

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1986 - 91

Tuesday, November 24, 1987.

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

PRESENT

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

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

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, B.A., M.A. (Econ.), J.P.,
(Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs)

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 International Transport, Telecommunications and Immigration and Leader of the House)

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

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN, B.A., M.A., (Minister of Transport and Works)

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 Education and Culture)

Mr. E. BOURNE

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

Mr. C. A. NEBLETT, B.A., (Parliamentary Secretary, Prime Minister's Office)

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.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON, LL.B.

Prayers were led by Rev. Father Ivan Harewood. Mr.

SPEAKER: The House is in session. MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, November 10, 1987.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I move that the Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, November 10, 1987 be taken as read and confirmed.

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

GOVERNMENT NOTICES Hon. P. M.

GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I give notice of the following:

A Resolution to grant the sum of \$1425 164 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1987-88, Part I -Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1987-88, No. 24, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

If time permits, and the House is agreeable, we would like to do this, in all of its stages, today.

ORAL REPLIES TO QUESTIONS Mr.

SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Transport

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that the replies to Parliamentary Questions Nos. 34,36 and 48 are ready.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Prime Minister, I give notice that the reply to Parliamentary

Question No. 82, asked by the honourable Member for St. Peter, is ready.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, before we commence Orders of the Day, I am moving the suspension of the following Standing Orders - 6, 16, 18, 20, 42(5), 43 and 44.

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

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I move, Sir, that Government Business be now taken.

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

GRANTING TO THE ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF BARBADOS OF LAND SITUATED AT BAXTERS, ST. ANDREW

Order No. 1 was called -to move the passing of a Resolution to approve the grant to the Anglican Diocese of Barbados of a parcel of land situated at Baxters, St. Andrew.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN (St. Philip South): Mr. Speaker, on April 17, 1986 a decision was taken that the property formerly used as the St. Saviour's Mixed School at Baxters, St. Andrew, should be donated to the Anglican Diocese of Barbados, and at a subsequent meeting of the Cabinet on November 3, 1986, that decision was ratified.

This Resolution now seeks the approval of Parliament for the granting of the parcel of land described to the Anglican Diocese of Barbados for religious and Community purposes.

The property consists of three old wooden buildings, sited on approximately 1.007 acres of land.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. C. A. NEBLETT (St. Andrew): Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the Resolution, and to draw this Honourable House's attention to a situation surrounding the said land which is to be given to the church. In fact, I crave your permission here, Sir, to repeat the words of one of the residents of the area when he heard that the matter was going to be brought to the House. He said: "What are you passing? It seems as though you are about to pass wind, because that area is now threatened by the streams that bypass the said area."

Baxters Road collapsed only three weeks ago, and it is affecting the general safety of this area. It seems to me that though we will be passing a gift to the Anglican Church, "at the same time there are some problems that will have to be corrected.

I believe that the other Ministries, the Ministry of Transport and Works and the Ministry of Agriculture, through Soil Conservation, will have to take a very close look at this area. If we do not do some remedial work to the embankment, if we do not charter a proper course for the stream that bypasses, we are going to have a very serious problem, that sooner or later, the whole lot will be on its way to the sea. As much as I support the Resolution, I would like to see brought to the House certain measures that would serve to stabilise the area.

Thank you.

Hon. B. M. TAITT (St. Michael West): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise more in my capacity as a churchman than as a parliamentarian.

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I have to remind honourable Members on both sides that I am one of the few persons, along with my colleague from St. Michael East (Hon. Dr. D. G. Blackman), who had a short spell, who sit in both parliaments. We sit in this Parliament and we sit in the church's parliament. 12.25 p.m.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I am now being reminded by the honourable Member for St. Lucy (Hon. E. E. Greaves) that he was an arch-member long before I was born, apparently.

Sir, I rose to say that I am very glad to see this Resolution, notwithstanding the very valid point made by the honourable Member for St. Andrew (Mr. C. A. Neblett), to whom our sympathy must go, because he represents a constituency that is constantly slipping. The areas around this and other parts of St. Andrew are suffering from geological youth, and as a result, from time to time there is a certain instability which man has not been able to correct, despite many years and substantial sums of money.

I am very glad that this matter has been settled and has now reached the point where the Government can give this property to the Anglican Church. This is in continuation of an exercise that has been going on from time immemorial between the church and the state, where the church has been making its property available to the state. The various churches' intrusions into the education of the country as a whole is well known; the Moravians started it and the rest followed. Even now, Sir, we are in the process of restoring a property, and we will shortly be returning it to the Anglican Church. This is a property at the Glebe which the country had used for some considerable time. Now, with

the establishment of other facilities, they are now able to turn the land back to the church.

Also in the St. Andrew area is a piece of land which is currently owned by the church, right next door to the St Andrew Children's Home. The honourable Member will be pleased to hear that the church has agreed to let the Government have the land at peppercorn rent so that we will be able to improve that piece of land as part of the children's centre, thereby allowing for recreational facilities which do not now exist

I am merely saying, Sir, that I am very happy to see that the co-operation between the church and the state in so far as the exchange of land and property is concerned is continuing, and, I think it is fair to say, increasing and improving. I am sure the Minister will be able soon to speak to the matter of the lands surrounding St. Saviours. I think that a rationalisation of the total area is long overdue. I think I am not speaking out of turn if I said that the matter is receiving attention, but I believe my colleagues, the Minister responsible for Lands and the Minister of Agriculture, will deal with the details.

I wanted merely to record my very deep satisfaction, for me and for all those who cannot speak in this Chamber, at the turn which the relationship between the church and the state has taken.

Thank you, Sir.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker, suffice it to say that the entire area of land slippage, in St. Andrew is at the moment, I believe, engaging the attention of the Ministry of Housing, the Ministry of Transport and Works and the Ministry of Agriculture. I am of the view that the subject of this Resolution will form part of that entire investigation. I do not know St Andrew very well, so I cannot give any specifics like the representative for the area, but St Andrew is engaging the attention of several Ministries at the moment because of the slippage down there.

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

**COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT THE
CORNER OF THE GARRISON ROAD AND HIGHWAY
7, St. MICHAEL**

Order No. 3 was called -to move the passing of a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land situate at the corner of Garrison Road and Highway 7 in the parish of St. Michael for the purpose of the preservation of the Historic Building thereon known as the Savannah Club.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN (St. Philip South): Mr. Speaker, the Government has instituted proceedings in accordance with the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act, Cap. 228, for the compulsory acquisition of the property situated at the Garrison, St. Michael, known as the

Savannah Club, and an adjacent parcel of land which was thought to belong to the Barbados Light and Power. However, it was recently discovered that the Barbados Light and Power had rented that from the Savannah Club.

We have come to the House of Assembly for permission to acquire this spot mainly to facilitate the preservation of the building, the Savannah Club. The Government's decision to acquire the freehold interest of the Savannah Club premises was influenced primarily by a few considerations: the need to preserve the building which is of national, historic and architectural interest; in consideration of the overall plan of creating the Garrison conservation area as a major tourist attraction, and the key position held by the proximity of the club to the Barbados Defence Force.

When action was initiated for this acquisition, it had been stated that it comprised about 1.31 acres of land with two buildings and two lawn tennis hardcourts. A recent survey undertaken by the Lands and Surveys Department has, however, shown that the club owns a smaller area of land of 3 342 square metres, and that an adjacent parcel of land, which, as I said, was thought to belong to the Barbados Light and Power, has been shown to belong to the same Savannah Club. That parcel of land contains 1648 square metres, and steps are being taken to acquire this along with the other club premises.

The original building was constructed between 1803 and 1804 as the main guard of the military garrison. It was the rectangular brick building with a fine clock tower. When you pass, you can see the clock up there. A small guard room was built at the rear several years later, some time before 1821. Mr. Darnley DaCosta purchased the land on which the two buildings stood in 1905 and formed the Savannah Club. The Savannah Club is primarily now a tennis club, although part of the membership play bridge at night and on evenings. The Savannah Club established one tennis court and, later, a second court on the south side of the main building, and constructed the fine wrought iron verandah and porch which contribute greatly to the scale and character of the building. The building, which is widely acknowledged as one of the finest at the Garrison, therefore owes part of its attractiveness to the efforts of the club in the early part of this century.

It is evident, Mr. Speaker, that the building is in need of repair for example, much of the decorative cast iron work is in a state of disrepair, parts of the floor as well, and cracks in the walls need repair work.

It is to be noted, Mr. Speaker, that the Savannah Club had in 1985 submitted a Town Planning application for permission to change the use of part of the building from recreational to office use, in an effort to raise revenue. Since then, the club, in a letter dated 17 December, 1986, indicated that it had made alternative arrangements for the more intensive use of the building, and that it would not involve

a change of use as such. It was also stated that the club's financial position had improved, that it would be able to maintain the building to a reasonably acceptable standard, and that acquisition by Government should not be considered to be a means of ensuring its continued maintenance.

The Garrison Committee expressed the view that there is a strong case for this historic building to belong to the nation of Barbados and that it should not be dependent for survival on the fluctuations of a private institution. The Barbados National Trust endorsed these statements. The Barbados National Trust regards the building as a Class "A" historic building which must not be allowed to fall into disrepair. 12.35 p.m.

After considering all the factors involved in this matter, the Government decided that the property should be acquired, and the building, which is of great significance in the history of the island and an important symbol of the Barbados heritage, should be preserved. At the moment, negotiations are going on between the officials of the Ministry of Housing and Lands and the owners of the property in trying to come to an agreement with respect to price. They are at the moment also waiting on the report of the Commissioner of Land Tax to continue further with the negotiations.

Previously, before this Administration took office, a former Minister of Housing and Lands had indicated to the representatives of the Savannah Club that he proposed entering into a lease-back arrangement with the club of the premises for a minimum period of 25 years at a nominal rent. That says that before this Administration took office, a former Minister of Housing was in agreement with purchasing the building and the property, but his intention was to lease it back to the present owners for a period of 25 years at a nominal rent. This Administration has only decided not to pursue a lease-back arrangement with the owners.

The club will be permitted to continue using the tennis courts and the interior of the building for their bridge sessions for the time being. We have come to an agreement with them, and we will probably give them about two months to find another place to carry out their activities. It is expected that the Government will be in a position to clean up the exterior of the building, trim the trees and repair the clock in connection with the 21st anniversary of the Independence celebrations. Work is going on now.

Parliamentary approval is being sought so that acquisition proceedings may be finalised in respect of the 3 342 square metres of land, together with the buildings thereon, known as the Savannah Club, and also the parcel of 1648 square metres which was originally thought to have belonged to the Barbados Light and Power, but, as

we have now discovered, also belongs to the Garrison Savannah. We are acquiring everything.

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

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that. Sir.

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

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I gave notice of a Resolution earlier today, and I did say at the time that, at some time today, I would seek to have it done in all of its stages.

Sir, the time has come. I have already discussed the matter with the Acting Leader of the Opposition, and it is agreeable to us to do this matter at this point. It is a Resolution for the sum of \$1425 164.

Mr. SPEAKER: There being no objection then, leave is granted. The Minister can proceed with this Resolution.

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

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1987-88 No. 24 - \$1425164

HEAD 15 - CABINET OFFICE - \$125 812

Subhead 5 -Electoral and Boundaries Commission

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD (St Michael South): Mr. Chairman, in respect of Head 15, Cabinet Office, Subhead 5, Electoral and Boundaries Commission, we are seeking supplementary provision in the sum of \$125 812 in order that additional registering officers/official photographers may be employed by the Electoral and Boundaries Commission. The purpose of this is to ensure that each of the 27 constituencies in this country would have an official photographer and registering officer to carry out the functions in each constituency.

All of us know that there are some 13 registering officers/official photographers in place at the present time. But there has been general agreement that each constituency should have its own registering officer and official photographer. If my memory serves me right, at a recent meeting of the House of Assembly this matter was raised, I think on both sides of the House, and I gave the assurance that measures would be taken to ensure the desirable

objective of having a registering officer/official photographer for each constituency.

Mr. Chairman, this is not a Government that dallies. The decisions that are taken are crisp and taken on principle. There is no drift. Any talk about drift would be the figment of the imagination of someone who is not closely following the development of public policy in this country. I believe that I gave that assurance only about two weeks or so ago, and here we are today with the particular measure before this Committee for consideration. 12.45 p.m.

As I said, the principle is accepted, and it should lead to a more efficient registering operation in each constituency, thereby perfecting and placing on a higher level of operation our electoral processes in this country. It is against this background that this supplementary provision is being sought.

A breakdown of the amount required is as follows:

Personal Emoluments - \$67 746 National
Insurance Contributions - \$4 912 Transport
Levy-\$170 Travelling Allowance - \$10080
Plant, Equipment and Furniture - \$42 904.

I commend this supplementary provision to the Committee, and I beg to move that the sum of \$125 812 for Head 15, Subhead 5, Electoral and Boundaries Commission, stand part.

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

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS (St Thomas): Mr. Chairman, the Opposition wholeheartedly supports this Resolution. Indeed, I wish to compliment the Honourable Prime Minister, who, two or three weeks ago, did give his assurance that he was in support of the call of both sides for the additional registering officers.

I was not aware at the time that the registering officer is also the same person as the official photographer, so that one person will now do both functions. I see "Registering Officer/Official Photographer" in the Addendum. We have no quarrel with that. I just wanted to be sure that the policy is that one person will do both functions. I think that is, in fact, a lot neater.

We are grateful, Sir, that the Honourable Prime Minister has kept his word to the House on doing something urgent about this. We can look forward to next year with more comfort.

The Opposition does not intend to comment on whether there is drift or not. That is a matter of public perception, and at this hour, we are not going to get into that argument. We just wish to compliment the Prime

Minister for having moved so fast on a matter that required no great intellectual struggle.

Hon. B. M. TAITT (St. Michael West): Mr. Chairman, I am not going to deal with intellectual struggle at all, because then I would not be able to deal with the honourable Member.

Sir, since on these matters of electoral concerns we tend to have the whip off and to speak quite freely, and since I am one of those persons who called vociferously for this measure, I wish to thank the Prime Minister for the expedition with which he has returned to the House with the necessary legislation.

I want to take this opportunity to urge him to continue in this direction and to bring a measure of better arrangement for the constituencies, constituency representatives, and the offices, on whether they should be given assistance beyond the secretarial assistance that was given more than two to three years ago when the last Administration was in office. I do not think there are many persons who do not in fact have constituency offices, and these constituency offices serve as points for the constituents in the various constituencies, and I believe that notwithstanding other partisan positions that we would find in all of the countries *ad idem* proper representation of the people - and proper representation requires that the constituent be able to go to his parliamentary representative in an office that is comfortable, not commodious but comfortable - certain facilities should be made available in that office.

But more important, so far as the Electoral and Boundaries Commission is concerned, I hope that now we have this staffing in place, we can once and for all time eliminate from the electoral list the number of names of persons who have long passed this earth and who have gone to the Great Beyond. There is no excuse now, but there certainly will be no excuse, for an electoral list which still contain within it names of persons who everybody knows are dead, some of them for very long periods. I think that the reason why this continues to happen is not to be found only in the lack of manpower that used to dog the Electoral Office, but also in the system which we have of recording deaths and reporting them, and one of the things which we may have to examine - in fact one is examining it at the moment in a preliminary way - is whether death certificates ought not to be issued from the place or the Ministry which has first knowledge of the death. Let me put it that way.

