income Tax purposes, you no longer have that benefit, and it is going to be very burdensome particularly on the small employer and the small business.

It is probably too late to ask the Minister to rethink this levy, but philosophically we on this side cannot support it. That is not to say that we did not introduce it, but as I said, we introduced it on corporations and firms, whom we felt were best able to afford it, and in order to stimulate employment, and if you proved that you increased your ^ employment, you were able to get a benefit; if it was not a tax credit it was certainly deductible. With you it is not so,

and you are talking about encouraging micro business and small business. You know a man that sets up a little business.....

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You cannot tell me "Time." The Speaker will do that.

Mr. SPEAKER: You have about four minutes.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: If a person is now going into business for the first time, starting a small business with three or four people, this levy is going to affect him and the Training Levy is going to affect him apart from the Health Levy and the Transport Levy. This Employment Levy and the Training Levy are two levies, in our view, which bear very hard on the world of work and employment, or if you like, unemployment, and I hope that the Minister will find a way of reducing this burden. I do not agree with the imposition of this levy on employees, neither the Training Levy.

I know that when the Minister introduced his Budgetary Proposals, he suggested that this would be in place for a short time, and on the basis of that assurance, he won the support of my colleagues in this House who are members of the union. A year or two is the maximum that they will allow you, no more. We are not prepared on this side, to allow him any time, so we are going to vote against this. You can out vote us. As a matter of principle, it is not, in its present form and context, a solution to unemployment.

The Government can reverse itself, and the Government has reversed itself so many times in 13 months that it is no big thing to reverse itself on this. They reversed themselves on the Defence Force, on Heywoods and Hilton. There are more licks to come on those later on. The privatisation policy has gone through the window, the Defence Force is being kept and given what they asked for, \$16.9 million. There is no problem reversing yourself on this. 7.20 p.m.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Sir: The honourable Member for St. Thomas (Mr. D. A. C. Simmons) is misleading the House. He said that the Democratic Labour Party reversed its position on the Defence Force. That is a total inaccuracy. It is the Barbados Labour Party that committed itself to a Defence Force.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would ask the honourable Member not to make a speech. Just state your point of order.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: Yes. I am stating the point about the Defence Force. This was the position of the Barbados Labour Party on the Defence Force in 1976, and it is in the manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party on page 22:

"There will be no need to maintain any standing army or other defence force. Externally the party will work towards the elimination of all armaments of war and the achievement of total world peace."

So the Barbados Labour Party is the one that was against the Defence Force not the.....

Mr. SPEAKER: No point of order!

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Great folly indeed, Sir! I was not talking about the Barbados Labour Party. I said that the Democratic Labour Party reversed itself, the point being that the Democratic Labour Party made it known that it was going to

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable Member has come to the end of his time.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Let me just finish the sentence, Sir. She has to put a full stop, Sir!

The Democratic Labour Party said it was going to reduce the Defence Force to a commanding unit of 100. We now have 18 commanding units in the Defence Force!

(Aside: Full stop!)

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Eighteen hundred people, full stop, Sir!

Laughter.

Hon. B. M. TAITT (St. Michael West): Mr. Speaker, I feel that....

I beg your pardon, Sir. Do you recognise somebody else, Sir?

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I did not hear.

Laughter.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for St. Michael West Central, have you given him your right to speak?

Laughter.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, I should not take very long to deal with the comments made by the honourable Member for St. Thomas, (Mr. D. A. C. Simmons). In the first place, I am fundamentally opposed to these triple stands which the Barbados Labour Party takes from time to time.

The honourable Member comes in here and, for whatever reason, starts to give the impression once again that

they are this half of socialist party that he represents, talking about the private sector. The honourable Member represents the last party that can talk in this House with any authority about the public sector should be creating jobs. The Barbados Labour Party came to power in 1976 on a liaison between them and their friends in the business community. The Barbados Labour Party, led by the present Leader of the Opposition, is at once a conservative party.

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

(*Aside:* Hon. B. M. TAITT: Oh, dear-!)

Mr. D. A. G. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Sir! The Minister knows that he agreed with me out on that balcony a few weeks ago that their making assumptions about the private sector's social conscience is something we have to be careful about. And he knows, Sir, that they came to power in 1961 with the Mottley group, the Conservatives.

Mr. SPEAKER: No point of order.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: No, Sir! What the two of us agreed upon is that the Leader of the Opposition is making these errors.

Laughter.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: That is what we agreed upon, that the Leader of the Opposition is at once both in the Conservative group and a socialist.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: No, Sir! We can make our little asides.

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

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am on a point of order, Sir. I never agreed anything with the unhealthy Minister of Psychiatric Hospital about the Leader of the Opposition, Sir.

(*Asides:* No, no!)

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I withdraw all of that, Sir.

I never agreed anything with him about the leader of the Opposition. He knows that.

Mr. SPEAKER: No point of order. Those statements should be withdrawn.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: That is a low blow, Sir. He knows better than that.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: We agree it is a low blow, this business of we agree on the corridor. You should know better than to come into this Chamber talking to me about

agreeing on the corridor. What we agree to on the corridor should stay in the corridor, if we agreed.

Mr. SPEAKER: Will the honourable Member continue his speech? Ignore the asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Yes, Sir.

I was making the point that the BLP is a half socialist party, that it comes in here and talks about the public sector from time to time, but the facts cannot be interfered with, because the Barbados Labour Party has spent a lot of time discussing unemployment. They said we had not changed it, and now that they have official publication that employment is down 15.1 per cent, they wish to approbate and reprobate at the same time. You cannot use the publication of the Central Bank sometimes. You either use it completely or you do not use it. You use the Central Bank to read out certain aspects of the economy and therefore you have to accept that the 15.1 per cent unemployment rate at the end of March is a systematic statement of what is happening, and furthermore, by the end of June you are going to find the situation has improved. > The 15.1 per cent is for a higher .number of persons, if you take percentages, with the Democratic Labour Party in office after 13 months. You will find that we have created cumulatively more jobs in the 13 months than has ever been created in the last 11 years in this country. I think that the people of St. John who heard the arguments of both sides have already spoken on that. Therefore, it is wrong for the honourable Member to come in here and try to give the impression that the Democratic Labour Party promised the people jobs and did not give them any.

Furthermore, the honourable Member comes in here and talks about laying off in the public sector. Mr. Speaker, that is a matter that have been debated in this House. It is now well known that the Barbados Labour Party made commitments to the people whom they had employed for election purposes, and the Democratic Labour Party kept "them on two months beyond the period that had been committed by the Barbados Labour Party. It does not seem to matter to them that they have been reduced to three. It seems to me as if they wish to be reduced into nothingness, because they continue to use the same old, tired argument in the hope that, somehow, the people will forget what they said a mere year ago. The same people who rejected them 13 months ago have just rejected them days ago, and will continue to reject them so long as they go down that line.

Mr. Speaker, on the issue of the Defence Force, I have seen it in the newspapers and therefore it needs to be dealt with, the late Prime Minister said that after we came into office and we discovered the state of things in Barbados that it would be unconscionable to reduce the Defence Force by the 400 that we said it ought to be reduced by. The late > Prime Minister stated categorically that he was therefore not going to be attempting to reduce the Defence Force, but

that he would redirect the areas in which the Defence Force would be deployed and employed. It is therefore intellectually dishonest, Mr. Speaker, for anyone to refer to half of the statement without including the other half.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: When he says, "intellectually dishonest" and smiles at me, I know that evokes a point of order, Sir.

The late Prime Minister, in September last year, said that he was going to reduce the Defence Force. And when he attended the Passing Out Parade in October, he said that he did not have it in his heart to add those people to the unemployed market. What I was saying, is that he reversed himself, because shortly after elections when he said "Up two, three Lewis, down two, three", when he said that on television, he was ready to chase away everybody.-I agree that he did talk this year, in the Estimates, about redeploying and using them at the airport in the Customs and so on.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, I really do not understand how it could be a point of order if he gets up and agrees that what I am saying is accurate. But I am grateful for the endorsement and for the confession of the honourable Member for St. Thomas that he was mortally wrong when he said that the late Right Honourable Member had reversed himself. 7.30 p.m.

We want to point out to the Barbados Labour Party that the Democratic Labour Party has no difficulty whatsoever. If it has taken a position and after examination discovered that that position needs re-examination, and if it discovers that that position needs restatement, it will so do.

The Leader of the Opposition has no say in these matters, Sir. The Leader of the Opposition has been weighed in the ballots and has not even been found wanting. He has not been found at all!

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: He is giving me *sotto voce* remarks, Sir. The honourable Member, Sir, sought to suggest that the highway which is being built for \$90 million is somehow making a contribution. The fact is that they promised 2000 jobs arising out of the highway and the fact is that we are spending in excess of \$90 million and all the highway is succeeding in doing so far is inconveniencing a substantially large number of people.

Furthermore, the honourable Member is saying from his seat that we should stop it. Mr. Speaker, the records should show that we attempted to stop it but it was so far gone that it would have been a problem for the country to stop it. The honourable Member, the Acting Prime Minister, should take the credit for having attempted to stop this

gargantuan rape of the people of Barbados. Ninety million dollars, of which a substantial amount is for the payment of people for property that had been taken, much of it totally unnecessary, and some of it open to charges of corruption. The only way you can make money in this country

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Yes, corruption. That is what I am saying. I said corruption. CORRUPTION! I am saying, as has been said in Trinidad, that if you wish to get into big time corruption, what you have are large projects. That is what I am saying, and I am saying it with my full faculties and am being quite responsible.

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: It is not an allegation. You cannot confuse me with that kind of rhetoric. I am saying that if you are talking about corruption, it means acquiring properties that do not need to be acquired. That is corruption! If you wish to call the names,....

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The Minister of Housing will deal with you. Let him get up and say who is who.

Certain remarks made at this stage by Hon. B. M. TAITT were asked to be expunged from the record by Mr. SPEAKER.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Not the three of you. Mr. Speaker....

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Do you want me to include you? Well, I do not know if you are involved.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order please. Rule 23.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The Speaker has ruled and I therefore will abide with the Speaker's ruling. But I wish to say, Sir, that if during the time I am a member of the Democratic Labour Party Government and any Minister offers a project of the nature of the \$90 million that we are spending for that road, I am not going to participate in it. I am prepared to say that when you have a project of the size of the 90 million and you have people's houses that are required and you can find no reason why they are acquired, one wonders. The honourable Members on the other side know that I am not going to get up in here as a responsible person and make those statements just so.

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: You do not know that? Let me say then that I am sorry for them.

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Now he is going to give me now new forms!

The honourable Member in his speech tried to suggest that, to get the Government, we told the people of this country falsehoods in 1986. We are saying that since we have become the Government, we are discovering that a substantial part of the charges we made have been found to be valid. I stand by that, and if the honourable Member wishes me to give him details, I will give him either on the floor of the House or in writing.

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I do not mind the Leader of the Opposition. There is no sanctimonious position the Leader of the Opposition can take that will dissuade me from saying what I have to say about the conduct of the public affairs in this country. I am saying, without fear of contradiction, that there are persons who were in high office in this country who have taken decisions that were not in the interest of the country as a whole. The honourable Member is not going to force me to go into great detail about it.

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Rinse out the country! The honourable Member is not going to persuade me. The record will show that the decisions made in 1974-1975 about sugar brought a substantial amount of revenue to this country. We introduced marketing into this country. The Democratic Labour Party brought sugar into 20th century marketing.

Mr. SPEAKER: We are not dealing with sugar.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Precisely, Sir. Do not mind what they say about who killed the sugar industry. He will have to go.

The fact is that when you want to talk about employment, do not include the highway. The highway is not for discussion when we are discussing employment. Anytime you spend \$90 million in a country, you should be able to show that 500 to 2000 people have been employed. You spent \$90 million on the highway. You spent another \$110 million on the Central Bank. I am not prepared to discuss it in those terms, but what I am prepared to say is that the Democratic Labour Party, with substantially less spending, has created more jobs in the 13 months of its existence, and the record must so show it. I am not prepared to be party to this mamby-pamby discussion which is going on in this country led by three or four or nine Labour Party people plus the touts that write in the newspaper. There is a person called POT, Percy Smith, who writes in the newspaper who could have not possibly have written the column last week because it was written at a

level which is beyond Percy Smith. Therefore, when they write and suggest some of the things that are being suggested, the public of Barbados needs to be enlightened and I am not afraid to take on the entire Barbados Labour * Party.

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

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Oh dear!

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, I draw your attention to the Standing Order dealing with relevance, Sir.

Laughter.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I do not want to be offensive. I am just reminding you, Sir. He adverted to the newspapers, columns, Percy, POT Smith, and all kinds of things.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I withdraw the remarks, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have given some latitude and honourable Members must try to confine their comments as closely as possible to the Resolution.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I understand the honourable Member's reluctance to have me discuss that column, Sir.

The point I want to make is that the public record needs to show that the Democratic Labour Party in the 13 months has performed better than could be anticipated in all the circumstances, and the people of St. John have in their magnificent.....

Applause.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The people of St. John have demonstrated on behalf of the rest of the people of Barbados that they are satisfied.

The Labour Party should be the last people, Sir, as I come to the end of my submission, to talk about employment. I know of my own knowledge, Sir, that there are people in St. John who worked in statutory boards who were laid off ten years ago. They have a system by which you give employment when other people go on leave. In the clinic in Gall Hill, which is in St. John, they have Democratic Labour Party people. They have St. John people. There has been a systematic decision not to employ a St. John person in statutory boards, and I can give the honourable Member and you, Mr. Speaker, the names of persons who were laid off 11 years ago and who have never been employed again by the Barbados Labour Party. 7.40 p.m.

It is a despicable, unbelievable blot on the public life of this country that a whole political party, led by people like the Leader of the Opposition

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: No, Sir! I ask that all that be withdrawn, Sir. He was saying "despicable" and then he talked about a party led by people like the Leader of the Opposition. Yes, Sir, you will see the juxtaposition and the innuendo, and I ask that all be withdrawn.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: No, Sir. Let the record show

Mr. SPEAKER: I will ask the honourable member to withdraw that statement.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I withdraw that statement, Sir.

The point I am making, Sir, is that it is a fact - while we said it on the platform and people may not have believed it, I am putting it in the record - we have evidence that people from St. John were systematically excluded from employment under the Barbados Labour Party, and it is the duty of the Democratic Labour Party now to restore them to health within the economic community.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support this Resolution. I hope that we will not have any further interventions from the honourable Members on the other side which would even suggest....

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Well, we are going to be here for the whole night. I have a half hour at least in here, man, and therefore I am going to speak until the Speaker stops me.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Yes, I am behaving that way because, Mr. Speaker, we cannot have three Members coming in here, where we have 24 - 24 to 3, the clock stopped at 24 to 3 - and speaking for the Press and the Press going out and writing what those three Members say, and then they come around and say the three Members had us at bay. I am not prepared to be at bay by these three blind mice - I beg your pardon, Sir - these three honourable Members. I am not prepared to be like that. The honourable Member gets up and makes a speech in which he subtly - you should see him, Sir, bringing over his arm, I cannot accuse him of pelting, but bringing over his arm and in between giving me some bolo punches in my ribs. I speak for all the other honourable Members. We will be taking you on and laying you to rest.

The fact is that the Democratic Labour Party's performance in the last 13 months is not only economically beneficial, but it is humane, and it is in that context that we can support this measure, Sir.

I thank you.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I move that this sitting be now suspended until 8.30 tonight.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: I beg to second that.

The question that the sitting be suspended until 8.30 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly. 7.45 p.m.

ON RESUMPTION Mr.

SPEAKER: The sitting is resumed.

When the suspension was taken, the honourable Member for St. Michael West had completed his speech. Is there anyone else who wishes to contribute?

Hon. Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I listened with tremendous interest trying to find some kind of theme on which I should respond to the honourable Members on the other side. Unfortunately, the almost mindless contributions of a ravished rabble of three blind mice have not led to any significant contribution

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable Member, according to the Rules of the House, I am sure will withdraw that remark.

Hon. Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I withdraw "three blind mice." The ravished remnant of a tattered Barbados Labour Party, totally unable to address their minds to the issues at stake, have come in this Honourable House today and exercised a level of lack of addiction to probity and truth in their presentations here today.

One would hardly believe that they were the architects of the whole levy system in this country. Today, for the first time, they have discovered that the levy is a tax. Sure, the levy is a tax, and all the levies have always been taxes ever since they were introduced in 1982 in this country, and today we see the same people who have introduced the levies into the Barbados tax system lamenting them and coming to tell the people that this is a tax, as though it is some new discovery. But the people of Barbados will judge you, and I dare say that your recent results at the polls in Barbados are a reflection of the fact that the people of Barbados have absolutely no confidence in you, and your behaviour here in the House this afternoon is a continuation of the kind of presentations which you have made for ten years on the floor of this House and which have earned you nothing whatsoever but the total contempt of the electorate of Barbados.

(*Aside:* Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Why don't you speak on the Bill and behave like a front bench?)