In the United States, for example, if one applies for a birth certificate or a death certificate, one gets it from the Department of Health of the particular municipality, and whereas one is not seeking to get any additional work in the Ministry of Health, it may very well be that we can look at the system which used to obtain a long time ago, when births were recorded at the hospital were immediately forwarded in a particular way, and so the actual recording of a birth would form part of the certificate of that birth. That is how

it is now in the more advanced countries. When a child is born in a particular hospital, the record of that birth in that hospital becomes the record of the Ministry or Department of Health; so there is a single record of that particular birth, and the name can be added later if the parents of the child do not have a name to hand. Similarly, if a person dies in an institution, that institution has to record the death, and it seems that if that death is recorded in a computer, and that computer is by modem speaking to other computers, then the recording will no longer be as a result of a laborious exercise by a number of people who are capable, of, and sometimes make, mistakes. 12.55 p.m.

I am, therefore, suggesting that the time has come in Barbados, with a mere 254 000 people, for us to have the kinds of records in these routine areas so that there would be no difficulty and the Electoral and Boundaries Commission can be assured of accuracy in an electoral roll. It has never ceased to amaze me that in a relatively small number of people, we can have so many errors in the simple matter of listing people in alphabetical order. One is very pleased, therefore, that we are going to have a full time officer, whose responsibility it will be to maintain a proper electoral list for his constituency.

This brings me to my final point, Sir. I hope that the Electoral and Boundaries Commission will seek to give the spirit to this Resolution that we are giving the body to. That is to say, I have observed advertisements for registering officers for 13 constituencies. I did not see the constituency of St. Michael West among them. I am, therefore, going to presume that there is a person now living in St Michael West who is already a registering officer and who will therefore be the registering officer for St. Michael West

I do not now know who the registering officers are, because so long as there was not a single one for my constituency, I refused to become concerned about who the one assigned to me was. But now that we are going to have, each of us - at least *pro tern* our own registering officer, I wish to assume, as I believe all of my colleagues will assume, that the electoral and registering officer will reside in the constituency. If he does not now so reside, he had better take steps to move in, because the whole basis for this system is to ease the constituents, not the representatives, to allow them to be able to know who the registering officer is and to be able to find him or her at a place, not occasionally, for two hours in a school room, but regularly and often.

I have a very strong view about this. I do not really mind who is appointed as my electoral officer and returning officer, so long as the persons have integrity. They may even belong to the other party, it does not put me out, as long as they do not practise. I do not wish any practising politicians functioning in the Electoral Office; let them come down into the pit with us and battle down there.

Quite seriously, Sir, as long as the person is acquainted with truth and integrity, I really do not care who is appointed, because the job is one which can be monitored, ^ and if any person who is doing that job attempts to do it in an indifferent way, any keen representative would soon know.

Let me say, Sir, that in all of the time I have had the honour to represent St. Michael West, I have had nothing but courteous and efficient service from those persons who have been appointed to work in this particular function. Notwithstanding all that I said, the last person that I am aware of who held this office is a person who lives on the border of the constituency, but who was well known and whose integrity throughout all the elections has never been questioned either by my opponents - and I have had several of those - or by myself. He has retired, and before him, the lady also retired. I think she was retired by the Barbados Labour Party Administration, she retired prematurely, but we are not discussing those matters today. The point is, Sir, that each of them served with distinction, and I think I should take this opportunity to put in the record my sincere thanks to them and to the persons - I will not call their names - who worked in the Electoral Office before it became the Electoral and Boundaries Commission. They have served with distinction, and I just wish to record my personal appreciation for what they have done up to now.

Thank you, Sir.

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

HEAD 34 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE - \$1 394 336

Hon. C. V. WALKER (St. George North): Mr. Chairman, this Resolution under Head 34, with the appropriate subheads - 12, 13, 14 and 17 - is for a supplementary provision of \$1 394 336 which is required under this Head for the payment of grants which should come from the Training Levy.

Under Subhead 12 - Barbados Community College - we are asking for \$250 000, which will deal primarily with the provision of personal emoluments in the electronics area, the computer science area, fashion design, the business studies area, the administrative area and part-time instructors.

Under Subhead 13 - Other Institutions - we are dealing specifically with the National Training Board for a sum of \$518466. As you know, the existing provision of \$3550000, which was originally in the Estimates, was inadequate to meet the cost of implementing the board's programme for the year.

Under Subhead 14 - the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic - here we are asking for a sum of \$67 900.

objective of having a registering officer/official photographer for each constituency.

Mr. Chairman, this is not a Government that dallies. The decisions that are taken are crisp and taken on principle. There is no drift. Any talk about drift would be the figment of the imagination of someone who is not closely following the development of public policy in this country. I believe that I gave that assurance only about two weeks or so ago, and here we are today with the particular measure before this Committee for consideration. 12.45 p.m.

As I said, the principle is accepted, and it should lead to a more efficient registering operation in each constituency, thereby perfecting and placing on a higher level of operation our electoral processes in this country. It is against this background that this supplementary provision is being sought.

A breakdown of the amount required is as follows:

Personal Emoluments - \$67 746 National
Insurance Contributions - \$4 912 Transport
Levy - \$ 170 Travelling Allowance -
\$10080 Plant, Equipment and Furniture -
\$42 904.

I commend this supplementary provision to the Committee, and I beg to move that the sum of \$125 812 for Head 15, Subhead 5, Electoral and Boundaries Commission, stand part.

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

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS (St Thomas): Mr. Chairman, the Opposition wholeheartedly supports this Resolution. Indeed, I wish to compliment the Honourable Prime Minister, who, two or three weeks ago, did give his assurance that he was in support of the call of both sides for the additional registering officers.

I was not aware at the time that the registering officer is also the same person as the official photographer, so that one person will now do both functions. I see "Registering Officer/Official Photographer" in the Addendum. We have no quarrel with that. I just wanted to be sure that the policy is that one person will do both functions. I think that is, in fact, a lot neater.

We are grateful, Sir, that the Honourable Prime Minister has kept his word to the House on doing something urgent about this. We can look forward to next year with more comfort.

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Minister for having moved so fast on a matter that required no great intellectual struggle.

Hon. B. M. TAITT (St. Michael West): Mr. Chairman, I am not going to deal with intellectual struggle at all, because then I would not be able to deal with the honourable Member.

Sir, since on these matters of electoral concerns we tend to have the whip off and to speak quite freely, and since I am one of those persons who called vociferously for this measure, I wish to thank the Prime Minister for the expedition with which he has returned to the House with the necessary legislation.

I want to take this opportunity to urge him to continue in this direction and to bring a measure of better arrangement for the constituencies, constituency representatives, and the offices, on whether they should be given assistance beyond the secretarial assistance that was given more than two to three years ago when the last Administration was in office. I do not think there are many persons who do not in fact have constituency offices, and these constituency offices serve as points for the constituents in the various constituencies, and I believe that notwithstanding other partisan positions that we would find in all of the countries *ad idem* proper representation of the people - and proper representation requires that the constituent be able to go to his parliamentary representative in an office that is comfortable, not commodious but comfortable - certain facilities should be made available in that office.

But more important, so far as the Electoral and Boundaries Commission is concerned, I hope that now we have this staffing in place, we can once and for all time eliminate from the electoral list the number of names of persons who have long passed this earth and who have gone to the Great Beyond. There is no excuse now, but there certainly will be no excuse, for an electoral list which still contain within it names of persons who everybody knows are dead, some of them for very long periods. I think that the reason why this continues to happen is not to be found only in the lack of manpower that used to dog the Electoral Office, but also in the system which we have of recording deaths and reporting them, and one of the things which we may have to examine - in fact, one is examining it at the moment in a preliminary way - is whether death certificates ought not to be issued from the place or the Ministry which has first knowledge of the death. Let me put it that way.

In the United States, for example, if one applies for a birth certificate or a death certificate, one gets it from the Department of Health of the particular municipality, and whereas one is not seeking to get any additional work in the Ministry of Health, it may very well be that we can look at the system which used to obtain a long time ago, when births were recorded at the hospital were immediately forwarded in a particular way, and so the actual recording of a birth would form part of the certificate of that birth. That is how

it is now in the more advanced countries. When a child is born in a particular hospital, the record of that birth in that hospital becomes the record of the Ministry or Department of Health; so there is a single record of that particular birth, and the name can be added later if the parents of the child do not have a name to hand. Similarly, if a person dies in an institution, that institution has to record the death, and it seems that if that death is recorded in a computer, and that computer is by modem speaking to other computers, then the recording will no longer be as a result of a laborious exercise by a number of people who are capable, of, and sometimes make, mistakes. 12.55 p.m.

I am, therefore, suggesting that the time has come in Barbados, with a mere 254 000 people, for us to have the kinds of records in these routine areas so that there would be no difficulty and the Electoral and Boundaries Commission can be assured of accuracy in an electoral roll. It has never ceased to amaze me that in a relatively small number of people, we can have so many errors in the simple matter of listing people in alphabetical order. One is very pleased, therefore, that we are going to have a full time officer, whose responsibility it will be to maintain a proper electoral list for his constituency.

This brings me to my final point, Sir. I hope that the Electoral and Boundaries Commission will seek to give the spirit to this Resolution that we are giving the body to. That is to say, I have observed advertisements for registering officers for 13 constituencies. I did not see the constituency of St. Michael West among them. I am, therefore, going to presume that there is a person now living in St Michael West who is already a registering officer and who will therefore be the registering officer for St. Michael West

I do not now know who the registering officers are, because so long as there was not a single one for my constituency, I refused to become concerned about who the one assigned to me was. But now that we are going to have, each of us - at least *pro tern* our own registering officer, I wish to assume, as I believe all of my colleagues will assume, that the electoral and registering officer will reside in the constituency. If he does not now so reside, he had better take steps to move in, because the whole basis for this system is to ease the constituents, not the representatives, to allow them to be able to know who the registering officer is and to be able to find him or her at a place, not occasionally, for two hours in a school room, but regularly and often.

I have a very strong view about this. I do not really mind who is appointed as my electoral officer and returning officer, so long as the persons have integrity. They may even belong to the other party, it does not put me out, as long as they do not practise. I do not wish any practising politicians functioning in the Electoral Office; let them come down into the pit with us and battle down there.

Quite seriously, Sir, as long as the person is acquainted with truth and integrity, I really do not care who is appointed, because the job is one which can be monitored, and if any person who is doing that job attempts to do it in an indifferent way, any keen representative would soon know.

Let me say, Sir, that in all of the time I have had the honour to represent St. Michael West, I have had nothing but courteous and efficient service from those persons who have been appointed to work in this particular function. Notwithstanding all that I said, the last person that I am aware of who held this office is a person who lives on the border of the constituency, but who was well known and whose integrity throughout all the elections has never been questioned either by my opponents - and I have had several of those - or by myself. He has retired, and before him, the lady also retired. I think she was retired by the Barbados Labour Party Administration, she retired prematurely, but we are not discussing those matters today. The point is, Sir, that each of them served with distinction, and I think I should take this opportunity to put in the record my sincere thanks to them and to the persons - I will not call their names - who worked in the Electoral Office before it became the Electoral and Boundaries Commission. They have served with distinction, and I just wish to record my personal appreciation for what they have done up to now.

Thank you, Sir.

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

HEAD 34 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE - \$1 394 336

Hon. C. V. WALKER (St. George North): Mr. Chairman, this Resolution under Head 34, with the appropriate subheads - 12, 13, 14 and 17 - is for a supplementary provision of \$1 394 336 which is required under this Head for the payment of grants which should come from the Training Levy.

Under Subhead 12 - Barbados Community College - we are asking for \$250 000, which will deal primarily with the provision of personal emoluments in the electronics area, the computer science area, fashion design, the business studies area, the administrative area and part-time instructors.

Under Subhead 13 - Other Institutions - we are dealing specifically with the National Training Board for a sum of \$518466. As you know, the existing provision of \$3550000, which was originally in the Estimates, was inadequate to meet the cost of implementing the board's programme for the year.

Under Subhead 14 - the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic - here we are asking for a sum of \$67 900.

We are also asking for \$500000 for BIMAP as well as \$58 000 for the Barbados Employers' Confederation.

Mr. Chairman, as we approach the end of this year, we are in fact not asking for that much to complete these very important programmes which are part of the requirements within the Ministry of Education.

I ask that Head 34 - Subheads 12,13,14 and 17 -stand part-

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

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS (SL Thomas): Mr. Chairman, I have a little difficulty reconciling the figures. I know this was done in a hurry, I do not know if this is an error. In the Addendum, the total supplementary provision sought is \$1299352 and the specific provision for the National Training Board seems to be \$423452 in the Addendum, but I heard the Minister read a figure of \$518 466.1 do not know if we need to amend the Resolution in the light of what is printed and what has been orally told to the House. If there is an error, the Minister will have to make the appropriate application for an amendment

With regard to the National Training Board, I wonder if the Minister could tell us, first of all, whether the original programmes relating to the Work Experience and the Apprenticeship Scheme are still in being. If so, what are the numbers of persons being trained for apprenticeship? What are the numbers of persons engaged on work experience programmes? What are the numbers of persons engaged in skills training? 1.05 p.m.

I know the Minister is relatively new to the actual day-to-day management of the Ministry, so I am not going to press him beyond those questions. But we have had, really, nothing since March as to what is happening in terms of the provision of training for young people, which is very important, and I would like to know to what extent the Minister has conceptualised any integration between general education and specific occupational and vocational training, because, I believe, that there are linked.

Mr. C. L. TROTMAN (St. Michael Central): Mr. Chairman, I should like to use the occasion of my support for this particular vote to repeat a call I had made some time ago for a review of the structure and staffing at the Barbados Community College. That need was recognised somewhere in the region of 1978, and efforts have been made ever since that time for some proper comprehensive review of the structure of staff salaries at that institution. In fact, the organisation I have the honour to work for, submitted proposals to Establishments somewhere in 1980 for such a review.

Discussions were held with the Establishments Division, with the Government in the administration of the day, but that matter was deferred, and is still deferred.

Meanwhile, the workload of the employees, the teaching staff and the supporting staff, of the Barbados Community College is still a matter for some concern. The hours of work and methods in which the work are conducted are still matters for some concern, especially with the increasing of disciplines that are now under the portfolio of the Barbados Community College. The question of the purpose and the function of the Barbados Community College would also very clearly want to call for some review as a matter of urgency.

I wish to urge the Government to look with speed and alacrity at the matter of staffing at the Barbados Community College. If that does not happen, notwithstanding the Government interest in upgrading the quality of education, and doing so by upgrading the quality of staffing, we might very easily find ourselves in a situation where the staff, especially in the technical areas, will find work outside of teaching much more attractive than remaining at institutions of learning where they do not find any reasonable emoluments for the sacrificial labour that they give.

I also wish, Sir, to look at the grants which have been given to various institutions, imaginably, for training. We note that the Barbados Institute of Management and Productivity has \$500000 and that the Barbados Employers Confederation has a figure of \$58 000, so that employers collectively have \$558 000. It must, therefore, be a matter of some concern for me, and I dare say for others as well, to find, Mr. Chairman, that the Barbados Workers Union has been able merely to get a paltry increase from the Labour Party's \$15000 per annum to \$30000. People say you should not look a gift horse in the mouth, but I believe that when you see that the other horses are thoroughbreds, you have to look at your jackass and wonder how come your gift does not manage to teach some proportions respectable and in keeping with the contribution which is made one institution versus the contributions, or the perceived contributions of the other institutions.

I would not say anything disparaging about the level of training by any institution in Barbados. But I say that the Barbados Workers Union would make bold to say that the mass level of training that it gives to the workers of Barbados, and its contribution through that awareness programme to productivity, public awareness and the national well-being of our community, is such that we should not be having these kinds of disparities represented in the grants, which they quite clearly are, to institutions which are involved in training.

Finally, it might very well be useful if the Ministry were able to indicate preparedness to accept reasonable proposals and suggestions from institutions which may not now be well known, but which can represent and show that they are interested in training, not training necessarily of a group of persons who already have jobs, but training of groups of persons who may not have jobs, but whose training may equip those individuals to become self-

employed and to be able to make work for themselves for the community in some 'productive manner. It might be useful if those persons were able to go to some agency within the Ministry to present a case and to know that some grant would be made available to them. If that is not now so, I would urge the Minister and the Government to make such provisions, and to make the public aware of such provisions.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS (Christ Church East Central): Mr. Chairman, I would like to add my comments in support of the general observations made by my colleague, the honourable Member for St Michael Central (Mr. C. L. Trotman).

I would also like to support the suggestion that there should be some upgrading of the staff of the Barbados Community College in terms of the conditions which they enjoy. I think that when that college was established by the Democratic Labour Party, the perception of the sixth form college was one which gave them a certain advantage, I think, over other teachers in other schools, because it was understood that the direction in which that institution would be going would have been a very progressive one in terms of tertiary education. I think that some erosion of that particular philosophy came about under the Barbados Labour Party Administration, when there was a regrading upwards of teachers in the secondary schools and, indeed, in the primary schools, which changed the differential between the status of teachers at the Community College and those at other schools.

I say this as a former teacher there, and you, yourself, Mr. Chairman, would know the experience, as, indeed, the Prime Minister. Only few people could talk about this. The truth is that the Community College has been able in the past to attract a certain quality of teacher, but because of certain positions there, this teacher has been moving on, because I think that there has not been sufficient consideration given to the development, the direction in which the College has been going. 1.15p.m.

The college is not just another sixth form institution. If you look at the kinds of programmes that have been expanded in recent times, you will see that, in fact, the Community College is performing para-university kind of training. You will notice that these persons who pass the N-1 are exempt from the first year at University, and you will also notice that there are a number of courses now, Associate Arts Degree, that have been started there. All these are suggestive of the fact that the college is moving ahead and calls for special consideration.

Those of us who have worked there know that in, for instance, commerce, or in terms of getting lawyers to teach, or people with qualifications in accounting or in engineering areas, it is extremely difficult to maintain staff. Part of the reason for that is the kinds of conditions of employment

that they enjoy. I am really suggesting that we need to pay a great deal of consideration to the Community College, and commensurate with that, I think you have to look, too, at another group of professionals, that is, the educational ^ officers, because the relationship between those two groups of persons is very important, and in looking at one, we need to look at the other.

On the point that my colleague made about the grants made to these various institutions, quite frankly I would like some clarification of what is happening at the BEC in terms of training. I know that BIMAP has an institution, I know that the Barbados Workers Union has a Labour College, but I am not sure what the employers are doing, and clearly I would be astounded if the employers could get \$58 000 to carry out what would be basically *ad hoc* programmes. They have no institution, with staffing and so on, and no buildings to maintain.

We spend over \$250 000 at the Labour College every year out of contributions from our members, and we run courses throughout the year, and if we can only attract a grant from the Government of \$30 000, and the employers, with no programme that we know about, can attract \$58 000, * that is a very serious matter, and I am making this point on behalf of the 30,000 members of the Barbados Workers Union. This is not any small particularistic position I am putting forward by any small group, this is a matter of national concern. I do not know where these employers' courses are run, I do not know how many people are able to benefit from this kind of training, but I can bet that it will not be 30000 persons who will form that pool from which training can be drawn, and we normally train about 600 persons in the Labour College every year.

I am very concerned about the amount of money that is going in that direction. Clearly, I cannot be speaking against Government making a grant to employers to provide training. I think that is extremely important. But what I do not understand is that if you have BIMAP, if you have an Institute of Management and Productivity that is getting >> \$500 000 a year, and there is room for a trade union, because that is what the BEC is - the BEC is just another trade union, it has no institution - where is it getting all this money from? If it is a practice that has been encouraged in the past, I believe that it needs to be reviewed. I think it is a very important thing, and I will support the point made by my colleague.

In terms of the question of the training aspect of the Resolution, I, for one, am happy that it seems that our training agencies are now being centralised under the Ministry of Education. I know that there is a view that training perhaps should be split between Labour and Education. I believe that, as far as possible, training agencies should be centralised. That is the first thing I want to stress. I am happy at any movement in the direction of centralisation of the training agencies, and I see no reason *. why it cannot be centralised under the Ministry of

Education. I expect, of course, that there will be close relationship with the Ministry of Labour, and there can be no difficulty in this at all in an Administration like ours.

Asides.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: I can make a case for centralisation. I do not think I need to sell that case, but I could. I believe it should be centralised, because, in many instances, when different departments are dealing with training, sometimes the left hand does not know what the right hand is doing and you get a lot of duplication of effort. There are other arguments that can be used.

Asides.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: The honourable Member for St. Michael East's comment is that perhaps the argument is for co-ordination rather than centralisation. Perhaps I should spell out more what I mean by centralisation, because we might be speaking about the same thing. I am not talking about centralisation in the sense of a location for the control. My centralisation and your co-ordination, I believe, may be similar, if we discuss them at length.

The Work Experience programme that has been addressed, I see that not so much as part of a training effort, but I think, generally speaking, it is an attempt to deal with employment basically. It is a quasi-employment strategy, and I think it was introduced just before the last General Elections for a particular reason, too. I think at that time you had about \$3 million out of the Training grant and you decided to go the Work Experience programme route. Whether you want to maintain that for a long time is a different thing.

I have been hearing some very disturbing news coming from employers. I understand that one employer trying to get into the 806 programme actually applied to the National Training Board to get an entire staff coming from the training facility of that board. This person would have had an entire company that would have been manned by trainees in order to get into that 806 programme.

I want to send a clear message to employers in Barbados. We have to recognise that there are certain programmes that we cannot get into, and if we cannot get into those programmes, let us understand that up front. You cannot hope to use short cuts from paying for labour what labour deserves by trying to substitute labour by using trainees in a programme like this. I think it is a very sad story in Barbados in 1987 that a manufacturer would come to a Government agency asking for it to supply trainees to man a complete factory.

I want the manufacturers to understand that they have a role to play in determining the training policies of any Administration, and the manufacturers have to understand that if they are to progress, it has to be on a sound basis, not a basis of asking for hand-outs in any form. I think that that is not a good reflection if we are trying to push our

manufacturing sector. I think it is heinous and reprehensible that that request could have been made of a Government agency in 1987, to man a factory by trainees.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR and Mr. C. L. TROTMAN rose.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will recognise the honourable Member for St. Peter.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

When last the matter of occupational training came before the House, the Opposition was at pains to make two basic points, the first point being that there was obviously a surplus accruing from the proceeds of the Training Levy fund over and above the amount required to operate the National Training Board, and that we thought it was a false economy to have a situation where funds earmarked for training were not being utilised fully for the benefit of the young people of the country.

We were also at pains, Mr. Chairman, to make the additional point that the financial arrangements whereby the Training Levy funds were going into the Consolidated Fund rather than into the Training Levy Fund, as was the case in the past, would have put the National Training Board at some peril in the exercise of its normal functions, not as an employment agency, but as the umbrella group responsible for the co-ordination of all training programmes in the country, whether executed under public auspices or on behalf of the private sector.

We are very pleased, therefore, to see that these Resolutions have been brought to the House, first of all, obviously to ensure that the \$6 million that is being raised in the name of training in this country does, in fact, go to training, because that is the purpose of the programme. The level of unemployment among young people in Barbados is so very high that it would be a very incorrect policy to have funds available for the assistance of young people of the country and have these funds used for purposes other than training. 1.25 p.m.

The second point about which we are very pleased, Mr. Chairman, is to see that an effort is now being made to make sure that the training programmes of other institutions are now being reflected in the Estimates of Expenditure.

But the mere reflection of expenditure in the Estimates does not mean that there is co-ordination. And like the honourable Member for Christ Church East Central (Mr. R. L. Morris), I would really want to be informed as to the exact character of the programmes that are being conceived of to expend \$558 000. I want to know, Mr. Chairman, precisely what has been the role of the National Training Board in assisting in formulating the programmes that will now take up such a very large proportion of the Training Fund. Indeed, the point made by the honourable Member for Christ Church East Central is very well taken, that in a sense some \$558 000 is being spent on training in the

interest of capital whereas only \$77 000 is being spent on training in the interest of labour. Clearly, if the National Training Board is to perform a co-ordinating role in this particular matter, one of the co-ordinating roles that it must perform is to ensure that the distribution between training as conceived of by labour institutions and training as conceived of by management is not so disproportionately skewed in favour of management, as would seem to be implied by these numbers.

My colleagues asked questions as regards the specific nature of the training programmes now under the auspices of the National Training Board. I go further. I want to know precisely what the National Training Board is doing to fully co-ordinate the training activities of all these institutions which are now being supported on budget. I want to know precisely what is the programme that we are being called upon to support today to the extent of \$558 000 in the name of the Barbados Institute of Management and Productivity and in the name of the Barbados Employers Confederation. We want to know, Sir, precisely in what form, and in what sense, have programmes to be funded to that extent been integrated into a national programme for training. If the Minister is in a position to deal with these particular things, Sir, the Opposition would be very much obliged.

Mr. C. L. TROTMAN: Mr. Chairman, the point which is being made here by my colleague from Christ Church East Central, and which I endeavoured to make earlier, bears repetition, and it is clear that we have support from the Member for St. Peter.

The fundamental point, Sir, is that the employer has a responsibility to train and to pay for that training from his operational expenses. If the employer has that fundamental expense to train his employees, we need to be able to understand what we are seeing today when the Barbados Workers Union finds itself - not having to train - the Barbados Workers Union position is to endeavour to get better working conditions for its employees, but because of its national characteristics, because of its concern for upgrading the quality of life for the entire country, it has moved beyond bread and butter issues to train, not because that is its *raison d'être*.

On the other hand, Sir, and contrarily we are finding \$558 000 looked at against \$15 000, now raised to \$30 000. Something has to be wrong with the figures. I am saying that we have to be able to understand and to relate to that particular problem.

My colleague and friend from Christ Church East Central has made reference to the quality of training. I am not too familiar with the training. He knows a bit more than me, because I was not aware there was training from the institution which is getting \$58 000, but I accept that there must be.

I am very conscious of the fact, on the other hand, that when once we have been able within the Barbados Workers

Union to run programmes, we have been able to get the same employees to recognise that the productivity levels and the national consciousness of the workers have been significantly improved. But we have to do that at very great sacrifice to ourselves when the organisation does not have to set aside money for training. Therefore, Sir, we are very concerned to have that matter addressed, and I am calling for an urgent redress of the figures. I am suggesting, Mr. Chairman, that the Barbados Workers Union needs to get a figure no less bountiful than the figure which has been offered to the Barbados Employers Confederation.

I want to go beyond that and make the very strong point that, now that we are into the Training board situation, we must guard against allowing the Training Board, by virtue of the training which is being done, to have itself sucked into an arrangement where it is used by the unscrupulous and/or the unthinking to provide employment via trainees in place of employment which is supposed to be provided by full time employees who are available to offer themselves on the employment market. You heard reference, Sir, to one situation in which a company was asking that almost the 100 employees it would have would be trainees, and what we are discovering is that a number of companies are going the direction of using trainees in their establishment when, in fact, they are supposed to use trainees only when they already have the full time workers, and where the trainees are supposed to have orientation.

I urge the Government to police the system to prevent this exploitation of the workers of this country, for what, in essence, is happening is that those trainees are being used in a progressive manner to lower the flooring of wages in this country. If it is allowed to continue, we are going to find two things are happening: On the one hand, the Government will be asked to pay the wages of the employers of some of these unscrupulous companies and on the other hand, a company or an industry, where the wage rate, for the sake of argument, was \$150 per week, will find itself progressively being brought into a situation where the wages are not \$150 a week any more, but \$125 or \$100 per week. We have to guard against that kind of exploitation.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD (St. Michael South): Mr. Chairman, I have listened to the comments which have been made in this debate. I am not winding up the debate, but I hope that what I may say might meet some of the points that have been made by the members of the Opposition and the Members on the Government side who have spoken.

First of all, I believe that this country must be committed to an effective and efficient training programme, because in a situation in which we have to make our way in the world, it is absolutely necessary that the goods and services which we produce should be produced at the most cost effective level possible. Barbados is not a cheap producer of goods and services, and we have to find ways

and means to make our goods and services more competitive in the world market. To achieve this, we have to ensure that the quality of our products and services, is enhanced, and one of the best known methods of doing that is to ensure that the quality of the workers who work in the various work places and the quality of the management is at the highest possible levels. 1.35p.m.

I think both political parties and Governments in this country have been committed to a programme of training, but how we actually set about to deliver those programmes may be a matter for discussion. In this Resolution before us, the provision for the Barbados Community College and the provision for the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic fall within known perimeters and objectives that are generally acceptable and present no problem. But questions have been raised in relation to the National Training Board, the Barbados Institute of Management and Productivity and the Barbados Employers Confederation. Those are queries which we ourselves on this side have, and I am saying now, in response to those matters which have been raised, that we are examining these matters. We are asking for the Committee to approve the Resolution that is before us, but I would like to inform the House that in respect of the provisions relating to the National Training Board, the Barbados Institute of Management and Productivity and the Barbados Employers Confederation, we will not proceed to disburse any funds in relation to this supplementary request, if approved, until we are satisfied that the information is correct, and I can come back to the House, if Members so wish, with that particular information. I give the House that particular assurance. It means that we take into account the comments which Members make. We have a Government that listens, ...

(Aside: Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: That is all it does!)

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: and on the few occasions the Opposition makes any sense,.....

Laughter.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:.... we will take that into account.

I give the House the assurance that if the Committee passes this, and the House subsequently passes it, there will be no expenditure of funds in relation to the National Training Board, the Barbados Institute of Management and Productivity and the Barbados Employers Confederation until we have done a review of the programmes of training, and we will come back and make a statement to the House on that particular matter.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, the Opposition will accept the Honourable Prime Minister's assurance, but I must confess that I am grossly disappointed that what has happened today, in effect, is that the Government came in here for this supplementary of over \$1.2 million. A

supplementary, in the normal course of things, ought to have gone to Cabinet and received Cabinet's approval, and Cabinet would have authorised that it should come to the House, and I would have thought that the Members on the front bench would have done their homework and asked the kinds of questions that were asked in here today before they gave approval.

We have all got in here today and ventilated our concerns. There have not really been any severe criticisms. Members have been asking for information. There has been one area of philosophical concern, and that is, how can this Government give so much money to capital accounts as against that group that is on the side of labour and that has done so much for labour?

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Fifteen thousand dollars more.

We are concerned that questions were asked about the extent to which Government would co-ordinate a programme of training within its own national educational development programme.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You are going quite well. Please continue.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am being told to back off, though.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am not going to press too hard on this in the light of the indication.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Baiting me?

I am disappointed that the Democratic Labour Party Government, which has promoted this supplementary, has not done its homework with sufficient care before coming in today. In the spirit of Independence, ...

Laughter.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: we should be as one people, and I am not going to press too hard. Let us hope in the future that there will be more incisive thought and consideration given to matters like these, which are matters, essentially, of fundamental substance which go towards the development of our young people, how we are going to provide for them in terms of education and training, and, ultimately, in terms of finding jobs for them. 1.45 p.m.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER (City of Bridgetown): Mr. Chairman, my contribution to this will be short. We as the Government have put a lot of emphasis on the private sector, and we have determined, with a lot of justification, that the

private sector will assist in the turn around of the serious unemployment problems we are facing.

I agree that we have to be extremely careful when we use such a general term as "private sector", because, like everything else, even in the private sector, to which I belong, there are many bad apples. But I believe that if we are going to be able to be of any serious assistance to particularly the manufacturing sector - let me be specific and identify the indigenous manufacturing sector - we are going to have to look carefully at the type of relevant training that is necessary for that subsector of the private sector.