Hon. Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Behave like a front bench? I am going to respond to you all in the same language in which you spoke here. You talked about the levy as Income Tax, but you have failed to respond to this - even if this measure represented 0.5 per cent, that is half a cent in every dollar earned by an employee, two farthings, what impact would that have on the take home pay of anybody? When we hear all these generalisations, let us face the harsh reality. Point five per cent is half of one per cent, the equivalent of half of one cent in the dollar in the take home pay of each and every employee in Barbados. I want to stress it again, that you are talking of half of one cent in the dollar out of the pay packet of the workers of this country. So do not come inside here and try to give to the public the impression that this measure is drastically reducing the take home pay or the disposable incomes of the people of Barbados. Anyone advancing such an argument is trying to present a dishonest picture to the people of Barbados as to the impact of this particular measure on employees.

This Bill also repeals the Employment Levy Act which was on the Statute Book, placed there by you all. It is forgotten that that particular measure is also repealed by this statute which is now the subject of debate before the House.

Then, Sir, the honourable Member for St. Peter said that I said on the floor of this House that employment is not a responsibility of the Government. Such a statement could only have emanated from someone who has certainly decided to depart as far as he possibly could from what one would normally regard as being truthful and consistent with what one would expect of a Member who purports to be shadowing another one on the floor of the House.

What I said is that I do not regard the creation of artificial jobs by public spending as any solution to the unemployment problem in Barbados, but we would have to consider in the short term a cautious expansion in the Public Service of this country - the exact term that I used is that "we will proceed in modulating tones" - they were the words I used - in response to a demand by the very Opposition for more short term employment in the Public Service. That statement was made in December last year when we were discussing the matter of temporary employment before Christmas, if you may recall. 8.35 p.m.

The honourable Member next put forward the ridiculous thesis that an increase in the levies would put people in a higher tax bracket. I say, Mr. Speaker, that if you are going to tell me that half a cent in the dollar is going to put anyone in a higher tax bracket - when you reduce it to that, half a cent in the dollar - then you can judge the legitimacy of the claim of the honourable Member for St. Peter, who is not known to be particularly numeric and who does not understand numbers, because one would have to be fairly ignorant of the whole concept of tax bands when you start

talking about half a cent in the dollar putting somebody in a higher tax bracket.

Mr. SPEAKER: Are you making reference to the -« honourable Member for St. Peter as being ignorant?

Hon. Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I said ignorant of the tax band.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: The honourable Minister of Finance is in a mood to mislead the House. I will not let him mislead the House, Sir. My statement is that the increase in all of the levies, taken together with the removal of the provision that the levies could be treated as a tax deduction, would have the effect of putting some people in a higher tax bracket. I stand on the point regardless as to whether the Minister feels I am numeric or not. I was not referring only to the Employment Levy, and he should give the House the full statement of what I said in the interest of probity, as he calls it, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Dr. R. C. HAYNES: The honourable Member, > Mr. Speaker, demonstrates either an ignorance of the history of these levies or is seeking to mislead this House.

The honourable Member may recall, if he chooses to, that the levies were not originally tax deductible. In 1982 they were not. In 1983 they were not. It was either in 1984 or 1985 that these levies were made tax deductible. Tax deductibility is nothing inherent in the Barbados Labour Party perception of a levy within the tax system, that came after there were representations, made long after they were introduced. So to come and suggest that the Barbados Labour Party had as a perspective of taxation in relation to levies that they should be tax deductible is totally incorrect.

We have drastically reduced Income Tax, and in those circumstances people will find that these levies are no significant imposition. Typical of the honourable Member, ^ in order to mislead the public of Barbados, he gets up saying that this is a tax on employment. Again and again he repeated it, about 12 times in his speech, that this was a tax on employment. If the honourable Member really meant that, he would know that that was a dishonest statement. But I presume that he did not quite understand what he was saying.

When this measure was introduced in the Budget, a specific statement was made by me that those in employment have a moral duty to contribute to the alleviation of the problem of unemployment in Barbados. In other words, this is a tax not on employment, but a tax on employed persons to be spent for the relief of unemployment. That is something completely different from talking about a tax on employment.

But one has to be very careful. This was an orchestration this evening by the honourable Members for

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St. Peter and St. Thomas, with the Honourable Leader of the Opposition quietly sitting down there knowing perfectly well that what they were saying was not on all square with the truth in order to get that to go out on the news media of this country but you have to be answered. Those who choose to behave like snakes in a pit will be dealt with like when you are dealing with snakes in a pit.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: This language has now descended into the outside toilets!

Mr. SPEAKER: I will not accept those words either. I will make my ruling on the honourable Member's statement. I consider it not the appropriate language to use at this stage in the records, and in particular in this Chamber. That goes very much closer to Members in this Chamber than the honourable Member would care to, and I therefore ask him to withdraw the statement in the light that he could only be referring to those Members who made the remarks in this Chamber whom he said were making reference to what he said.

Hon. Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I withdraw without any hesitation whatsoever.

I have a fundamental allergy towards certain types of slimy, wandering behaviour, and there are certain creatures which give me goose pimples.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I am really going to object, Sir, to the context in which the honourable Member is making his speech. This debate has waxed warm. I believe that honourable Members are capable of dragging the debate a little bit higher than it has got; but the remarks have become rather personal. I have kept quiet other than for one intervention.

If we are to debate in a sensible manner, I believe we have to stop the personal remarks. I really believe so, and I think the honourable Member is capable of raising the debate back to a standard that I have seen in this House. This type of tone is really not conducive to anybody really doing anything other than behaving badly.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would just like to repeat what I said earlier, in the interest of parliamentary language. It is accepted that good parliamentary language must be tempered and moderate. That language itself does not seem to fit into that interpretation of what I feel is good parliamentary language, especially when it makes reference, in some sense, no matter how remote it might be, to some honourable Members in this Chamber. I would like the honourable Member to use a bit more moderate language in terms of the debate.

Hon. Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I have a very fundamental difficulty in not dealing with persons as I judge they deserve, and whenever it is necessary to do so, I feel

always constrained to do it. Anyhow, I think we have had enough for tonight.

A levy for roads. I am just trying to indicate to you the kind of argumentation that we heard here today. The first part of his speech condemned the levy as being socially unacceptable, as being economically unacceptable and as a form of taxation which was totally undesirable, particularly as it was a burden, as the honourable Member for St. Peter said, on the working people of Barbados. Then later on in his speech he said that a levy for roads he can understand. But it is the same principle. You can have a levy for roads, you can have a levy for employment, but you cannot have one for unemployment! My notes are clear. And he proceeded to say that the tax was a tax on employment in Barbados. So you can have a levy for rocks but you cannot have a levy for a human purpose, that is, to generate jobs in Barbados. 8.45 p.m.

I will tell you this, the results of the St. John by-election are a clear indication that the broad masses of the people of Barbados have the same level of confidence in the Democratic Labour Party as they had 12 months ago, whether you believe it or not. And the people have been paying this levy since the beginning of May this year, and I have not heard one complaint from one person in Barbados about the payment of this Employment Levy, because they understand the purpose for which the levy has been put in place - they understand that it is there for the purpose of generating additional employment in Barbados. They tried to make it an issue in St. John and they were totally rejected on this and every other issue. I am just trying to expose the kind of thinking.

He said that this could be collected via consumption taxes. Now that is the same honourable Member who came in here and told you that the consumption taxes were regressive, that they had unfortunate price effects through their application, that the price effects often outstripped the level of tax that has been levied, that the consumption taxes are non-discriminatory, that they affect the employed and the unemployed. That was the argument when we were dealing with consumption taxes. Now today he is going to tell us that the better thing to do is to try to raise more taxes through consumption taxes.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, because I will not allow this Honourable Member to mislead this House: I said that the sum of money being raised by this tax could be collected through more efficient collection of consumption taxes, and I stand on that point. The records of the House will reflect that that is what I said. I did not speak in terms of an increase in the rate, and the honourable Member is misleading the House purely for effect.

Hon. Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, that is what I mean when I say the honourable Member has a problem

with numeracy. It is the extent of the tax. If the rate remains the same and more money is collected from the consumption taxes, the price effects would relate to the amount of money that is collected. In other words, if an importer is bringing in goods that are subject to 6 per cent Consumption Tax and for some reason or other he does not pay his taxes, he can sell those goods 6 per cent cheaper. If your enforcement and administrative methods are better and he has to pay the 6 per cent, the rate has not changed but he is going to sell at 6 per cent more, so it is the quantum of money extracted under the Consumption Tax that would have the price effects which he agrees do not discriminate against the poor, the rich, the employed and the unemployed.

What does he say now? A tax that has no price effects on the one hand, namely, the levy; two, it is only exigible on employed persons and employers - he is trying to tell you that this tax is more damaging than an increase in consumption taxes. You have to expose that kind of argument. You are dealing with the wrong person when you get up and talk. Get your arguments very clear, because when someone has to pay a levy, the half cent in the dollar he pays out of his wages at the end of the week is going to have no effect whatsoever on the price of anything in Barbados. If he had to pay it via consumption taxes, men you might find that his wages are eroded by more than the half cent that you would take out through the employment levy. And yet people listening to the honourable Member would believe that they are hearing the informed argument of someone exposed to the discipline of economics over time.

There are certain economic truths and there are economic impressions, and you have to make sure that you do not import into the profession of economics, in fact, into the nucleus of your arguments on economics, the area of impressionism rather than the fundamental truths of the discipline. The point I am trying to make to you is that one recognises that when you are dealing with the politics of economics or the political economy of this country, in a political context, you may stray from the narrow path of the academic. But what I am trying to instil in your mind is that you have a duty and an obligation, when you are addressing national matters to make sure that at the core of your argument there is some substance in relation to accepted principles of economics, and if you wish to depart from that, then let it be on the periphery, and let it be understood to be so.

You have developed a tendency on the floor of this House of doing the complete opposite, and in due course it will not redound to your benefit. Indeed, all of the arguments that we have seen here were arguments which I find totally disappointing coming from someone with your background. If the honourable Member for St. Thomas had made a speech of that nature, I would understand, because under no circumstances would he attempt at any time to get near

the core of the discipline; he would stick to the periphery or make his errors at that kind of level

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order: I am grateful to find myself in the same category as the Honourable Minister, on the periphery of economics. He knows nothing about the guts of economics, do not let anybody fool you!

Hon. Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Thank you for the compliment.

There is one final point I would like to make. The honourable Member said, and this is again another example of what happened in the honourable Member's speech, that if you had collected it through adjustments to the Income Tax or through the consumption taxes that the administrative machinery would be less. Anyone familiar with the system of tax collection in Barbados would know that the easiest and least expensive way of collecting any form of tax in Barbados is through the NIS system, through which the levies are collected. You do not have to employ one person more to collect these taxes. If you try to increase the efficiency of the Customs in relation to consumption taxes, you are talking about more staff, more paper work, more effort. If you try to do it through Income Tax to get the same yield, you are talking about adjusting the bands, further legislation, more printing of forms, major reform within the Income Tax structure to achieve the same thing. 8.55 p.m.

I raise this point only to bring to the attention of this Honourable House the kind of quality of argument which you have heard from the honourable Member for St. Peter. I have done it now on about seven grounds in one speech, and I have done it in order that Members of this Honourable House should listen with great care when the honourable Member for St. Peter speaks, because underneath that veneer of glibness there are often major atrocities being committed in relation to the discipline of economics and the discipline of finance. Certainly nothing that he has said in his contribution today amounts to anything that would lead to an increase in efficiency in the financial management of this country, and certainly there is a fundamental misconception of what the Employment Levy is all about.

The question that the Bill be now read a second time was put. A division was called for.

The bell was rung.

The question that the Bill be read a second time was put and resolved in the affirmative, the House dividing as follows:

Ayes: Hon. P. M. GREAVES, Hon. B. M. TAITT, Hon. M. A. KING, Hon. Dr. R. C. HAYNES, Hon. E. E. GREAVES, Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN, Hon. H. A.

BLACKMAN, Hon. W. W. HALL, Hon. C. V. WALKER, Mrs. M. BARKER-WELCH, Mr. R. L. MORRIS, Dr. E. A. SIMMONS, Mr. P. J. M. MILLER, Mr. J. J. PAYNE, Mr. R. P. BYER, Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE, Mr. C. A. NEBLETT, Mr. E. BOURNE and Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON. (19)

Noes: Hon. H. deB. FORDE, Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS, and Mr. O. S. ARTHUR. (3)

On the motion of Hon. Dr. R. C. HAYNES, seconded by Hon. E. E. GREAVES, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. R. P. BYER in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee.

Clause 1-11 inclusive were called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. Dr. R. C. HAYNES, seconded by Hon. E. E. GREAVES, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On separate motions of Hon. Dr. R. C. HAYNES, seconded by Hon. E. E. GREAVES, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

ITINERANT SALESMEN (LICENSING) ACT, 1987

Order No. 3 was called - to move the second reading of a Bill to make provision for the licensing of Itinerant Salesmen.

Hon. Dr. R. C. HAYNES (St. Michael South Central): Mr. Speaker, this Bill seeks to give effect to yet another proposal which was introduced in my Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals in April of this year. 9.05 p.m.

I indicated then that, as in the case of other CARICOM Countries, non-national salesmen promoting the sale of extra-regional goods in Barbados will be required to pay an annual license fee of \$750. This Bill seeks to give effect to that proposal.

It is a simple and straightforward piece of legislation, and I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: I beg to second that and reserve my right to speak.

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Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE (St. Michael North East): Mr. Speaker, I support this particular bit of legislation, but I think it has some areas which do not seem to give enough bite, enough protection, to exactly what I think the Bill seeks to protect. I am still not convinced that if a person who

intends to be an itinerant salesman comes into this country and declares on entry that he is a visitor, he cannot conduct business subsequent to entry. If that happens and he is caught, he is called upon to pay a fine, and the person who would do business with him is also called upon to pay a fine.

What I am concerned about is that it is distinctly possible that, if this bit of legislation is not properly policed, the aims and objectives of this legislation will have no effect. And in the event of someone getting involved in this practice and is caught, the fine of \$100 seems to be negligible, in my opinion, and it can easily go against the spirit of this legislation.

As I said, I am in support of the legislation because I believe it gives some kind of support for the local sales people. Indeed, I believe that itinerant salesmen should be made to be registered with business places in Barbados. You can have a system of invoicing because of the way these people come in and do business, and believe me, Sir, I have experience in this particular field. The way these people come in and do business is not to the credit of the local business houses, especially in the area of manufacturers' representatives and the like.

All I am asking is for the Minister to look seriously at the policing of this legislation and probably at some subsequent date to look at the fines that are related to it. I think that these are far too meagre to prevent people from going against the spirit of the legislation that is intended.

Thank you, Sir.

Hon. Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I think that the contribution by the honourable Member is very sound indeed. We have looked very carefully at this particular Bill and those two points actually engaged the attention of the Ministry and, I think, the Attorney General's Chambers. A lot depends on how the Act will be administered. It is a matter of the extent to which we involve the Immigration and the Customs at the airport. If you look at one of the clauses, I think it is Clause 4, you will see that the Minister by Order may designate a public officer to whom the duties of the Accountant General under this Act shall be assigned. This will give some flexibility in terms of the collection and monitoring on behalf of the Accountant General. So we are aware of the problem, and if we have any difficulties with administering the Bill in terms of not being able to track down persons who come into the country and engage in this kind of activity, then we will have to make such adjustments to the legislation as are necessary.

The penalties as spelled out in Clause 5, which says:

"An itinerant salesman who engages in his trade or business without a licence from the Accountant-General shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of seven hundred dollars and in addition shall be required to pay the fee for the licence."

Asides.

Hon. Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Right In addition, he will be required to pay the fee for the licence. But in 5(2) it says:

"A person who enters into a contract for the purchase of goods offered for sale by an itinerant salesman who does not hold a valid licence under this Act shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of one hundred dollars".....

It is binding for both partners.

Asides.

Hon. Dr. R. C. HAYNES: The size of the fines are always matters for debate. My recollection is that this type of legislation is in force in several CARICOM Countries. I am sure that this would have been along the same lines, because we have tried to keep in line with all things in relation to what goes on in the other territories, and hence the levels of fines and licence fees to try to keep on par with the other territories.

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

On the motion of Hon. Dr. R. C. HAYNES, seconded by Hon. E. E. GREAVES, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. R. P. BYER in the Chair.

COMMITTEE Mr.

CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee.

Clauses 1-6 were called and passed.

9.15 p.m.

The Schedule was called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. Dr. R. C. HAYNES, seconded by Hon. E. E. GREAVES, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On separate motions of Hon. Dr. R. C. HAYNES, seconded by Hon. E. E. GREAVES, the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the Itinerant Salesmen (Licensing) Act, 1987.

BARBADOS TOURISM INVESTMENT CORPORATION (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1987

Order No. 8 was called - to move the second reading of a Bill to amend the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation (Amendment) Act, 1987.

Hon. W. W. HALL (St. Michael West Central): Mr. Speaker, this Bill seeks to amend the Barbados Tourism

Investment Corporation Act, Cap. 332A, to bring more flexibility to the financial affairs of the Corporation.

We are seeking to amend sections 6 and 12 so that the authorised share capital would be increased from \$20 million to \$100 million; that the Government paid up capital would be increased from \$12.5 million to \$36 million or 60 per cent of the estimated cost of the project; and that section 12, paragraph (2) of the Act should be amended to delete the existing restriction on the current assets to current liabilities ratio.