I am sure you know, Sir, that several indigenous manufacturers in Barbados became so, I would say, by osmosis. Many of us started off as tradesmen and craftsmen, and one day woke up and found ourselves in positions where we were employing a number of people and we suddenly called ourselves manufacturers. In most cases we were not trained in management.

We have a psychological problem where people in Barbados, black people particularly, believe that if we own a company, we do not necessarily have to attend a course to be trained as a manager. There is a belittling feeling about it, but I believe that we are going to have to impress on these manufacturers that they do need that type of training. They also need to recognise that if you are good at making furniture, maybe you need to be the Production Manager and not the General Manager, maybe you need to hire someone to be your General Manager and stick to production. The constant cry we hear by many sectors for quality from the manufacturing sector can be born out of this kind of situation. So while I support the need for BIMAP to have financial assistance. I also agree with the Honourable Prime Minister that the type of training that is going to be provided has to be carefully looked at to determine the relevance to what we intend to do in terms of taking Barbados into the 21st century. We must also recognise that we have to put the indigenous manufacturers on a firm footing. They are not going anywhere; unlike the enclave industries which come and go, I believe that most of us are here to stay. The type of training will determine whether or not the Honourable Minister of Trade will see some of his dreams come true in terms of improved exports. It will determine if we are going to be able to earn the foreign exchange that we need, because if BIMAP or any such institution pays closer attention to the kind of training that is necessary to improve these areas, I believe that a lot of the other pieces will fall into place.

I, too, am a bit concerned, like the Member for Christ Church East Central (Mr. R. L. Morris), about the money going towards the Employers' Confederation, and I too would like to know a bit more about what type of training they have in mind, because, as the honourable Member said, they are, in fact, a union. The company I represent is a member of the union, and I would like to know what type of training the taxpayers' money is going to be paying for.

Again, as in the case of BIMAP, the relevance of this training is very important if we are going to spend that kind of money.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. B. M. TAITT (St. Michael West): Mr. Chairman, I want to respond briefly to the comments made by the honourable Member for St. Thomas (Mr. D. A. C. Simmons), precisely because I am a member of the front bench. He took the opportunity of this Resolution to give the impression that the Government front bench had not "done its homework". It is precisely because we had done our homework that all of us on this front bench were able, on recognising certain directions, to draw certain matters to the attention of those to whom they should be drawn, and it is therefore arising out of that that the Prime Minister was able to give the assurance.

The honourable Member wants us to do like the Barbados Labour Party used to do - brazen it out and go through here and pretend that everything is in order, as they used to do, and then have to come back. He wants us to curse the civil servants. All of that talk is merely for us to get up in here and curse the civil servants, but we are not going to do that. We are a serious Government, and that is why we will take the responsibility and we will say, as the Prime Minister said, that we will take the steps.

He gets up, he agrees with the Prime Minister, he congratulates the Prime Minister, and then he goes on to behave in his usual fashion!

(*Aside*) Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: If I did not learn anything from Tom Adams, I would not be over here now.)

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, he even had the accent right as he told me, "If I hadn't learned anything from Tom Adams, you think I would be over here?" We all understand. I am really saying this for the record so that those persons who would not quite understand what was happening would know that the last point of his speech was merely an indication that he understands what is going on, Sir. We appreciate his recognising the signals and not going further down the road, just as I am now recognising the signals and will not go any further down the road.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Before we put the question, there was some question about the mathematics involved. I think we have to correct that first.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The figure is as in the document, \$1299 352.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You have to move an amendment.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: I beg to move the figure be amended to read \$1299 352.

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

On the motion of Hon. B. M. TATTT, seconded by Hon. E. E. GREWES, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress and asked for leave to sit again, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly. 1.55 p.m.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this sitting be suspended until 3 o'clock for lunch.

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

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

ON RESUMPTION Mr.

SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed.

When the suspension was taken, the House was in Committee of Supply. To that it shall revert.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House resumed Committee of Supply, Mr. R. P. Byer in the Chair.

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

AMENDMENT TO EXPLANATORY NOTE TO HEAD 15 - CABINET OFFICE - SUBHEAD 4 - CENTRAL EMERGENCY RELIEF ORGANISA- TION - OBJECT NO. 25 - PLANT, EQUIPMENT AND FURNITURE

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD (St. Michael South): Mr. Chairman, the purpose of this amendment to the Explanatory Note under Head 15 - Cabinet Office, Subhead 4 - Central Emergency Relief Organisation - is to enable that organisation to meet the cost of two fans and one filing cabinet which were supplied to that organisation during the financial year 1986-87.

Because of the wording of the existing note, funds for that purpose cannot be expended. The note currently reads: "Provides for the purchase of chairs, vacuum cleaner and communication equipment." It does not make any reference to "fans" or "filing cabinet." Therefore, an amendment to the note is required, and that amendment is in these terms: "Provides for the purchase of fans, filing cabinets, chairs and communication equipment."

Mr. Chairman, this may seem to be a very minor matter, and one may say that it should be possible and it is desirable that these matters may be corrected without troubling Parliament with these minor amendments. But, of course, underlying it all is a major principle, namely, that Parliament controls and scrutinizes expenditure, and

one of the ways by which Parliament carries out that fundamental process is by keeping a check on these matters so that funds may not be expended without the appropriate approval of Parliament.

It is within that context, Sir, that I beg to move that the amendment be approved.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I beg to second that

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1987-88 No. 22 - \$367 111 HEAD 13 - PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE - SUBHEAD 1 - GENERAL ADMINISTRATION - SUBHEAD 2 - PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICIAL RESIDENCE

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD (St. Michael South): Mr. Chairman, this particular Resolution is in the vein of housekeeping kind of operations, and are within principles and policies already approved by this Honourable Chamber.

Under Head 13 - Prime Minister's Office, Subhead 1 - General Administration, an additional sum of \$12807 is required to meet the cost of rental of a telefax machine, to pay for furniture and office equipment which were ordered during the last financial year, and a typewriter which was supplied to that office during this year.

This is really a part of the means of dealing with Government business. The telefax machine will ensure that communication with our missions and other places abroad will be done more expeditiously. It is in keeping with modern business development and, therefore, I commend this particular part of the Resolution. Furniture and office equipment are part of the normal business arrangements.

I wish to move an amendment to the amount of money. The Resolution calls for \$367 111, but in Subhead 2 - Prime Minister's Official Residence, the amount of money referred there is to be taken care of in another omnibus Resolution which is coming a little later, so we do not need this amount of money in this Resolution. Therefore, I am moving that in this particular Resolution the amount of money be reduced by \$17432. The figure now would be \$349679, so \$367 111 should be deleted and the figure \$349679 be substituted therefor in the operative part of the Resolution.

I beg to move, Sir, that Head 13, Subhead 1, stand part

In terms of General Administration, a sum of \$1627 is needed to supplement Object No. 25, Plant, Equipment and Furniture. Again, this is to pay for furniture and office equipment for the Cabinet Office that was supplied during the financial year.

I beg to move that that sum of money also stand part of the Resolution for Head 15, Cabinet Office, Subhead 6, General Administration.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I beg to second that

The question that Head 13, as amended, stand part of the Resolution was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 3.10p.m.

HEAD 15 - CABINET OFFICE - \$1627

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD (St. Michael South): Mr. Chairman, I dealt with Heads 13 and 15, but for the purposes of the record, I beg to move that Head 15 - Cabinet Office - stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I beg to second that

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

HEAD 34 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE-\$335 245

Hon. C. V. WALKER (St George North): Mr. Chairman, under Head 34, Subhead 12, Barbados Community College, we are asking for a sum of \$335245 to supplement the Barbados Community College's Head of 1987-88. The expenditure is for introducing the Associate Degree programme on a full time basis with effect from September 1987 - this includes the Associate Degree in Arts, Associate Degree in Applied Arts, Associate Degree in Science, Associate Degree in Applied Science - and the sum will provide for the payment of salaries for additional teaching and non-teaching staff, and for furniture and equipment for the programme.

The Community College, Mr. Chairman, was established by the Barbados Community College Act, Cap. 38, to offer education and training in the areas of Agriculture, Commerce, Fine Arts, Science, Technology and such other areas as the Minister may from time to time determine. Prior to 1979, all students at the Community College took examinations set by overseas examining bodies. By 1986, the Community College was issuing a variety of certificates and diplomas to students who successfully completed studies in various disciplines, and to those students who merely satisfied attendance requirements. There was need, therefore, for a standardised comprehensive system of college certification. The guidelines for the college certification included the award of the Associate Degree in Arts, Science, Applied Arts or Applied Science for students who successfully complete a two year programme of studies. It is clear in the introduction of this programme that each student must follow a core curriculum as set out by the College.

Mr. Chairman, the additional funding being requested will therefore be required to address the needs of the core courses and general education as well as general administration of the new Associate Degree programme. It is expected that the initial intake will be approximately 600 students,

and we expect that every first year student will be taking core courses A, B and C as defined.

(Aside: Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Explain A, B and C.)

Hon. C. V. WALKER: A, B and C are the particular areas of study in terms of the core subjects. I will give you the specific core subjects a little later, because I want to explain that.

The projected staffing needs of the College for this programme, Mr. Chairman, and for all the core and general education courses, will require in English two assistant tutors; Social Sciences, two assistant tutors; Science, two assistant tutors; Government and Politics, one assistant tutor; Mathematics, one assistant tutor, and in Arts and the Humanities, one assistant tutor. It is proposed that nine new posts be established at the level of Assistant Tutor. These full time tutors will be required to teach the three compulsory courses and the wide range of general elective courses which all students will be required to do as part of the qualifications of the award of the Associate Degree. It is therefore being recommended that nine additional teaching posts at the level of assistant tutor be established and that approval be given to fill six of them immediately, since we are in the September/March period of the current year.

It must be pointed out, however, that while the Community College has been developing the new programme and initiative over the years, there has not been any commensurate upgrading of, or addition to, the non-teaching staff. Hence the question of the provision of additional staff to meet present requirements as well as to service the new programme now becomes critical, and therefore, Mr. Chairman, the summary of funds required from September 1987 to March 1988 will be, as mentioned before, for the three Senior Tutors, six additional Assistant Tutors for seven months, one Assistant Registrar, one Accountant, one Placement Officer, one Library Assistant and three Clerk-Typists. This is in addition to the other * > charges such as travel, library, supplies and materials and maintenance of property, approximately \$20078, operating expenses for the examinations, the printing of records, advertising, postage, instructional materials and training seminars, with an additional amount for furniture, desks and equipment bringing the total as submitted to \$335 245.

I must point out, Mr. Chairman, that in respect of the introduction of the Associate Degree programme at the Barbados Community College, there is no secret in this Honourable House, and indeed it is no secret in this country and beyond, that it is the brainchild of our Honourable Prime Minister, who had the idea prior to 1986, and who, following his appointment at that time as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education, had, in fact, set about to introduce the Associate Degree programme. It is interesting to note that the guidelines established at that time were straightforward in terms of the core subjects, that

students should therefore pursue at least two subjects in depth during the two year period, and that the College students should meet the requirements of the core curriculum, which is made up of the three compulsory introductory or survey courses, and one course would be studied per term. These three are: College level English and Communication, Ethnicity and Morals in Modern Life, including attitudes to work, leisure, responsibility and family life, and People, Politics and Society in Barbados and the Caribbean. 3.20 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 34 do now stand part

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to second the Resolution.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS (St. Thomas): The Honourable Minister of Education, I heard a course there that I am not too familiar with, the second one, English and Communication, I heard something called "Ethnicity and Morals". Am I correct, Sir?

(*Aside:* Hon. C. V. WALKER: Ethics and Morals. Ethics.)

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Ethics and Morals. You said "Ethnicity". I did not understand what that course was all about.

Mr. C. L. TROTMAN (St. Michael Central): Mr. Chairman, there cannot be any question but that the Barbados Community College has done a very fine job over the years in preparing our young people for the world of work. In addition to the areas which one could properly refer to as being academic subjects, one recognises courses for public health inspectors, medical records clerks, and courses in surveying and in Hospitality Studies, to name but a few. There has also been a great deal of benefits derived by our youth from the exercises, and derived by our country from the institution and from the work that is being done there.

I will not advert in this exercise to any comments I may have made regarding what is necessary to staff. I merely wish to say that in the circumstances of the recognized benefit which the country will derive from the programmes, the programmes associated with the Associate Degree, Government should move with alacrity and dispatch to indicate very early a minimal level of pay which the Public Service will attach to those persons who, down the road, achieve this qualification. Of course, going hand in glove with that particular suggestion is that there will be the need to come to grips with the fact that there are other Associate Degrees which have been granted by other institutions of learning, and the Government will therefore have to take a policy decision to recognise, and to have recognised in Barbados, the Associate Degrees which will be conferred. It will have to take steps to have the business

community and the university, where that is necessary, recognize that there is this degree and that it should be used:

"in the promotional structure within private enterprise and within the Public Service; and that the University itself will need to recognize this degree, to the extent that it is able to give credit towards the Bachelor's Degree in whatever discipline there may be."

In the same context, Government may need to recognize that in the Revolving Loan Fund arrangement which obtains at the moment, because there was no recognition of an Associate Degree, the regulations governing the Revolving Loan Fund did not allow for persons who wanted to study for the Associate Degree to benefit from that Revolving Loan Fund. It would seem as though the time has arrived for Government to include persons who want to study for the Associate Degree in disciplines which are not now offered by the Barbados Community College to be able to qualify, if all other things are equal, as I think the Economists say, for benefits from the Revolving Loan Fund in the same way as persons who wish to pursue studies in other disciplines.

I wish to suggest that a course of this sort should centre more and more on the world of work and the field of work rather than on the sphere of academia. It is true, Sir, that some so-called educator tried some time ago to suggest that there is a repetitiveness in the programmes of the Community College, especially as it relates to the programme at the University. But I think you would need to recognise that there are a number of persons who might be able to attend courses of study at the Community College who will not otherwise be able to go on to the University, either because of financial considerations or because of other pressing reasons. In any event, if there is a recognised difference in the emphasis between what the Barbados Community College does and what is done at the university, then we may be able all the better to recognise that the Community College would gear persons to immediate involvement in the work place and in the field of work, and indeed should be able to take a number of people who are already in the world of work and give them programmes which are centred around the work which they are doing, rounds off their personality and their work performance, and makes them better able to perform adequately and satisfactorily for the benefit of our nation.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, I would like to inform the honourable Member for St. Michael Central, in respect of his query on the University of the West Indies giving credit, that attempts have already been made and we have had dialogue working towards that goal.

Secondly, I would also like to assure him that if he would look at the Associate Degree programme, which covers such things as Computer Studies, Medical Lab Technology, Medical Record Technology and Pharmacy,

one would like to think that those subject areas are directly related with the world of work.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1987-88 No. 23 -
\$530000

HEAD 84 - MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND WORKS -
\$530000

SUBHEAD 13 - ACCESS ROAD TO CEMENT PLANT

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN (St. Michael East): Mr. Chairman, this is a request made to this Honourable House for the sum of \$530 000 to supplement the amounts already voted for construction of the Northern Access Road. You would doubtlessly recall, Sir, that at a previous sitting, when this Honourable House approved the supplementary Resolution for approximately \$5.9 million with respect to construction of the said road, I indicated that, due to dilatoriness in the administrative processes, it was not possible to bring this particular supplementary Resolution for this amount which, is now before the House. 3.30 p.m.

To repeat what I said then in respect of this particular sum of money, this will be used primarily to effect adjustments in the vicinity of the St. Lucy Roundabout which became necessary to improve the road east and north of St. Lucy's Church so as to minimise certain problems which are currently experienced by motorists. To wit, the triangles in the roundabout were constructed in such a way as to make the road on the roundabout too narrow, and some widening of that road and other realignment became necessary to eliminate the possibility of accidents.