I think, Sir, that although this is not really a nebulous issue, it would be non-contentious. As far as my recollection goes, members of the Opposition are all self-confessed farmers and no doubt would want to see a vibrant hotel industry. They would want to sell their produce and make sure that we grow more food to feed our people and the tourists, reduce our import bill and strengthen our sectoral linkages.

Aside.

Hon. W. W. HALL: I sat here all evening and listened, Sir. I think they will have to understand that I will do this properly.

To give an overview of the situation, Sir, the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation Act, 1979 provides for the establishment of a corporation in which should be vested the ownership and management of the Heywoods Holiday Village. The construction of a holiday village was conceived in 1973, and in my estimation it was innovative. It was supposed to comprise of seven individual units to be leased to seven Barbadian hoteliers. The corporation would however be responsible for providing certain central services.

The corporation's capital structure, as set out in the Act, was based on an estimated project cost of \$34 million, with the World Bank providing \$16 million, the Caribbean Development Bank \$6 million and the Government contributing \$12.5 million as equity. According to the Act, the ratio of the debt to the equity must not be more than 4:1, that is, that with \$12.5 million equity, they could borrow up to \$60 million.

The time lag between the project's formulation and the actual implementation of the Holiday Village was the main contributor to the increased cost of the project, which is now conservatively estimated at Bds. \$60 million. It should be noted that a portion of the construction cost of the Speightstown By-pass Road is included in this figure.

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Mr. Speaker, by the time that the Government was ready to build in 1981, the cost had skyrocketed to \$60 million. With this substantial increase in cost the corporation was unable to attract suitable Barbadian hoteliers to

lease this properly, and in 1983 the Government hired a management company to operate the Holiday Village as a single entity for ten years.

Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that with a lease the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation would provide very little, but with a management contract you seem to pay everything. For instance, the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation is responsible for the provision of the hotel working capital. Apart from having to provide the management company with working capital, the corporation has to provide reopening costs for marketing and equipment as well as to meet fixed costs such as insurance, property taxes and depreciation, which are incurred on an annual basis.

Furthermore, Sir, since the loan agreement with the World Bank, and indeed the Caribbean Development Bank, dictated that the debt should be serviced by the corporation, the increased cost of the project from \$34 million to \$60¹ million meant that the corporation's debt burden was nearly twice the amount that was originally projected. In fixing the lease rates, the corporation sought to pass on some of the increased cost to lessees, and when the hoteliers did not come forward, this proposal was abandoned.

In 1985 the Barbados Bank assisted the corporation in meeting its obligations through an extension of an overdraft facility and a loan. As a matter of fact, Sir, in 1985 there were some cash flow difficulties experienced at Hey woods and the Barbados National Bank came to the rescue as the situation seemed to have reached alarming proportions, and they managed to have some overdraft facilities of some \$1.5 million. There were still great difficulties experienced, and the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation requested the overdraft facility to be extended to \$5.5 million, of which \$4 million was converted into a loan.

This borrowed money was in contravention of the Act, and, Sir, this is one of the reasons why we are seeking to put this right now. The bank therefore requested a Letter of Comfort from the Ministry of Finance and Planning to cover the credit extension and asked for an assurance that the anomaly would have been removed as soon as possible. 9.25 p.m.

Under this Act, Mr. Speaker, the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation also has authority to engage in other tourism development projects. The administration of the Dover Convention Centre, the Hilton Hotel lease, and the Durants Golf Course are the immediate priorities of the corporation.

As far as the golf course is concerned, I think it would take some \$6 million to get this golf course going again. The Government has concluded that the agreement to purchase and develop Durants Golf Course is a priority. The Government views the development of this facility as

structurally sound and a valued asset to the island as a whole.

In a very small island like Bermuda, which is a tourist-oriented island like Barbados, if you go to Bermuda and want to have a game of golf, I think you have to go on a pretty long list. This is despite the fact that this small island has 12 golf courses. We feel that many tourists who come to Barbados and would like to play golf should not have to go on a long waiting list at Sandy Lane, which caters primarily to the hotel guests - and rightly so, Sir - but we feel this is one area which has great priority with the Government.

As far as the Hilton is concerned, right now we are improving the access road. I think anyone who has been to the Hilton when it rains would have noticed that the cane holes have actually moved from the large planted areas in the country right to Bridgetown. It is a serious situation. There is a lot of flooding and, quite frankly, one can hardly get into the hotel.

We have actually cleaned the exterior and the interior of the hotel. We have repaired the leaking roofs, resealed the interior. We are having a look at the car park and we are trying to refurbish areas like the lobby, the reception area and the restaurants. I think that with the Hilton Hotel, the Durants Golf Course and, indeed, the Dover Convention Centre, we have quite a bit of work to do. But, as Plastic Bag would say, "our hands are tied". This Bill seeks to sort of untie our hands and give the corporation more flexibility in their financial affairs.

I think, Sir, those few remarks would give the Members of this august Chamber, even though it is in July, Sir, the opportunity.....

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Asides

Hon. W. W. HALL: I understand some politician in St. Lucy said that. I would like to think that the Members of this distinguished Chamber would fully understand the reasons being put forward for this Bill be read a second time.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: I beg to second that and reserve my right to speak.

Mr.^{AD}. A. C. SIMMONS (St. Thomas): Sir, what the Minister is telling us, if I am reading him right, is that he requires substantial funds for the refurbishing of the Hilton and to do some work on the golf course and the Convention Centre.

Asides

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: He has the money already? Is the Hilton vested in the Tourism Investment Corporation? . Would it not have to be vested first?

Asides

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The Minister of Health is saying that it was vested and the Minister of Tourism is saying that it was not vested. I am just asking some questions from what I remember.

As I understand this Bill, this is to give the Minister the power to approve borrowings made by the corporation. The corporation can go on the domestic market or any market and raise money with the approval of the Minister. Other corporations have that power, so that the Central Government does not have to go and raise the money, because it would show in the National Debt. So let the Tourism Investment Corporation go and raise it - nothing is wrong with that at all - subject to vesting the property in the TIC. That is all I was asking. I was just trying to clarify what was being done.

Hon. Dr. R. C. HAYNES (St. Michael South Central): Mr. Speaker, there is just one point I would like to make. It is Government's policy that these commercial enterprises should seek to be self-financing over time and not be dependent on the Treasury of Barbados. The facility to borrow has absolutely nothing to do with an attempt to disguise anything in terms of the National Debt.

Heywoods is totally owned by the Government of Barbados. Any borrowings made by Heywoods, BTIC or any totally-owned agency of Government reflects in the Consolidated Accounts of Barbados as part of the public sector debt. It only becomes a contingent liability in respect of the Central Government if there is need for this Parliament to issue a guarantee. In the absence of that, it is part of the debt of the total consolidated public sector of Barbados, so there is no question of this being any attempt to disguise anything in relation to the National Debt.

(*Aside:* Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I did not use those words)

Hon. Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I understood clearly what you were saying.

Secondly, by altering the issue and the authorized share capital, this legislation raises the levels of borrowings, and in Clause 3(2) you will see that the ratio of its debt to its equity after completion of a transaction can now be 4:1. That removes a restriction where it was 1:1 and the 4:1 ratio remains right through the borrowing schedules.

I want to have the records of this House clear on those two issues.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: (St. Michael West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to take the opportunity of this Bill to place on record my own appreciation to a gentleman whose name has adorned the records of this House in a negative way when the last Administration was in office.

The Tourism Investment Corporation formed part of the portfolio I assumed when I became Minister under this Administration, and during that time it was obvious that what was required was a strong management capability both within the Tourism Investment Corporation itself and at the level of the administration of the hotel. 9.35 p.m.

The last Administration, after trying to find a methodology for dealing with the concept, changed the concept to the Heywoods Holiday Village, and it was their right to do so. Even though one might disagree with the change of the concept, one accepts that that was their right as the Government. They changed the concept and therefore had to give out the contract, and they gave it out to Copthorne. Copthorne does not have a long track record in hotel management. I am not prepared to say that they are incapable of carrying out the contract, but they did not have, for example, the same kind of record as, say, the Hilton Hotel has, but it may very well be that the Government of the day had some difficulty in finding an appropriate management group to take on the contract.

We debated in another Parliament the tenure of the contract and therefore I do not propose to repeat what I said then. I wish merely to say that for its initial stages, since some uninformed persons have written, people who purport to be columnists, suggesting that the hotel was not given a chance, I wish to state for the record that the Heywoods Holiday Village is now making a profit. It is so making a profit primarily because the Tourism Investment Corporation, under the able leadership of Mr. Leo Leacock.....