The second aspect to the request entailed the raising of the road from Portland to Farley Hill, which made it impossible for those travelling on this road to observe oncoming traffic coming from Cherry Tree Hill on to the Portland junction. Consequently, it was necessary to raise the latter road.

I beg to move that this Head stands part of the Resolution.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: I beg to second it, Sir.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS (Christ Church East Central): Mr. Chairman, I believe that one of the biggest problems we are facing in Barbados at this time in regard to road construction is, in particular, the problem associated with drainage in the country. On Saturday, I had to go to the funeral of one of my colleagues departed father, and I had to go from Christ Church to St. James. I followed the road through Warrens, across Bagatelle, right through to Lancaster Gully on the way to St. Silas Church. I do not believe that there was at any time across that road a path of 100 yards that I could

comfortably say that the road was for driving rather than floating in water. I mean, there was this tremendous downpour of water coming at you at every stage. At one point, while we were actually at the church, it is on a rising "• where you have a three-quarter view, you could actually look out to sea and see brown water going for about a mile out. That is a lot of top soil going out in the sea.

I recognise that part of the problem has been in the shift to cane hole agriculture to accommodate machinery. I know that that has led, to a large extent, in some erosion of the soil. I am sure the Minister of Agriculture knows a lot more about that than I do, but certainly agronomists have suggested over a time that the shift from cane hole agriculture which used to pool the water and keep it in, in conjunction with hedgerows, has led to top soil erosion. I think the planters used to use khus-khus grass on the hedges, and that used to keep a lot of our soil intact for planting purposes.

I find that there is a big problem in road construction in Barbados in recent times that is leading to severe problems in the country. Recently, a road was resurfaced *• from Newton up to Rising Sun, and I was very happy to see that the principles of drainage were maintained in resurfacing that road. There is some provision for drainage on the side of the road.

When we were small, as you would remember, every road had trenches, or gutters, as they were called in those days. We used to make our sailing boats, put a paper for sail and send them down the gutters. You could put in a rotten cane, which would be light and you could put in a match stick and a bit of paper.

At least, I think the builders of the road in those days had a perception of the need for drainage in our country, especially in the rainy season. But I think we have lost that principle. I am not criticising the engineers, because, quite frankly, I do not know the level to which engineers are used in planning for these roads. But it seems to me that there ± has to be a higher conception in terms of a policy with regards to road building, and the engineers would only be acting as tools in carrying out this policy.

It seems to me that some skill in road building has been lost, or perhaps we are willing to sacrifice other things in terms of ensuring that our environment is protected in the way it should be, because I am sure we are all concerned when we are driving on our highways in Barbados and there is just a downpour, there are pools of water all around. When you pass around Hastings, for instance, for miles there is no way that a pedestrian can walk safely on the road, or a cyclist ride. It is really a road only for those who are driving cars, and when you are driving your car, you drive with your windows rolled up.

I have criticised the expenditure - we have criticised the expenditure - on that massive highway, because I really feel, and still believe, that the amount of money spent on

that highway could have been used in rehabilitating the old, and then building other roads. We do not need to go down that path again, but I believe that we have to be very careful in the future.

In terms of the maintenance of the existing roads, we may have to go back and look at them and see to what extent we will be able to talk to those who own land beside these roads in order to reintroduce the gutters that used to be there. It really is a matter of the trenches having disappeared. They existed at one time, but what has happened now is that the roads are being built into the fields, you are laying your asphalt right up to the fields. There is no longer a concept of a drain or a concept of putting blockages, like khus-khus grass, around these fields, and I believe that is very dangerous.

In my constituency, a massive drainage programme had to be undertaken recently in the areas of Kingsland Terrace, Newton, Lodge Road and Oistins. I know the kind of suffering and pain that inadequate drainage can have on a community, not just the generalised problems that can affect the roadways.

I believe that part of this problem also stems from the fact that persons who seek to bring housing developments need to have stricter and firmer codes to follow in terms of the drainage that they introduce in these areas and the kinds of roads that are laid down. I am concerned at the poor quality of roads that are put in a lot of these development. A few years after, you do not have a road surface, and you have to be coming to Government again to prop up what really is the responsibility of the individual developer. It is the problem of the quality of roads that they put in, and then again they do not put in the quality of drainage, the numbers of wells, culverts and so on. I believe that this is a responsibility that eventually will call for a lot of expenditure on a recurrent basis, expenditure that we cannot afford in a small country like ours, and we, therefore, have to correct it at the beginning.

I believe, Sir, that we need to look very carefully at all of these large new roads we are putting down and ensure up front that we have the proper type of drainage that is necessary. It seems to me that these different diversions are changing up the water flows in our country. A lot of things are happening in terms of interfering with normal water flows, and the result is that there is serious flooding whenever there is what normally would be considered a normal downpour. My own memory of my days in the Fifties and Sixties is that there used to be more rain than now, but, Sir, the damage that we experience now is more than in those days. The slightest rainfall is doing damage and we have to look at drainage carefully. Also, I do not believe that those persons who are going in for private development can be encouraged to expect that the Government will have to come back and prop them up on each occasion. 3.40 p.m.

Thank you, Sir.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS (St. Thomas): Mr. Chairman, I wish to support much of what has been said by the honourable Member for Christ Church East Central (Mr. R. L. Morris). I think it was during the Estimates Debate earlier this year that I made the similar comment about the need to attract drainage engineers at MTW. I trust that the new Minister will perhaps look by way of getting technical assistance from overseas - from the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation or something - and get two or three people who are experts and who perhaps have expertise in developing countries, who are aware of the problems, get them attached to MTW to assist with the programmes that will be obviously promoted by the Government from time to time.

I was wondering why it was that Carmichael Road in St. George, used very often by the taximen who bring people from the west coast hotels on the way to the airport, and which was resurfaced about two years ago, has broken away. In fact, up to last week Saturday, it was positively dangerous to drive on the road at night, because there were some big pot holes; when you went into them you thought you had gone as far down as Japan, far down. People can have serious accidents. You can break your car, you can injure yourself or you can cause an accident with an oncoming vehicle. Having heard the honourable Member today, I just recognised the problem, that that road has a concrete verge right up against the canes, and where there was no exit for the water to flow out, it broke down the curb and damage has been done to the road surface.

Of course, there will be a loss of top soil, which cannot be to the country's benefit. Perhaps what they used to do in the old days may well be something that Government will have to consider again, return to the days of planting khus-khus grass and make some perfume out of it.

Laughter.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: No. Freddie Miller used to make perfume out of it His nephew would know better than I whether it was worthwhile or not.

I wish the Honourable Minister to give particular attention to this problem of drainage. He knows, for example, that where I live, the road to me is, I suppose, the worst road in Barbados. If it is not the worst, it is the second worst You need a boat to get out there.

I mentioned that Sir, because that highlights another problem with which I do not think the last Government grappled in a meaningful way. We had these developments in the 70s where plantations were cut up and sold out in two-acre lots and so on. In almost every case, there was no adequate provision for the basic services. I was misled in August 1975 when I bought my lot in Neils that the road would have been done and water would have been put in by the developers. It cost me \$3 540 to run pipe to my lot,

out of my pocket, and I had to repair part of the road in 1980 that cost me \$7 000 out of my pocket. There must be at least 12 or 14 houses out there now.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I have four acres. No, Richie had four.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I think we are talking roads and not agriculture or land subdivision.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: No, Sir, I am not going to talk about the lots at Neils, who paid \$2000 and so for 32 000. I do not think I went on a platform and criticised the Government I may have supported the general policy that warned about the cutting up of plantations, but I, as a Barbadian, had the right to pay my \$25184 for Lot 19 in August 1975, like any other Bajan. It was cut up and sold by Dems.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Roads now. Drainage, roads, anything like that

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: To get in to me, Sir, you still have to travel on this terrible road. I have been down there now for almost ten years and nothing substantial has been done with the road. It is shown on one plan as a public road, it is shown on another plan as a private road, but the point is, the people from Haggatt Hall, for example, or Neils generally, who want to get across to Sailors or Lower Estate, could have used that at one time, but it is in such a terrible state now that you have to swim.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I will give the representative time, but I am only drawing it to his attention, because it highlights the problem of these two-acre, four-acre developments where the services have not been put in. At some point, I think Government, whether by a joint scheme with the residents or Government on its own, has got to give consideration to upgrading some of the facilities in these areas. We do not have a light for example, on virtually a mile of road. There is not one street light, but we have got accustomed to it and we are not complaining. There are other people who are in greater need and whose claims are more pressing, but in due course, I hope something is done.

Sir, recently two tenantry roads in St. Thomas were attended to by the Government, the road at Dukes and the road at Bennetts. I had asked that these, among other tenantry roads, be looked at, and though I am grateful for the response of Government, I wish to warn against what has happened at Dukes and Bennetts.

A tremendous amount of marl fill was put down at Dukes, in excess of a mile from the main road right into the houses - there are no houses for three quarters of a mile virtually, the houses are in a little cluster right in the back of the area - and this marl fill was put in in August and rolled. I went on the site and spoke to the gentlemen who

were carrying out the work on behalf of the Ministry, and I asked them if they were serious about what they were doing. Did they have any plans to bind this marl fill, for example, by putting down colas? I was told that their instructions were just to patch the pot holes and try to smooth the road. \

A few weeks ago, in response to much pressure, Bennetts Tenantry Road was dealt with similarly. Two hundred loads of marl were ordered for Bennetts and an alternative road that now services Bloomsbury.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I do not intend to create any difficulties in the party. This was the northern area, I think they call it, the Northern Zone. While they were doing the road at Bloomsbury, because the bridge is broken, and that requires engineering expertise to rehabilitate it, some marl fill was put into Bennetts Tenantry. Again, I asked the men if they were not going to take any steps to roll it properly and bind it They said they were just to put down the marl fill. Now, we know what has happened last week - all the marl fill has gone. At Dukes it is a mess. We have gone back to the potholes and the marl fill has gone into the grounds all around. 3.50 p.m.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You cannot blame a Minister for this. This is very poor planning on the part of the technicians, who must give the specific kind of technical advice to the operatives in the Ministry as to what particular type of surface is going to be put on to be lasting; otherwise, we are throwing a lot of money down the drain. Even though we are grateful for the assistance, the reality is that people in these places have only had assistance for no more than six weeks, because as soon as the heavy rains came, all was mashed up again. I hope that the Minister will address himself to some of these problems that we raised. I am sure that probably he knows most of them already, and, hopefully, under his administration we will get a better quality road.

At the same time, Sir, it is regrettable that these experiences have come out of the Ministry of Transport and Works and the private contractors do not seem to have quite the same problems. From Lears to the Belle has been done under the World Bank Project by a private contractor. I am amazed, it is a beautiful piece of road. The little piece of road from the roundabout by the old hospital to the Collymore Rock/Pine Road junction has just been done, but it is bumpy compared to the long stretch from the Belle right back out to Lears. I really feel that the Government department should be setting the pace in terms of quality, efficiency and the cost effectiveness that should attend these kinds of projects.

Recently, Holders Hill Road was done, again by MTW. We had some heavy rains there the other day - and

all that gone, too. I think, as representatives of the people, we have to demand a higher quality of productivity from MTW; otherwise, it is our dollars and the public's dollars that are going down the drain.

We are not getting the best results, and I wanted to draw those observations to the Minister's attention so that, hopefully, he will be able to get things on a better footing than previously.

I am obliged, Sir.

Mr. E. BOURNE (Christ Church East): Mr. Chairman, I will not say much in this debate, but I am going to add my little observations about the technicians at the Ministry of Transport and Works. I have witnessed in the past few years that these technicians would uproot the khus khus grass and put down concrete blocks. Upper Vauxhall is one instance, and from Bannatyne right down along the ridge to Newton, is another. I think this was very stupid. I think that it is a lack of knowledge or downright callousness, indifference.

A project was done in my constituency. Would you believe that they have just left with the rollers and the nut grass is growing through the road? I have a road that they finished a couple of weeks ago - it is still full with grass and dunks trees! It is a fact. The residents called me to complain about it I talked to the supervisor, and he told me that there is nothing he could do about the nut grass. These are the things we are getting in the Ministry of Transport and Works, downright callousness.

They would go out on a project, and a blind man would know that they should, at least, shore up the side of the road with some kind of a curve. But they just roll it around with a roller that is about the size of one that you would use on a cricket pitch. This is the thing we get, and I hope that the new Minister would really put his foot down and see that we get value for our money.

I did not entirely agree with the honourable Member for St. Thomas (Mr. D. A. C. Simmons) when he said that we should get drainage experts from overseas. The people who did the drainage when I was a boy, and before I was a boy, were Bajans.

Asides.

Mr. E. BOURNE: Just a minute. We walk around the place claiming we have more education than these people, with a bundle of As, and Os and Zs and Qs holding them up high in the air. I know two of these goodly gentlemen, one could hardly read and the other one could not read at all.

As the honourable Member for Christ Church East Central (Mr. R. L. Morris), my good friend, was saying, we use to sail boats. I used to sail boats from St. Christopher Girls' School down to Silver Sands corner, until the boats went under the culvert Now I cannot sail a boat at all! The

only way I would be able to sail a boat is in my yard. The water runs into my yard.

That is not the worst of the MTW. I had to go on my knees and beg them to move oil drums from my door after they used them for two weeks. Do you think the MTW is nice? I had to beg them!

What the last Member has said, and also the honourable Member from Christ Church East, is a fact We have to get people who either have an interest in spending our money properly or else we will have to look in another direction. I remember that during the last Budget, I said that if they cannot D-O they should G-O, and I am serious about it I am quite certain that the present Minister of Transport and Works will look into it, and I feel quite strongly that we will be getting value for our money.

I thank you.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER (City of Bridgetown): Mr. Chairman, the point made by the honourable Member for Christ Church East Central (Mr. R. L. Morris) about the attitude to recognising former natural water courses is very valid, and if the honourable Member for St. Thomas (Mr. D. A. C. Simmons) is correct that there are no drainage engineers - I do not know if that is correct - I am fairly surprised, because MTW told me that they did have people who were specialists in drainage. I do not know if that is an engineer or if a specialist is somebody who knows how to dig a well, but there is tremendous damage caused by man-made infrastructure. Housing development is one area, and what I have observed, even in the recent damage that was done in Holders Hill, was that having interrupted the normal water courses, the road became the natural water course. 4.00 p.m.

Apart from that, the way the road seems to have been laid seems to be a problem. I am not an engineer, but as a layman, the road looks as though the asphalt was just put down on top of the marl. There seems to be no bonding. I believe these are some of the areas that we will have to look at in terms of proper road construction.

On the Collymore Rock road, I would even go further than the honourable Member. The road in Collymore Rock has had to be dug up already since it was put down and resurfaced again, and it is still a problem, so I know the new Minister has his work cut out.

There is definitely an indifferent attitude that comes through from the technicians at MTW. For instance, you had a problem in the Dunlow Lane area that was well ventilated in the media, on Gutterperk and wherever else. It was not that I did not try with those technicians at the Ministry to get the problem solved, and the problem was basically only the cleaning of a well. That problem was finally resolved after continuous pressure, and that was after

about ten technicians had seen that well and recognised that it was a problem and that it could have been solved.

We also have to examine something else, and the last Administration cannot get away with it. They hired people to dig wells who ended up digging holes, and part of the draining problem is the attitude that the Ministry of Transport and Works in the last Administration took towards drainage and wells. It is a fact. There are several wells that were dug in the last five years of the BLP Administration that do not even suck water, and they are supposed to be drainage wells.