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Has the honourable Member given

Hon. B. M. TAITT: You would have to bring it out and put it on the record.

The honourable Member is going to say now that they made a projection. I do not wish to get into controversy and I am trying not to. I am saying that the hotel demonstrated a loss in its early operation and it was projected that it would make a loss continually for some considerable time, and I am stating categorically that the reason why it was turned around is due to the able leadership of Mr. Leo Leacock and the Board of the Tourism Investment Corporation. They were able to cause a number of things that were happening at Heywoods to be turned around. If the honourable Member wishes me to go into details, I will.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order: The Honourable Minister is not being candid with the House. I am not saying he is deliberately lying, but he knows that it was projected that the Heywoods Holiday Village would make a loss and that it made a loss in the first year of \$165 000, and in the second year, it was projected that they would make an operating profit, certain programmes were put in place and they made the profit.

In the Estimates in here, on page 831, I think it is of Hansard of this year, I asked the then Prime Minister if Heywoods was making an operating profit and not one of them on the other side could say whether it was. I asked that question because I had the information, and I asked whether it was true they were making \$2 million.

I am saying that the ground work was laid for the profit when we were in power and it was only a matter of time that they made the profit.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, I cannot allow it. I will never allow that. That is the most diabolical disregard for the truth. The fact is that Heywoods was projected to make a loss and was making a loss. I will not have you come in here and suggest that your Administration projected any profit. You projected a loss for the three years and Copthorne told you they would make a loss for five years. Do not come to me about your having any information. I challenge you or anybody in the Barbados Labour Party to produce information that you were making a profit. The files are here. The Barbados Labour Party has this problem when you bring information, they have a way of jumping up.

The Barbados Labour Party projected a loss for Heywoods. When I became the Minister there was a loss projected for Heywoods for at least three to four years, and it was turned around because the present Tourism Investment Corporation was able to bring about a change in the management arrangements, was able to go and raise questions with the management and was able to stop a substantial amount of management infelicities. The only part of the Heywoods Holiday Village that was making any profit was in the Food and Beverage Department, and the honourable Member must know, if he says he has the facts, that the person, the Barbadian.....

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Yes, publish them so that we can publish the whole story about Heywoods. The story of Heywoods needs to be published, because a Barbadian who supports the Barbados Labour Party, or is purported to have supported the Barbados Labour Party, it does not matter to me, a Barbadian who was the officer who was able to bring some kind of order to the Food and Beverage Department at Heywoods was one of the people who was being pushed around at Heywoods. The honourable Member should know

that, if he says he knows the facts. The honourable Member for St. Peter would know that.

Heywoods was not making any profit until the Chairman of the Board and the other members of TIC could bring them to Christian feelings. It is important that the record shows that the contractual arrangements with Copthorne were not in the interest of this country, and since the honourable Member is challenging me, let me give an example of the kind of things I am talking about. An arrangement was made for US \$750 000 to be paid to a fly-by-night company in Florida to do the public relations and advertising for Heywoods.

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Merritt is the one there by the Board of Tourism. If you want to discuss Merritt, you can talk about Merritt. We can discuss Merritt, but we are discussing Heywoods.

You all want to give the public the impression that you you had something in place. Copthorne has been able to perform in the last year because the Tourism Investment Corporation Board has been able to bring it to Christian feeling, and I have no difficulty whatsoever in saying that, and I will not allow the honourable Member to suggest that you had a profit projected.

Let us be clear what we are speaking about, Mr. Speaker. When we talk about a profit, we are talking about operating profit, because I do not wish anybody to misunderstand, since the money that capitalised the Heywoods Holiday Village is money borrowed and it is going to be a long time before there is a return on the investment made. What we are talking about is that we have an operating profit. We had situations under the old regime where the management was able to give large numbers of complimentary rooms far in excess of what would be normal and discussed as part of the promotion of a hotel of that size. I do not wish, and I do not think it is fair for me, to go into the details of things that were found wrong, because there may have been errors.

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I have not accused anybody of corruption. I do not understand the honourable Member, Sir. I have not accused anybody of corruption with Heywoods.

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I could put that on the record. Nobody took away from me and Leo Leacock. Do not raise those questions *sotto voce*. That is the kind of dishonesty which has pervaded public affairs in this country. The same Chairman is still Chairman, so do not suggest that it was

taken from him. He is still the Chairman. He was appointed Chairman and he is still Chairman, and I am saying that because he has been villified in this House before, and he has demonstrated, both to his colleagues on the Board and generally in this country, that he has been able to bring some measure of the quality of management which is required to turn Heywoods into a profit.

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Get up and put whatever you have to say on the record and let us discuss it. I have never been, and never will be, afraid to face the honourable Member or anybody else in my public life. So if you know of any - as they say in the marriage ceremony - 'just cause" why these things may not be lawfully said, get up and now declare or forever hereafter hold your peace. I do not have any difficulty with it. 9.45 p.m

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I do not know what you mean, but whatever it is, you can get up and put it on the record. I have never been, and now am not, and never will be afraid of any *sotto voce* or other remarks which are made. I wish you to put them on the record like I am putting mine on the record.

I am saying that if you examine the record for the Heywoods Holiday Village, you would see that what happened in fact, is that there would be a profit for the four months of the winter and then the profit disappeared very fast in the summer months. We were able to correct that. Therefore, the operating profit of \$2 million must be attributed to the efforts of the board, and the record would show it. And as I said, if the honourable Member knows information which he wishes to put on the record, let him put it

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The honourable Member cannot surprise anybody with any information.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I do not know when is the end of the financial year. Mr. Speaker, I am not even going to get involved in discussing it. The Minister would be able to give details of that kind. What I am saying is that if one examines the record, one would see that Heywoods was projected to make a loss. And what I am saying accounts for the discussions that were made not to get rid of these public institutions when it was recognised both for the Heywoods and the Hilton that the reason why they were not making money had more to do with the overall management contract than it had to do with the running of

the institutions and the capability of the institutions to make a profit.

Mr. Speaker, I have put on record my appreciation of the work of the Tourism Investment Corporation because • the Tourism Investment Corporation has as its board a number of persons who have made a substantial sacrifice, and as a result they have made a contribution that is worthwhile, and I felt under the circumstances that I should place on record my appreciation. As far as it can be seen, the hotel will continue to make an operating profit over the next few years as long as it continues to have vigorous management and as long as the Tourism Investment Corporation pays special attention to the running of the hotel.

As I said, and I am going to go on record as saying it, the Copthorne people do not have a track record of hotel management equivalent to that of some of the other giants in the field. Their record is of a relatively small nature, let me put it that way. To the extent that they have been successful in Barbados is largely due to a clear, crystal understanding established between them and the Tourism *" Investment Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, I will sit now and allow the members of the Opposition to make their points in contradistinction to what I have said, if they have any.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE (Christ Church West): Mr. Speaker, I would have welcomed the opportunity, were it not so late an hour and, in fact, so late in this session, to have an in-depth discussion on tourism. I would have probably given the honourable Member for St. Michael West an opportunity to justify why, for the first quarter of this year, there has been a considerable fall in the tourism output, plant and figures considerably, why Barbados is lagging behind, and not now the new Minister has taken over from him.

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Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, on a point of order: The honourable Member has in front of him the document which has told him that there is no cricket tournament and it will explain to him the difference in the actual numbers which came out of the United Kingdom in 1987 as compared with 1986 when, in fact, there was a cricket tour. The honourable Member would know that whenever there is a cricket tour out of Great Britain, there is a substantial increase in the numbers from the United Kingdom.

If he wishes to discuss tourism, I have the time, Sir, and the inclination. But he only needs to check the people in his constituency who were working during the summer.

Mr. SPEAKER: Point taken.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The honourable Member also knows that there has been a ten per cent decrease in tourists

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from Canada in the first quarter of this year, a 12 per cent decrease from the "CARICOM region and a fall-off in the growth rate in the United States. I know all of these facts and statistics, and it is because of that that I would have welcomed discussion on the matter. The honourable Member, like the Member for St. Michael West, is also in possession of all the CTRC statistics as well as Trends, and the honourable Member follows what is going on in tourism very carefully. So the honourable Member knows that he has had a fall-off in the tourist trade

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

Hon. H. deB. FORDE:...in the beginning of 1987 as compared with the winter period of 1986 when....