I think the Minister may also want to take a look at, and I certainly invite him to, a very serious problem in the Chapman Lane area. In what appeared to me to be a hurry to catch some votes, the last Administration rushed down there and put in a concrete road in an already flood-prone area, and believe it or not, the concrete road is higher than the surrounding land, with no gutters or any drainage at all, and on the northern side of that road is the old canal that passes through Murphy Pasture. This concrete road is working like a dam, where when water collects on the southern side, there is no way it can get to the canal and it just settles in people's yards, creating one huge swamp. This is a problem that the Minister is going to have to address, because all the fogging that we do, if you continue to have an environment where there is a swamp-like area, we will continue to breed mosquitoes anyhow.

The new Minister of Transport and Works has his work cut out. As my colleague from Christ Church East (Mr. E. Bourne) said, I am happy that he has broad shoulders and can take on this kind of challenge.

I am obliged to you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. C. A. NEBLETT (St. Andrew): Mr. Chairman, I would not allow this opportunity to pass without bringing to the attention of this Honourable House the serious state of the roads in my constituency. I have been hearing for years that St. Andrew is a strange place, especially when it rains, but I must also bring to the attention of the House that even in the dry season we are having problems.

I must draw attention to the fact that, in November last year, there was a break in the White Hill Road, and the engineers from MTW promised us that as soon as the area had dried, in fact as soon as it was well drained, remedial work would have been done. What has happened is that a few large boulders were put in and some marl fill was dumped. It has all washed down into Pool Gully.

Subsequent to that, which would have been about four weeks ago, we had a break in Baxters Hill which has resulted in about 40 to 45 houses being cut off totally from any part of Barbados. In other words, they are having difficulty in traversing the area even on foot. They are bereft of ambulance services, and also fire services in case there

was a fire, and I hope that the Minister of Transport is taking close note of this situation.

I have listened to other speakers speak about the concrete edges that are being put on the roads. My observation is that these concrete edges are trapping the water on the road surfaces and forcing it to break the asphalt along the edge, and within a short while, probably just six months, the road is in need of repairs again.

In the hilly areas, such as St. Andrew and St. Joseph, this technique has been applied with disastrous effect. Taking a place like Turners Hall, on its corner with Gregg Farm, the water is trapped at the top of the hill, it picks up as it goes along, and by the time it reaches the flat, there is a velocity great enough to create breakage in the area. I also see it occurring on the Turners Hall hill road. They have done away with the good, old gutters or drains, whatever we called them. I thought it would have been good construction even to put in some box drains, because at certain distances along the hill they -would have been releasing some of the water and not allowing a big force to build up. That has not been the case.

At this time, in St. Andrew I think we can only rely on two roads, the partially finished Northern Access Road and the East Coast Road, and God help us all if Horse Hill breaks under the current strain.

We are also having a problem where there are heavy duty vehicles crossing that road daily, fetching sand out of the area. I am usually amused to see that these juggernauts are bringing out sand to enhance the development of this country in the construction industry and at the same time MTW would not repair the roads or the bridges along which the sand travels. Probably we are being taught a lesson. If these roads ever break, there will be a halt in the construction industry, or else you would have to go back fetching your sand from Silver Sands and other places, with a disastrous effect. 4.10p.m.

Mr. Chairman, I think it is my duty to bring forcefully to this House the serious condition of our roads in St. Andrew. I am looking forward to an early release from the Minister of Transport.

Thank you.

Mr. C. L. TROTMAN (St. Michael Central): Mr. Chairman, I wish in supporting this exercise to suggest a new dimension to the thinking which there has been to date. It is fairly clear to me, Sir, and I am sure it is clearer to those who can see a little better than I can, that in a number of instances, especially along unpaved tenantry roads, a very great degree of the problems which we experience are brought about by the frequent, consistent use of what the Member for St. Andrew (Mr. C. A. Neblett) has called the juggernauts, which are in the business of transporting heavy

equipment and are themselves heavy equipment transporting other materials.

A case in point would relate to Belle View in the constituency of St Michael Central, where operators, in trying to reach a quarrying business, have over time destroyed the unpaved road surface, to the extent that if a rain promises to threaten, the persons who live in that particular tenantry are unable to leave their homes unless they leave with two pairs of shoes, or, as is commonly done by those who cannot afford two pairs of shoes, a pair of shoes in their bags and a pair of plastic bags on their feet. It is true we have been doing it for a long time, Sir, but we would like to think that the tenants in St. Michael Central have graduated from it, or would not necessarily have to be subjected to it by this particular heavy usage of the roads.

I am not suggesting that there is a moral commitment for them to totally surface the road or to Barber Green it. But when they have used the road and they have managed to put swimming pools in the middle of those roads to prevent pedestrian traffic from traversing those roads, it seems to me, Sir, that they have some moral commitment to, from time to time, put some marl fill and bind it to allow the smooth and easy movement of the persons who live in those areas. I do not believe that we should expect the Ministry of Transport and Works alone to be able to go behind those juggernauts and to resurface or refill those areas every time they have been used by these large machinery. I think therefore, Sir, that there should be some moral commitment on their part to correct some of that problem.

Furthermore, Sir, it is fairly clear that the heavy rains we have had in recent times, over the last three weeks or so, have thrown up problems which could not have been easily anticipated. We understand that every decade or so we sometimes get these extraordinary rainfalls in some areas, but in the last few weeks, the rains have been particularly heavy. The result has been that in some areas, persons who would normally have had no problems have found themselves severely disadvantaged in terms of being able to move around, not to mention the subsequent, and perhaps concomitant, problem of possible mosquito invasion. I do not think that one can properly expect that this can be corrected by any systematic surfacing of roads and tenancies, but I would like to think that there may be set aside somewhere maybe an emergency line so that there can be a checking and an investigation of emergency situations where there may be the need for a short term solution, pending the longer term resolution of the matter. In that connection, perhaps a couple of truck loads of marl fill might be able to bring immediate relief as a short term solution to some of the problems. I would be the first to be able to suggest that areas like Niles Gap, Waterhall might benefit from that kind of approach.

There would also be the problem of those areas where people have lived for quite a while and when there were

no heavy rains, they were not able to recognise that they were living on swamps, but now, with time and with the rains coming in, and with the increasing demand for building lots, it has been recognised that there is no drainage around, and that in essence, they are living in what are really swampy areas. It is not easy, it seems to me, certainly in my constituency in Savannah Road, to come to grips with a problem like that

I believe, Mr. Chairman, that we are increasingly coming across areas where - and I guess it has to be a national problem - we are increasingly faced with the situation of what is happening, or what is likely to happen, not just with rainfall, Sir, but with the domestic waste of persons who have water in their houses. That running water, not being able to go to a well that is pulling, because in some areas there cannot be any wells to be dug, finds itself on to the streets or on to the neighbour's ground, and it is leading to problems. It may very well be that we have to look again at the land that we have been putting our houses on and try to find a solution to what really is a very vexatious problem, the problem of drainage in those areas that have become built up over time, when there has been no proper underground water system which would have been able to lead away that waste water.

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: Mr. Chairman, whenever these issues with respect to the Ministry of Transport and Works are raised, as they generally are done when we debate the Estimates, or perennially during the rainy season when there are high levels of precipitation, there is always a simplistic element in the analysis. I think that the issues surrounding the Ministry of Transport and Works should be treated far more seriously and with much greater profoundly than we are prone to treat them in these discussions.

Having regard to the intense public focus on the Ministry at this time, when there is an enormous amount of flooding, I had the engineers in the Ministry update their analyses, which are made on an ongoing basis, of the problems that lead to flooding in Barbados. Here are the facts, which I have sought to verify. We have a problem with the maintenance of wells. There are 2 500 wells in Barbados, but the Ministry of Transport and Works is financed to service only 150 wells in any given year. When the engineers are pressed, they divide these wells in two categories, the critical wells which require cleaning annually and those which require cleaning every two to five years. When this breakdown occurs, there are still 750 wells that require cleaning, and it is these silted wells which contribute significantly to flooding. 4.20 p.m.

It is obvious, therefore, that the problem has nothing to do with the organisation of MTW. It is a straightforward financial problem in so far as the wells are concerned. I am not here to defend the indefensible in so far as MTW is concerned, but it is necessary to give the facts as they are

to avoid simplistic and uninformed statements about the Ministry, of which we read and hear many.

There is also another factor involved which also touches upon wells. These wells are private wells on plantations, and the vast majority of plantation owners in this country do not clean their wells. Also, with the new technology that is applied to agriculture in Barbados today, many plantation owners find it expedient to completely destroy certain wells, so an important source for taking off excess surface water is denied because of the failure of plantation owners to maintain their wells. The Ministry of Transport and Works is looking into the legal situation with respect to this particular problem to ensure that private owners of property do not unduly complicate the problems of drainage for the Ministry.

When the Ministry of Transport and Works tackled the problem of flooding in Wotton, it was necessary for the Ministry to clean 600 wells, 600 wells, in Kingsland alone. A private well had to be cleaned to solve the problem of flooding in the Wotton area. It is therefore, a serious misconception to believe that all of the problems relating to clogged and silted wells relate to actions that come within the responsibility of the Ministry of Transport and Works. There are numerous owners of private wells who are not discharging their responsibility, and the Ministry of Transport and Works will be seeking to get enforcement mechanisms in order to alleviate this particular problem.

The plantation owners themselves, with respect to ploughing and other practices, have exacerbated the problem of drainage. I do not know why whenever people identify problems in this country, they look for easy, vulnerable targets to attack, such as the workers at the Ministry of Transport and Works. Let us give criticism where it is due. I am not saying that the workers of the Ministry of Transport and Works are paragons of industry and productivity. I would be a stranger to the truth to make that case.

Laughter.

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: But by the same token, I do not believe that there are lotus eaters either. The fact of the matter is that the plantation owners are those persons who are largely responsible for removing the khus khus grass and destroying the drains. They are also responsible for shifting to the production of vegetables and a situation arises where less water is retained on the land after a downfall than previously. Not only that, the plantation owners commit crimes, or in any event commit legal infractions, by driving tractors on the road and destroying the surface of the road. I am calling on the Commissioner of Police, on all those who are charged with the responsibility of enforcing the law to see to it that those persons who drive tractors on the public highways and destroy those highways are given their just desserts.

Laughter.

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: Another factor, Mr. Chairman, which contributes to flooding in Barbados is the proliferation of residential developments. This necessarily leads to a situation where there is less open land available to absorb excess water. Since 1982, when I was Minister of Transport and Works, I established a committee with a view to frequent consultation with the Town Planning Department to ensure that a certificate was granted by the Ministry of Transport and Works before any such development could proceed. This is done, but the problem is that there is no follow-up. It has now become necessary for the Ministry of Transport and Works to discuss with the Town Planning Department the establishment of machinery which would grant permission to developers to build only in stages, so that the engineers at the Ministry of Transport and Works would be in a position to monitor, on an ongoing basis, the effects of the building on water courses within the area in which the development takes place. Instead of one certificate being issued by the Ministry of Transport and Works, there will be several stage certificates issued to make absolutely sure that there are no deleterious consequences for drainage from any development which takes place in any area.

There are other problems posed by residential development. In addition to inferior roads, as mentioned by the honourable Member for Christ Church East (Mr. E. Bourne), private developers do not bore adequate wells - they are just little holes in the ground. Also, a period of 12 months must elapse after the completion of a development before the Ministry of Transport and Works takes responsibility for it, and by the time the Ministry of Transport and Works moves in, these little holes in the ground that these developers have placed there have disappeared altogether.

Do not blame poor MTW for everything. State the facts as they are in all their negate complexities. It is too easy to say MTW is doing this and MTW is doing that, when indeed, the fundamental problem of the Ministry of Transport and Works, is because, historically, the political directorate has never been clear in its concept of the role of the Ministry of Transport and Works, and this ambivalence on the part of the political directorate has led to a situation where policy decisions are not clear and technical and other staff become confused day in and day out, leading to all kinds of problems.

I will indicate a particular problem which has its genesis in unclear conceptualisation of the role of the Ministry, to show how it leads to problems of inefficiency and to a worsening of the drainage problem in this country.

Development of hotel plant on the south and west Coasts, where such plant is adjacent to sea, very often provides an insuperable barrier for water to flow into the sea. In the past, when we had fewer hotels on the sea-shore, it was possible for water to flow right into the sea. Now,

waters are confronted with these solid obstacles, and places like Holetown and Worthing become serious flood areas.

There is technical expertise within the Ministry of Transport and Works to solve this problem. They solved the problem in Wotten, they solved the problem in Lakes Folly, they solved the problem in the Bay Land.

(Asides).

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: Well, give us the money and we will deliver the goods. Those projects alone cost \$1 million. Give the Ministry of Transport and Works the wherewithal and all the problems of drainage will disappear. The expertise is there let there be no doubt about it. 4.30p.m.

There is a further historical problem, and this problem, Sir, has its origin in the way in which our affairs were administered. Before the abolition of Local Government, the Ministry of Transport and Works had 400 miles of road to maintain and a staff that was equivalent to the number of miles. The basic principle on which the technical staff proceeded was that you had a man a mile for maintenance. With the abolition of Local Government, the Ministry of Transport and Works then acquired many more miles of road to service, with not a commensurate increase in the number of persons working, and so today the Ministry has over 900 miles of road to maintain without an equal number of men in relation to the number of miles.

There is no doubt that when you had the mile-a-man principle in operation, there were no maintenance problems at MTW. This is not to say that the staff of the Ministry of Transport and Works has not substantially increased, it has increased, but the problem is that we have on staff - lots of carpenters, masons, painters and the like. If the Ministry of Works followed the same principles as a private construction company, that staff would consist of two elements - a core staff, a permanent staff, and other casuals - the casuals would be dispensed of when their services were no longer needed and the core staff would move on to something else, and if you required casuals with other skills, you would lay off those who did not have appropriate skills and substitute for them casuals with the required skills.

In the parish of St. Philip, to give but one example, there are 63 persons working in the area of maintenance; five of them are masons and the others are labourers. When the labouring work comes to an end and you need more masons, you cannot easily substitute them, and very often the work is retarded because you do not have an adequate supply of masons; even although you have an adequate supply of workers, you do not have the kind of workers to do the tasks that are required.

This situation comes as a result of humanistic concerns about putting people out of work. If Governments pursued policies with respect to workers with the same callous abandon as some private entrepreneurs in Barbados, the

problem would be easily soluble - if you do not want the labourers now, just lay them off and bring in masons. But because the Ministry of Works is perceived as an employer of last resort, people cannot be thrown on to the breadline just like that

When I was Minister of Transport and Works in 1982, in seeking to deal with this particular question in relation to what the role of the Ministry was, I had enormous difficulties with the former Prime Minister, Mr. Adams, who proposed the laying off of certain people. When I asked why, if the Ministry was no longer the employer of last resort. He said it was the employer of last resort. I said, well then the logic of that is that you cannot lay off people, and then he reversed himself and said it is not. With this schizophrenic attitude towards the Ministry of Works, we always have serious problems as to what to do with labour and how to deploy labour, and this particular problem which gives rise to inefficient maintenance has nothing at all to do with the officers who work in the Ministry of Transport and Works, it is a problem that is located squarely within the political directorate at any given time.

In 1982, I signed an agreement with the Inter-American Development Bank for an institutional study to be conducted in the Ministry of Transport and Works with a view to upgrading the Ministry by seeking solutions to the problem of productivity and so forth. The report is there; only a part of it has been implemented, and there is good reason why, only a part of it has been implemented because there is still considerable ambivalence as to what the role of the Ministry will be. Is it going to be a full-fledged Ministry of Works? If it is going to be a full-fledged Ministry of Works rather than some strange hybrid - part Works Ministry, part Welfare Ministry - there are certain things which must be done and which Governments have historically dragged from doing.

Firstly, if it is a Works Ministry, then it must be made as efficient as any privately run business that deals with works. It is unfair to criticise the quality of work of the Ministry of Transport and Works with that of private entrepreneurs when the Ministry of Transport and Works is starved of modern equipment. When I was there in 1982, they had a roller, a crusher, that was 50 years old. Today, they have all kinds of strange outmoded equipment that are museum pieces in other countries in the construction industries of other countries. You must make up your mind whether it is going to be a fully-fledged Works Ministry. If this is the case, then it must be given modern equipment 4.40 p.m.

One of the problems of drainage that leads to flooding is the inability of the Ministry of Transport and Works to clean out-falls. They cannot clean outfalls, because they do not have adequate equipment to go on the beaches, and when they do go on the beaches they have to take cumbersome equipment like a traxcavator, which has no

place on a beach, or rent bobcats to clean the outfalls. There must be modern equipment.

Since 1978, and this is in reference to a statement made by the honourable Member for St. Thomas - he talked about bumps on the Collymore Rock Road - the Ministry of Transport and Works has been asking for a new asphalt plant. At the time, the asphalt plant cost \$1.5 million. It was well established that the asphalt plant was outmoded and not functioning properly, but it was never seen fit, for reasons which I would not go into now, to spend the relatively small sum of \$1.5 million to build the new asphalt plant. With a new asphalt plant, the Ministry of Transport and Works would be able to produce mix just as good as C. O. Williams, Rayside, or Roger Manning, and you would have smooth roads to ride on.

The bumps in that road in Collymore Rock have nothing at all to do with efficiency. It has to do with the fact that they were using inferior equipment to pave that road. This is not a problem for the workers or the technical staff, it is a problem for the political directorate to state clearly what kind of Ministry they want, if they want a fully-fledged, full-blooded Ministry of Works or the kind of strange hybrid that now exists.

In so far as the road in Neils is concerned - I am the representative for the honourable Member for St. Thomas - that road is a very important artery, not only in the constituency of St. Michael East, but during peak periods, in particular when there is heavy traffic on Highway 5, it can be an important diversionary route which would relieve a lot of traffic congestion which threatens the health of children who live in that area. At the same time, in the Lower Estate end of it, where the working class people live and not the comfortable, genteel, middle class, that part of the road will be done to open up land to many people within the area who need house spots.

The construction of that road is on the agenda of the Ministry of Transport and Works. It will not only be a road which the middle class gentility in Neils Road will enjoy, but it will serve the function of greatly alleviating, the congestion of traffic in the neighbouring highway and, at the same time, open up house spots for those persons who are less advantaged. On the other side, of course, it will greatly assist the persons in St. George North who have to travel through that area as well.

The honourable member for St. Thomas alluded to the poor conditions of the tenantry roads in his constituency.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order: I was not complaining about the poor conditions of the road. What I was complaining about is that they made an attempt to do two roads, but they just threw down the marl fill, and as soon as we got the rain, it was washed off. We need to look at a way of making this more efficient

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: As the honourable Member has said, when the people put the marl fill down, the rains came. To solve that problem would be to ask the people who work in the Ministry of Transport to play God ^ and to be able to determine when the rain will fall. Not even the meteorologists know when rain will fall, because if one listens to them, one is almost invariably misled. Only the Divine really knows if rain will fall or not. It is a problem which is for the omnipotent, and this Minister lays no claim to such divine qualities.

Mr. Chairman, the Ministry, however, is deeply concerned about the state of tenantry roads throughout Barbados and is actively exploring the possibility of getting funding to launch a massive campaign to complete a significant number of tenantry roads both rural and urban, within the next few years. 4.50 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, it has not been generally known that until recently, when a policy decision changed it, the Ministry of Transport and Works had no responsibility for building rural tenantry roads. That was the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture, and the responsibility for building urban tenantry roads was the Ministry of Housing, on the assumption that when the time came to develop those areas, there would be an integrated approach to development, the construction of roads, water and so forth would be put in all at once. We can no longer wait to do everything at the same time. There are too many people in Barbados who wallow in mud when it rains, and this Government considers it imperative, and a matter of the highest priority, to deal as expeditiously as possible with that situation.

That, Mr. Chairman, is a summary, and just a very bare-bone summary, of the approach of the Ministry of Transport and Works to problems that it confronts. It is also a skeletal analysis of the problems that exist there. As time * goes on and Members of this House continue to raise their concerns, I would be given an opportunity to expatiate at greater length with respect to my thoughts about the Ministry of Transport and Works.

Mr. Chairman, the Addendum with respect to this Head includes a figure of \$350 000. The correct figure is \$530 000, and I respectfully request this Honourable House to amend the Addendum by substituting the figure \$530 000 for \$350 000.

I beg to move that this Resolution, as amended, do now pass.

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1987-88 NO. 21 -
\$684764

HEAD 74 - CAPITAL - MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE,
FOOD AND FISHERIES

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN (St. Philip North): Mr. Chairman, this Resolution seeks to give effect to the recent salary and wages allowances that are now payable to officers and employees as increased from April 1, 1987. These increases have been backdated to April 1, 1986. As a result, the Ministry and its departments will be required to make payment of arrears of salary increases from the 1987-88 Estimates provision. In addition, by Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 3) Order 1985, a number of temporary posts were established and some existing established posts were adjusted. The fact that these payments were made by these Ministries and departments from the 1987-88 provision has placed them in a position where there are unable to meet their expenses to March 31, 1988, without supplementary provision. There is no need to supplement items of statutory expenditure, as the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) Order, No. 4 was the legal authority for the payment of salaries, therefore this Resolution seeks to provide for the amount which is to be voted as set out in the Schedule which forms part of this Resolution, being the additional monies required to meet the increase in salaries and wages of unestablished, non-established, casual and temporary staff.

The amount being sought, Mr. Chairman, not only covers the sections as read out by the Clerk, but also takes care of Head 76 - Ministry of Education and Culture, Subhead 25; Head 79 - Ministry of Housing and Lands, Subhead 2 - National Housing Corporation, Subhead 4 - Urban Improvement Scheme; Head 84 - Ministry of Transport, Works and Telecommunications, Subhead 1, Project Planning and Execution Staff; Subhead 5, Renovation of Government Buildings, as well as Head 84 - Ministry of Transport, Works and Telecommunications, Subhead 7 - Bridges; Subhead 11, Work-in Progress and Subhead 15, Highway Rehabilitation.

This Resolution therefore seeks the sum of \$684 766 to be granted from the Consolidated Fund.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR (St. Peter): Mr. Chairman, in March when we were discussing the Estimates of the Ministry of Agriculture under Head 74, there was much ado about three projects that were supposed to form the core of the Ministry's new thrust in agriculture, particularly during the course of this financial year. These projects, Sir, were a new agricultural development project which was to form the core of a new approach to agro-processing, the National iFruit Orchard Project, as well as the Livestock Development Project I enter the debate, six months after the fact, to

enquire exactly what has happened with the Ministry of Agricultural[^] development programme, particularly in so far as the capital development programme is reflected in those three particular activities.

The most recent information that one has is set out in the Accountant General's report for the month of September, and for the month of September, it shows that whereas \$1.2 million was allocated this financial year to support the agro-industrial thrust, for the six months of the financial year to date only \$1365 has been spent, and the immediate question must arise: exactly what has happened to that project, involving agricultural diversification and an agro-processing laboratory, which was really supposed to be the cornerstone of a new approach to agricultural development?

Secondly, Sir, the National Fruit Orchard Development Project was assigned a tremendous priority during the Estimates Debate, given its relationship to increased domestic fruit output and a reduction in this country's fruit import bill. Six months after the fact, we find that whereas \$341000 was granted in March for the National Fruit Orchard Project, to date only \$247 has been spent. The question must therefore properly be asked of the Minister, what has happened to the National Fruit Orchard Project?

The state of the livestock development might be even more distressing, because, as you will recall, Sir, all Caribbean countries did commit themselves to a Common External Tariff policy waiver, we said we would increase the external tariff on imported beef with a view to stimulating domestic production of livestock products. With that aim, the House earlier this year granted \$1.134 million for livestock development and we find the very distressing situation at the end of September, according to the Accountant General's report, where nothing of the allocation made by this House for livestock development has as yet been spent 5.00 p.m.

It is one thing to announce policy - and in March of this year we were given a wonderful treatise by this Government and the Minister of Agriculture regarding the significance of the activities that would be undertaken through the auspices of the National Fruit Orchard Project, the Agricultural Development Project and the Livestock Development Project - but I really think that I would be failing in my responsibility as Shadow Minister of Agriculture, Sir, were I not to enquire from the Minister of Agriculture, how could it be that in these three pivotal projects, one having to do with agro-processing in general, the next having to do with livestock development particularly and a next having to do with national fruit production, out of a total allocation of almost \$3 million only \$1 500 has been spent during the course of half a financial year.

I look forward, therefore, Sir, to the Minister of Agriculture responding. If there are any programme difficulties with regards the start-up of the projects, we

certainly would like to know. But as it stands, obviously, Mr. Chairman, the Ministry of Agriculture's agricultural development programme would seem to have fallen astray.

Thank you.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Chairman, with regard the query by the honourable Member for St. Peter, let us take the National Fruit Orchard first. I would like to report that the National Fruit Orchard is on schedule. He said - I do not have the figures - that there was a sum of \$341 000 voted and \$247 has been spent. This is about 70 per cent of the money has been spent.

Asides.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Three hundred and forty-one thousand dollars has been voted and \$247 have been spent up to the end of September, six months in the financial year.

(Aside :Do you mean of now?)

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Two hundred and forty-seven dollars!

Asides.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Chairman, I do not know the amount that has been spent. What I can say is that the National Fruit Orchard Project is on schedule. The hatchery at Haggatts has been producing all the plants needed, and we have been putting them in. The farmers have been selected and the orchards have been put in place. I believe some 60 acres have been planted so far.

As far as the Livestock Development Project is concerned, very shortly we should see arriving in Barbados, I believe, some 260 cows. The Ministry has made available to the Barbados National Bank a sum of money to be used as part of the payment for the cows. The loans were processed by the Barbados Development Bank. I believe that the cows will be arriving within another seven days. Already, we have had 80 cows arriving through a private farmer, and there is to be another 40. So before the end of the year, we should have, I believe, some 400 top quality cows arriving in Barbados from part of the funds being used for the Livestock Development Project.

The Agro-Industry Project is getting off slower than we at the Ministry would like. The building has been identified and has been renovated. There is a Food Technologist in place at ADC who has designed all the work. We were in the process of negotiating the purchase of some equipment with a company that had gone out of business, but when we got into that, we discovered that the equipment was very old equipment and we could not use it. We, therefore, have to order some new equipment, and the money that has been allocated in the budget would be used very soon for the purchase of equipment for the agro-lab which we know is very important.

I hope that that satisfies the Member for St. Peter. These projects are on schedule. At the end of the year, we would be able to report fully on the further implementation of them.

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

HEAD 76 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE

Hon. B. M. TAITT (St. Michael West): Mr. Chairman, this is very straightforward. As you see, Sir, this is about personal emoluments, and we usually do not have debate on this. If there are any honourable Members with questions, we will answer them.

I move that Head 76 stand part.

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

Hon. H. deB. FORDE (Christ Church West): Mr. Chairman, I have some questions for the honourable Member. Would the honourable Member tell me how far the project for the construction of the primary schools is on stream? When are contracts liable to be awarded? In particular, would the honourable Member tell me how soon the amalgamation of the St. Matthias Schools, which would benefit the Honourable Prime Minister's constituency and my own, is to be implemented.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, the honourable Member must know that these are matters which we do not usually give details on. I can say to him that the project is proceeding as anticipated, Sir.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Sir, would the honourable Member tell me what is his anticipation and whether there are any particular dates to that anticipation? Would the honourable Member tell me whether the contract documents are out and whether or not the pre-qualification of contractors has taken place? Would the honourable Member tell me what is the time schedule for the commencement of the project, particularly in relation to St. Matthias Schools? If he has any difficulty, Sir, I am sure the Prime Minister might be able to help him. I notice the substantive Minister is not in his place.

The honourable Member must not say he has the answers, because he obviously has not got them. The substantive Minister is now there and he may be able to answer. Perhaps he can tell us whether or not the pre-qualification of contractors has taken place, when construction is anticipated to begin particularly in relation to St. Augustine Primary School and St. Matthias Primary School within the Honourable Minister's constituency? Those are the first ones on the calendar. There were three or four. I believe Selah was one of those selected in the first seven of these new primary schools.

Hon. C. V. WALKER (St. George North): Mr. Chairman, I am sure that the honourable Member for Christ Church West (Hon. H. deB. Forde) is aware that St. Matthias and St. Augustine are in the first group.

The actual construction of the first group will start by the end of the first quarter of 1988, the contract being signed and certain things being clarified within the contract. By March/April 1988 they will be started, and preliminary equipment is on site to start the project in early 1988. 5.10. p.m.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I wonder if the Minister can help me on what provisions were made on cleaning around the primary schools in the island. I am very concerned about some of the conditions of the schools, in particular the problem at both St. Matthias Schools of overgrown bush. I wonder whether there are adequate services provided for maintenance of the grounds of some of the schools, particularly the primary schools. The Government acquired what is known as the Morrison Lan\$ right next to the St. Matthias Boys' School. That land could be incorporated in the St. Matthias Boys' School for the purpose of teaching the children gardening and agriculture, or even an extra play area when the new school is built. But despite representations to the Ministry, the land remains overgrown. The Minister will observe that when he visits. The same is true of other primary schools that I have been visiting.

I wonder whether if it does not provide the Ministry with the opportunity whether it is in the Ministry's vote or in the vote of the Ministry of Community Services, to engage the services of the National Conservation Commission on a contractual basis. It will at the same time provide some employment for the persons who are unemployed. But I will have to counsel the Minister of Community Services that he must make sure that people near the schools are employed and he would not have to bring someone from the constituency of St. Lucy, for instance, to look after the school at St. Matthias. I will expect that someone from the area of St. Matthias will be employed in that area, and when it comes to St. Lucy, someone in St. Lucy will be there.

Asides.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Seriously, Sir, I am really concerned about the conditions around Government buildings, generally, but in particular around some of the primary schools that I have been looking at in recent months.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, the honourable Member for Christ Church West obviously has taken note of quite a few things around the schools, and he seems to specialize in St. Matthias School.

We know that the conditions around the schools have been aggravated by the rains that we have been having. I hope that in the course of the next financial year, we will bring some suggestions to handle the problems around the schools, not only the grounds, but also the buildings.

Today representation was made to me by no less than five Members of this Honourable House about conditions at the schools. These schools have been there for a long time. We have inherited the schools with the conditions that they are in, and we are making every effort to do something about them in conjunction with the modernisation, upgrading and merging. The honourable Member for Christ Church West can be assured that we are looking at it, and if we have to come for some dollars, I am sure we will get his support.

Thank you.

The question that Head 76 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 79 - MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND LANDS.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: I beg to move that Head 79 stand part.

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

The question that Head 79 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 84 - MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT, WORKS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Hon. B. M. TATTT: I move that Head 84 stand part.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I beg to second that, Sir.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1987-88, No. 20 - \$22 673 530

HEAD 10 - GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD (St. Michael South): Mr. Chairman, this Resolution is for the sum of \$22 673 530. It is a substantial sum of money, but again it is in accordance with decisions already taken by this Honourable Chamber. It relates to money which is required for the many Ministries, departments and public agencies in this country to meet payments of wages and salaries as agreed in negotiations with the several unions. As this Committee will recall, a decision was arrived at that there would be salary increases ranging from some 9 per cent at the bottom to 1.4 per cent at the top, and that those would apply for the year 1986-87, and that there would be a further increase of 2 per cent across the board on existing salaries for the financial year 1987-88.

It was clear that the several Ministries and departments would not have had the full amount of money to meet that level of salary increase, but they were instructed to pay from existing provision and seek supplementaries, and that is exactly what this Resolution is about. Instead of coming

with a number of supplementary requests from various Ministries and departments, we have consolidated the amount in this particular Resolution. It relates to Other Personal Emoluments, because there is already provision for the payment of Statutory Personal Emoluments by law.