Mr. SPEAKER: Two honourable Members are on their feet

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir, for the record: If the honourable Member is going to apply Trends, he should say what Trends said that the room rate return is higher. The point is that the honourable Member is comparing 1987 with 1986. The honourable Member should know that to try to give the impression that tourism is off would lead to an unfair representation. If he wishes to let us debate it, he should debate it, but not drop off little remarks.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The honourable Member is such a public relations expert, he has now got the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central (Hon. Dr. R. C. Haynes) following him that if you listen to them painting the sectoral profile of the economy, you would believe that Barbados has done so exceptionally well, that nothing has been wrong in Barbados since the May 28, 1986, when in truth and in fact what they are really doing is hypnotising themselves into believing that these are the state of facts. And just as has happened, for instance, on the state of the Government's balance of payments, you will find that in tourism as in manufacturing, we have had a disastrous performance as compared with the year before. The honourable Members know that. But it will all come out in the wash in due course.

Hon. Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I believe the Standing Orders of this Honourable House require honourable Members to make some effort not to mislead themselves or the House when they make statements.

It is a fact, Mr. Speaker, that all the statistics indicate that the effective rate for hotel rooms in all categories has increased significantly this year, in each and every month of this year so far, and the only authority on that is the study done by Pannell Kerr Forster that is published on a monthly basis that covers the luxury hotels, the medium sized hotels and the small hotels.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, the honourable Member can get up as often as possible and cite one aspect of Pannell Kerr Forster's study. The honourable Member also knows that visitors have been staying for a shorter period. And he also knows that when you look at the tourist performance in the winter period, the most important period for Barbados in 1987 that it has been worse than in 1986. The honourable Member knows that, and he can read the Central Bank Report. But we will get an opportunity to go into the so-called performance when it was being billed as going to be the best winter that one has ever had. Were it not for the rescue from the cruise ships, we would have even done much worse. The honourable Member knows that very well. So they are painting pictorial pictures of sectorial profiles that are really not justified. 9.55 p.m.

Sir, with respect to the Barbados Investment Corporation Act, I really wish to deal with one or two points which have been made by the honourable Member for St. Michael West. First, for the first time, although we did not say it when we were in power and could have said it, the Minister of Tourism and Sports let slip an important statement relating to the financing of the Heywoods Project, and it is a statement that we should re-emphasise many times. Part of the overall cost of Heywoods, as the Government has now discovered, included the infrastructural cost of the Speights town By-pass Road. It was the only way at the time that we could get the money for that particular part of the project from the World Bank. It is included, therefore, as part of the debt of the project and the rate of return which you get from the hotel must, of necessity, be on the overall cost of this project, and when we said before May 28, 1986 that Heywoods will become a valuable and a paying asset, we did so with the knowledge that we were looking at the rate of return not only on all of the money used in the direct tourist aspect of the project, but also in the infrastructural development.

Our words have come true. What has happened is that the Democratic Labour Party has gone into reverse policywise. They were to sell Heywoods. The honourable Member for St. Michael South Central made a song and dance about Heywoods being so uneconomic. They were to dispose of Heywoods, Sir.

Asides

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Sir, ask them to disclose how many offers they have got for Heywoods. If we look at the Hilton, likewise managed by the Tourism Investment Corporation now, the highest offer they have got for Hilton is US\$10 million. That is the highest offer. The honourable Member has gone around talking it all over the place and asking \$50 million and he has not got an offer of that up to now. The honourable Member knows that. I can tell him the

investors from California and I can tell him of Edgehill, the solicitor, who is one of the people who is trying to sell it for them. I can give him all of the details when he wants them. The investors have spoken to me as well on the matter. The honourable Member should know that.

We have always maintained that both of these projects can pay for themselves. The Hilton had a short period in which it was not returning a profit. It is now showing a reasonable profit again, and this despite the fact that under the Hilton contract which they set, which has not run out yet, Hilton Management gets a higher percentage of gross profit than the Copthorne people get. The honourable Member knows that as well.

There has been a lot of talk about Copthorne. Copthorne came on on a fix fee in the initial stages of this project which was to be changed after three years to 22.5 per cent of gross as a way of giving them an incentive. It is obviously an incentive for them to make a profit, and I am not surprised that already ahead of the three year period when the terms of their remuneration would be changed, Copthorne has produced an operating profit. I am very satisfied that the project is viable and has always been viable.

Sir, the honourable Member says that the concept of the project was changed. When consultants to the Caribbean Development Bank and the World Bank were originally advising on the construction of a hotel at Heywoods, they saw it as part of an experiment in the Caribbean management of hotels. But it was proven that that concept would have cost the Government more money in the long run and would not have been as viable as the present manner in which Heywoods is being operated. That is why it was changed, with the complete concurrence of the World Bank.

The cost escalated for various reasons which have been debated in this House before, and I do not have the time at this hour of the evening to go into those reasons. If the honourable Member wants to hear them some time, we will let them have them.

I am amazed that the honourable member for St. Michael West is going to attribute the operating profit which has been achieved at the end of the last hotel's financial year in 1986 solely to the change in the membership of the board. It is a very myopic way of looking at the performance of the management of the hotel from its inception, including the outstanding work done by the former board under Mr. Michael Griffith.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir: I am going to read from the files on this point of order, because the honourable Member is seeking to suggest that I may have misled the House. I am going to read from an extract dated 1984/10/02 from the Tourism Investment Corporation which says:

"To date the hotel has incurred losses of \$3.4 million which, coupled with low occupancy, require an injection of additional working capital. As of October 2, 1984 the hotel had reached the present limit of \$2.5[^] million and suppliers are threatening to cut off credit,"

In the first year when I took over, Heywoods had an occupancy rate of 22 per cent. *

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Sir, the honourable Member can intervene and read as many notes as he likes. He should read the other note as well, that for the income year of the hotel for 1986 they projected a \$2.6 million operating profit

Asides.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The management and the Investment Corporation. Before you took over, they have achieved a profit.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir: That is not correct, and the honourable Member can go out and telephone anybody. I am stating categorically that that is *" not correct. They projected a loss in 1986.

Asides.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The honourable Member can intervene as much as he likes and says that it is not true. I am stating, Sir, that is a true fact, and the honourable Member knows it.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order: I state that I do not know any such thing. I am stating that the projections when I became Minister responsible were for losses.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The other thing the honourable Member ought to know, Sir, is that promoting the hotel took some time, and that, therefore, when they had their first operating loss it was a period before their promotional efforts had worked. They had a promotional programme over a period of years....

Asides.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Well, read your files if you do not know that.

He would have seen that they projected that their occupancy levels will increase, and that when they reached a certain point in occupancy level - I believe it was some 60 per cent - they would show a significant operating profit.
10.05p.m.

They have achieved what was set out for them, and they have achieved it in record time for such a project. They have done much better, as the honourable Member knows,

than some private sector hotel projects have done, some of which have even gone into bankruptcy.

The Labour Party Government felt justified in pursuing this project, and it has proved once again, Sir, as we have demonstrated with state enterprises, that we were on the right course. I am not surprised that the Government has had to reverse itself on the sale of Heywoods, on the sale of the Hilton and on the sale of the Arawak Cement Plant. There are a few more state enterprises on which, no doubt, it will reverse itself in due course, Sir.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On the oil field.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: That is part of your policy, but Government will reverse itself on a few other areas before its five year term is over.

I want to say a few things to the Minister about the Durants Golf Course project, not that I want to particularly offer the Government much constructive advice on these matters. The Government will discover that the private sector persons have backed away from the Durants Golf Course project. They were invited on occasions, once or twice, before by us to get involved in the reopening of Durants and they have not followed up on this.

I am going to say this quite candidly, Sir, that there are enough hotels in the south of the island who will benefit from this project and they have a duty to participate in the capitalisation of the project. Six million dollars is not a lot of money. The Honourable Minister of Finance has this year alone given back to 16 of the biggest private sector companies in this island \$22 million which was taken away from the poorest sector of the community by way of his taxation measures, and if all they have given back in one year is \$3 million - they can put much more than that, in my submission - behind the Durants Golf Course in the interest of themselves and the island as a whole, the Minister should have no qualms about this matter. He should not expect that the public of Barbados is going to be always financing projects for a few men to make profit at the expense of the mass of the people of Barbados, and I make the statement very seriously that he has to look at the Durants Golf Club course and ask the private sector to put their money where their mouths are on such a project. Ask them why they have backed down from the project on several occasions. If the Minister has not got access to the document, he should try and get access to it.

Hon. Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: The honourable Member just said, as he said before both in here and outside of Parliament, that at the

expense of the poor people of Barbados I gave back \$22 million to 15 corporations in Barbados. I think the honourable Member has misled himself, and I think that it is again a matter of arithmetic. There was, in fact, a 25.6 per cent increase in the amount of corporation taxes paid into the Treasury from those same corporations. What has happened is that you have had a higher level of profits and lower rates of taxes. We have got our taxes and they have retained more. It is a matter of arithmetic and his arithmetic is wrong. It is fundamentally poor arithmetic. We have not lost any money, we have increased our take from those corporations by 25 per cent.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Perhaps the honourable Member will ask his friend, Mr. Peter Boos, to give him a copy of the study done of the companies, which has been put out by Pannell, Kerr, Forster, and perhaps the honourable Member will take the opportunity to study the balance sheets of the companies in which they make the point that the reduction in Corporation Tax has contributed to their coffers. I am going to bring in, for the benefit of the honourable Member, the next debate that we have, a list of the companies and give him the additional savings they have had from the reduction of Corporation Tax. The honourable Member will find himself satisfied that only 20 per cent of the companies in Barbados have benefited in that manner, and the 80 per cent of the one-man companies, the small holders of Barbados, have had no benefit from his taxation policy. If he does not understand that, Sir, I am sorry for him.

Asides.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I am trying to finish this debate, but the honourable Members are so touchy they are jumping up on every point in this debate tonight.

I am saying, Sir, in relation to the Durants project, as we considered it in our time, that the private sector, particularly those who have got such great gifts from the Government, \$22 million in additional profits, where they have \$144 million, the same 16 companies, in retained earnings, a lot of which is not being put to work, and which is going to be syphoned off in stock dividends, divisions of stock, bonus shares, building walls around companies, they should take some of this money and put it in the Durants project. I am talking to the Minister.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: That is what the Member should encourage him to do. If he is going to listen to a couple of accountants who are giving him advice, if he believes that they have the long term interest of all the people of Barbados at heart, he is well mistaken. I work with them, against them and understand them quite carefully. He is really quite mistaken on this, Sir, and I am strongly advising him that

if he wants to use some of the psychology that he is using on other persons to mesmerise them, he should mesmerise that group of people and tell them to help develop Durants for the benefit of themselves and Barbados as a whole. Do not leave the Minister of Sports only to come and ask about it so far as it affects sports and its potential. Use his persuasive powers to ask them to put up the \$6 million that it is necessary to have for this development.

I am pleased to see that some money is now going to be spent on the Hilton Hotel. There is no doubt that we need probably to refurbish the Hilton at a cost between \$8 million and \$10 million, and I would expect that the Government would not have to borrow that money. Once again I note that we left in place proposals for the refurbishing of the Hilton and changes that had to be made at the Hilton Hotel. The honourable Member will even know that the very concepts of the Bill that they brought down here was in its drafting stages before he came in.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The honourable Member knows that You know, you hear them talking as though we have forgotten the files already. Proposals for the refurbishing of the Hilton were being discussed well ahead of May 28, 1986.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order Sir: The honourable Member is accurate in his statement that they were being discussed. The Minister of Finance in the Barbados Labour Party refused to allow them to have the money to refurbish the Hilton. There is a period of complete neglect

Mr. SPEAKER: No point of order.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The honourable Member knows as well that part of the change to be made was an amendment to the Barbados Investment Corporation Act to permit the borrowing of funds by the Investment Corporation for this purpose. He also knows that it was intended to vest the Hilton Hotel in the corporation. This has not yet been done, Hilton has not yet been vested. It was also intended to transfer the Dover Convention Centre to the Investment Corporation.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: We will get an opportunity to discuss tourism in a little more detail a little later when next we come in, Sir. We have no objection to the amendments being made, particularly if they will allow the Investment Corporation to raise the funds necessary for the further development of Hilton and possibly if the Government will also consider the proposals which we left on file for the further development of Heywoods. We had • envisaged at Heywoods that we would have brought in

additional land to*5Xpand the suites which would be available at Heywoods, and we were going to build a suitable Convention Centre at Heywoods. Those were parts of our proposals for this project 10.15p.m.

I am sure that just as the Government has reversed itself on not selling Heywoods, it will recognise that our proposals for the development of this sector were well conceived and ought now to be put into execution.

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

On motion of Hon. P. M. GREAVES, 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 1-3 inclusive were called and passed.

On motion of Hon. B. M. TAITT, seconded by Hon. M. A. KING, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to His Honour the Speaker, the passing of one Bill in Committee, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

APPROPRIATION (1986-87) ACT, 1987

Hon. P. M. GREAVES (St. Michael North): Mr. Speaker, during the financial year the sum of \$69 273 676 was appropriated in addition to sums already passed at the beginning of the financial year.

It is now proposed that this Bill that seeks for the grant of this sum to be appropriated be read, and I move that it be now read a second time.

Hon. Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I beg to second that

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

On the motion of Hon. Dr. R. C. HAYNES, 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 1-4 inclusive were called and passed.

The Schedule was called and passed.

The Preamble was called and passed.

On motion of Hon. Dr. R. C. HAYNES, seconded by Hon. M. A. KING, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to His Honour, the Speaker the passing of one Bill in Committee, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.
10.25 p.m.

On separate motions of Hon. Dr. R. C. HAYNES seconded by Hon. B. M. TAITT, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

OCCUPATIONAL TRAINING (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1987

Hon. M. A. KING (Christ Church West Central): Mr. Speaker, earlier today Your Honour gave information of a Message which you had received from the Honourable the Senate in connection with this Bill. By virtue of the provisions of the Standing Orders of the House, I am moving that the amendments which have been forwarded by the Senate be considered forthwith, under Standing Order No. 53(1), and I am further moving that the amendments as have been proposed by the Senate be concurred in by this Honourable House.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I beg to second that.

The question that the House concur in the amendments was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

QUESTION TIME Mr.

SPEAKER: It is now Question Time.

Parliamentary Question No. 22, stands in the name of the honourable Member for St. Thomas.

QUESTION RE EXPENDITURE RELATED TO STATEMENT AND BUDGETARY PROPOSALS OF JULY 15, 1986

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, the question reads as follows:

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?

Hon. Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, the reply to Parliamentary Question No. 22 asked by the Honourable Member for St. Thomas, is as follows:

(a) \$38 734 346.

(b) As the information sought is quite detailed, it is being provided in a separate document which I now lay.

Mr. SPEAKER: Parliamentary Question No. 42 stands in the name of the honourable Member for St. Andrew.

QUESTION RE DRAINAGE AT ST. ANDREW

Mr. C. A. NEBLETT: Mr. Speaker, the question reads as follows:

To ask the Minister of Transport, Works and Telecommunications: 1. Is the Minister aware of the difficulties which the residents of Mount Hillaby, Saint Andrew, encounter in getting to and from their homes after heavy rainfall because of flooding near the junction with Hillaby Main Road? 2. Will the Minister state whether Government plans (a) to improve drainage in the area of Mount Hillaby/Hillaby Main Road, and (b) if it is feasible, to raise the level of the road in the area of the junction?

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, the reply to Parliamentary Question No. 42, asked by the honourable Member for St. Andrew, is as follows:

"1. Yes, Sir.

2. Drainage in this area will be improved by the construction of concrete boxed drains in the current financial year subject to the availability of funds."

Mr. C. A. NEBLETT: I should like to know from the Minister when such funds will be available for such work.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Sir, I would not know when the funds will become available, but whenever the funds are available, the work will begin.

Mr. C. A. NEBLETT: Mr. Speaker, the promise is that it will be done in this financial year subject to the availability of funds, so I am just hoping that they will be done in this financial year, so that one can give me some idea of the date or period when we can expect such repairs.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Whenever we get the funds, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Parliamentary Question No. 68 stands in the name of the honourable Member for St. James North.

QUESTION RE PLANNING POLICY AT HOLETOWN

Mr. J. J. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, the question reads as follows:

To ask the Minister of Housing and Lands: Will the Minister please state: (1) the planning policy of Government for residential and non-residential development in Hometown on lands on the coastal side of Highway 1, (2) whether Government proposes to alter the existing balance between residential and non-residential development in the above area, and (3) if such alteration is proposed, what proposals are programmed as such alteration?

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker, the reply to Parliamentary Question No. 68, asked by the honourable Member for St. James North, is as follows:

"The planning policy is to permit non-residential uses where such uses are compatible with the residential character of Hometown particularly as it relates to factors of noise and amenity. All new permissions will reflect an approach to the future development of Hometown as an urban centre with tourism type development. The Government proposes to maintain the mixed character of the area."

Mr. SPEAKER: That concludes Question Time.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, that brings us to the end of Government Business for the day.

It has been a very long sitting today. I should like to thank the reporters and the staff of Parliament for the co-operation that they have given us in having to work such long hours.

Sir, we have been sitting for some time now and it is believed it is a proper time that we should take a break for the summer recess. The indications are that when we do meet again, we will be meeting in our refurbished Chamber. Work recommenced on that Chamber, Sir, about a week ago, and it looks very much as if the Chamber will be ready even long before the recess ends.

I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, October 6, 1987, at 12 o'clock noon.

Hon. Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I beg to second that

The question that the House do now adjourn until October 6, 1987, 'was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly. 10.35p.m.

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