The amount resulting from the salary revision was, in total, some \$26.1 million, representing \$18.6 million for the year 1986-87 and \$7.5 million for the year 1987-88.

I said that Statutory Personal Emoluments do not constitute part of this Resolution because there is already provision for that. At the end of October 1987, expenditure on Statutory Personal Emoluments for 1987-88 was \$130463000, and for the same period 1986-87 it was \$112066000. 5.20 p.m.

This particular salary revision applies not only to public employees in the Central Government, but also to those in the statutory boards and corporations which receive subventions from the Government. The amount of this supplementary, as I have indicated, is \$22 673 530, with, for example, \$36 503 for the Ministry of Finance, for the Fire Service \$73 048 and the sum of \$241086 for the Post Office. Included in the \$22.6 million is \$5.2 million for such public institutions as the Sanitation Service Authority, the National Conservation Commission and the National Assistance Board, and it also includes approximately \$1.3 million for non-profit agencies such as the National Sports Council and subventions to cultural organisations.

If any further information is required, I will be happy to respond, but as I have indicated, this is consequential upon the salaries revision which has already been approved by the Honourable House of Assembly through the several Civil Establishments and other Orders.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I beg to second that

Hon. H. deB. FORDE (Christ Church West): Mr. Chairman, I just do not want to speak specifically on the Governor-General, and I hope you will provide me with the same facility of the Honourable Prime Minister to make a few general comments on this Head.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I can understand the difficulty with such a large Resolution before us, but I think I will have to restrict it Head by Head. I think the Honourable Prime Minister was making general statements about the nature of the expense, as distinct from anything else.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I will take it up at another time.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Very well.

The question that Head 10 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 12 - PARLIAMENT

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD (St. Michael South): Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 12 - Parliament - Subhead 1 -Parliament and General Administration -stand part

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I beg to second that

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS (St Thomas): Mr. Chairman, I want to make a suggestion to the Government, even though it might be early for the Opposition to be suggesting things to the Government.

For this occasion of the 21st anniversary of Independence -I have just seen this booklet, which is the calendar of events to mark the 21st anniversary of Independence - honourable Members will have been receiving a number of invitations to functions put on by various Ministries and the Government and people of Barbados, very many indeed, and I just want to make a plea, although it might be a little late.

I do not believe that all the members of the > Commonwealth Parliamentary Association have been recognised and invited to some of these functions. I believe that on this occasion it would have been a good gesture for those members who are alive - one thinks of Mr. Hoppin, who had been a Speaker, Mr. Lowe, Owen T. Allder -

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am not sure. Oh, they may have got as party people. Well, I know members of the Association who are BLPs who have not been invited to anything. If I am told that members of the Democratic Labour Party have been invited, why the discrimination, Sir? I just felt that it would have been an occasion when the CPA could have shown a non-partisan attitude and remembered those former parliamentarians who are still ah' ve and invited them to some of the events; not every one. *m*

It may have been an oversight, because I think I know what has happened. The present Government may well be finding itself in the same predicament that afflicted the Barbados Labour Party, that there is a kind of official list of invitees which is never updated. You find people who were invited from the year nought, some whom have passed on - they cross out them - but they do not add and look at a proper formula.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You mean some of those who get invited! Oh, yes, that is the case. Very many are invited and one sees them and asks, 'How did he get here?'

I think I have made the point, Sir. If it is not too late and anything can be done on this very significant occasion and some of these persons who are on the CPA could be * invited, it would help.

The Opposition itself has no complaint or quarrel. We have been invited, in some cases superfluously. We have been well treated and invited by the Government and its various agencies. We are just making a plea on behalf of the forgotten brethren of the parliamentary clan.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I hope, Mr. Chairman, that this is widely heard. We are all light and we are all graciousness inside of this Chamber. When we get outside, it is something entirely different, and I hope it is widely heard that the Opposition has been well treated.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Yes. I go every year to Ilaro Court.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I hope I will see you and the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I think that by "you", Sir, you mean the honourable Member for St. Thomas.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

I do hope that it is realised that these are national celebrations and that it is not any question of "us" and "them", that this is Barbados' 21st year of the anniversary of the most significant political development in recent times and that it will be treated as such. I take the point being made in respect of members of the CPA who may not have had invitations to certain functions. I will see what is the position in respect of that and, - you have not raised it - I will make a specific inquiry in relation to the staff of Parliament to make sure that they have adequate invitations to certain functions. 5.30 p.m.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE (Christ Church West): I want to speak in a general way under this heading about the celebration of the 21st anniversary. If there is a comment that I am going to make, it is that there are too many events crowding into the same days. It must be recognized that if you have four or five events in one day, it is going to be difficult for officials to honour all of those events. They are not all for different people, Sir, because the honourable Member would know that sometimes there are three or four events to which one particular Minister may be invited. It is very difficult to cope with all of the events, and, therefore, if persons are not present at all events, it is not a matter of boycotting the celebrations.

I feel very strongly, like the Prime Minister, that some occasions in this country must be considered as national occasions, non-partisan occasions. The celebration of the birthday of Barbados, whether it be the 1st, the 21st or the 100th, happens to be such a non-partisan occasion when Barbadians must act as Barbadians and not be divided into the political camps as Bs, Ds, Cs or anything else that there might be. So that is a sentiment with which I can easily live.

Invitations. I realize that one is using a very small staff of, perhaps, the Prime Minister's Office, and maybe the

Cabinet Office, and the bulk of the work is done by them. I do not know if the Government has taken on temporary people for the occasion, but it would have been an occasion to use temporary staff to get out some of the invitations.

I got an invitation late in the afternoon for an event taking place the night, sometimes an invitation is sent but has not been received, but there is a follow-up, because of the importance of the occasion, from the Prime Minister's Office to know whether I am going to accept the invitation, and I have had to say that the invitation had not reached me yet. I am not doing this to fault staff, I am only saying that because we are crowded out in those instances, there will be circumstances in which people are not going to get invitations at large.

I also believe that we have to find a system to involve, from time to time, as the honourable Member for St. Thomas has said, people who have not before participated in national occasions. There are several persons throughout the length and breadth of Barbados who have never had an opportunity, although they are as loyal Barbadians as any of us in this House, to be present at a national occasion.

Asides.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: This has happened for the last 21 years, for the benefit of the honourable Member for St. Lucy. This is a fact. We must find an occasion to bring people from out, for instance, of the Geriatric Hospital, to one or two events that would not tire them.

Asides.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: A few from the Prime Minister's constituency, from Beckles Road.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order: I recognise that the Leader of the Opposition has to....

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I do not know the cement man.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your point.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: You are suggesting that I take money from people. The cement man is a man who takes money from people

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The point

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I am telling you that the cement man was a man in prison. Do not put me in that category.

Asides,

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the honourable Member speak to the point.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I am given the opportunity, because I feel that the next time I go to the Psychiatric Hospital, I am going to run in to him, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Which point are we speaking about?

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order: The honourable Member started to suggest that persons who came in from the Geriatric Hospital may have come from the Honourable Prime Minister's constituency, and there is an implication which.....

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: No, no. I am not being ridiculous. Even if you did not intend it, I do not wish the word to go forth that they were only brought because they were from the Prime Minister's constituency. It is agreed that wherever an event is happening near to where they are, we would move them.

I am not accusing the honourable Member of anything. I am just making sure that nobody, cement, concrete or otherwise, gets the wrong impression, because we have a policy with regard to how we are going to deal with the geriatric. I do not wish the honourable Member to start.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Point taken. Hon.

B. M. TAITT: Very well, Sir.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The honourable Member is a bit touchy. The point I am making is that there are a whole host of persons who could be involved in these exercises rather than the regular regulars. There are people whose names occur, as the honourable Member has said, on invitation lists every year. I believe that one has to extend the scope on occasions such as these to involve the wider mass of Barbados in events, and that they can be present at official occasions as well.

I would like to see, for instance, what happens in some other places happen in Barbados, that you can apply ahead of time for invitations. Some people get them on a first come, first serve basis. That applies not only to these official occasions, but going to the state houses, whether it be the Governor-General's residence or the residence of the Prime Minister, where there are occasions for people to witness and have an opportunity to go and participate in events.

I want to assure the honourable Member that I said that the persons who watched the marine event came from the Geriatric Hospital in Beckles Road. I know it is in the Prime Minister's constituency. I wish it was from my constituency.

Asides.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The position is that I am glad that that happened on this occasion. I hope that it will be extended on other occasions to involve many more persons who have never had the opportunity to participate in these events. I take the invitations to many people in my constituency who through the years would have welcomed an opportunity to go. Whenever I have had tickets, I have made sure that as many as possible get an occasion to

participate in Barbados' event. I would like to see a percentage of school children on a regular basis, and a certain percentage from different organisations, not only those people who may feel that they have an undoubted right to be there on each occasion. That is the point I want to make. 5.40 p.m.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS (St. James South): Mr. Chairman, I cannot resist the temptation to reply to the Honourable Leader of the Opposition. The fact of the matter is that between the years 1977 and 1986 the Barbados Labour Party ignored the fact that we were independent, and very little happened, and what is happening now is that people are so caught up in the fact that we are independent that everybody wants to do something, and I do not blame them. If you look through Bridgetown, you will see that nearly every store has decorations. This is the first time in the last ten years that people know that we are a country. I do not blame you, because you were opposed to independence, and I think you are opposed to it anyhow now.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of order: There is one thing the honourable Member must not do - he must not misrepresent anyone, Sir! There were honourable Members who belonged to what was referred to as the Under Forties; but the honourable Member must realise that persons did not oppose independence. He keeps misrepresenting the position.

(Aside: What did they oppose?)

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Independence alone.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: On a point of order

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member cannot rise on a point of order on a point of order. Let the honourable Member state his point of order.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I am asking the honourable Member not to keep misrepresenting the position.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: On a point of order: The Under Forties were opposed to independence under Errol Barrow, not only independence alone. That is what they were opposed to.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: As I was saying, Mr. Chairman, I still hold the view that honourable Members of the Barbados Labour Party are opposed to independence and that is why they did nothing during the period they were in office to promote the idea of an independent people. It is now that the people have got an opportunity to demonstrate and be involved in the idea of being independent, that we have this cluster of events. Everybody wants to do something for independence.

I agree with him on the other points. We have this idea about VIPs, very important people, and I have a little doubt about that. To my mind, everybody is important. And the Government sends out invitations to people, and when you

go to our national events like the Independence Parade or Armistice Day Parade, you see all the front rows empty and all the people, as we call them, standing around the barricades hoping that they could get a seat. So I share his views that there should be some method of getting tickets out to people who really want to participate. We have instituted a system this time where people can go to an office here in the Public Buildings and get tickets for the Spectacular, and I daresay more of these tickets should be made available to people so that they can become involved.

I could not allow the occasion to go unless I reminded this Chamber that during the period that the Barbados Labour Party was in office, they really downplayed the idea of Independence and very little was done for it

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I regret that I have to rise to make a point that I made some weeks ago in this House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I do not want the debate to go into the area of debating whether or not we should have gone independent or not. I think I have allowed a lot of latitude already.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I give the Honourable House the assurance that there would not be such a debate. But arising out of the last honourable Member's speech, he has endeavoured to put it abroad again that in the ten years, 1976-1986, the Barbados Labour Party did not celebrate independence. First of all, in that period of time, apart from you may say the 18th year, there was no significant anniversary that would have called for the kind of expenditure and the magnitude of celebration as we are having this year. If we had taken the 18th year and tied it in with the age of majority, we could have done a similar thing for the 18th year. I also made the point, Sir, that in the ten years, I accept that there may have been some reduction in the scope of NIFCA, but apart from that, in the ordinary years - forget this year is a special year, being 21 - we did not celebrate independence in any way different from that celebrated under the Democratic Labour Party.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am being asked on my left, "What about 1986?" What was different last year? They had all kinds of voluntary events organised within the scope of people's own perceptions. At the Government level, there was a parade on Independence Day; there was the Prime Minister's reception at the official residence, the Governor-General I believe used to have something, and that was about all. Each constituency or each parish at a community level organised their own things. That is what happened last year, and that is what happened in 1985, in 1984 and so on.

This year is special, and we understand the significance of it, and the fact that the Government, quite rightly, would wish to do something special for the 21st year. We do not

agree necessarily with the methodology for the distortion or the revisionism, but we understand the need to do something special. We must not fool the people - I am not going to say tell lies - we must not confuse the public by making them believe that in 1974 the DLP celebrated Independence differently from the Barbados Labour Party in 1984.

I would not talk about Senator Walcott or Canon Sehon Goodridge.....

Aside.

5.50 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Do not allow them to sidetrack you.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: or those who seek

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Well do not, do not.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS* to rewrite history, Sir.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I want to follow on from where the honourable Member for St. Thomas left off.

The honourable Member for St. James South (Hon. N. K. Simmons) usually, - unless the honourable Member for St. Michael South East (Dr. E. A. Simmons) is here - rushes in to make a comment on anything I may say. He sees his role as being to follow me. He does not always do it too well, unfortunately.

Let me let the honourable Member know that many of us participated even at the time of Independence in Independence events. I was at the Constitutional talks in England, like the honourable Member for St. Michael North (Hon. P. M. Greaves). I never received one official invitation to any of those events, other than when - and you check the records » Sir John Stow himself invited me to a special luncheon. Not only that - and I am not complaining - I took the opportunity to lecture, and to offer to lecture, to several groups, including taximen, about the significance of Independence in 1966. Check the records and you will find that.

The honourable Member should know that this year Dr. Bradley Niles of the University of the West Indies wrote me very early and asked if I would give one of the lectures that were going to be held to celebrate Independence. I consented. When the Official Programme came out, the lectures were being given by somebody else. He very kindly telephoned me and said that he was sorry that there were changes in the plans. I have not sought to find out why, because in my view, the ones that are being given, by Douglas Lynch, Dame Nita Barrow and a few others, very early in the year, before the programme

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Yes. It was being organised by the Extra Mural Department before it was taken over by the Ministry with special responsibility for this event.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: This series of lectures. The correspondence is there, if the honourable Member doubts me.

What I want to say is that when it comes to this occasion, I think we are long since past the time when anybody is going to quarrel about the fact that Barbados is independent.

Hon. B. M. TAITT (St. Michael West): On a point of order, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I see the honourable Member.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I think that the honourable Member may very well be right in what he is saying, but what has to be said is that the letter which he received from Dr. Bradley Niles was dealing with a specific programme which the Extra Mural Department was putting on. When subsequently it was discovered that three different agencies were planning approximately the same thing, the three different agencies agreed to combine and sponsor one set of lectures rather than have three sets of lectures. If they took heavies and he was eased out, he cannot complain, but he must not make it look as if the Government left him out. The Government would never leave him out. The Government does not intend to leave you out.

Laughter.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Do not get in here giving the impression that because you are the Leader of the Opposition, we would not let you have a lecture. If you have a lecture tomorrow night.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Point, point, point.

Laughter.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The honourable Member must learn, Sir, that he is not here in his capacity as - do they still have the Ministry of- what is it called? - the Sanitation Authority?

(Aside: Minister of garbage.)

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: He must not on each occasion believe that he has a cleaning up job to do. He must clearly understand his functions as Minister of Health from his functions in this House.

(Aside: Hon. B. M. TAITT: Once you talk, cleaning has to be done.)

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The point I am making, Sir, and he does not seem to understand the point, is that however the Government may choose to organise its programme, it is the Government, it organises the programme. But it must not assume.....

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir: I cannot let the honourable Member get away with that I heard him.

He knows that the facilities we have do not mean that, as soon as you go out of the Chamber, you cannot hear any more. I heard him saying that he is not making any noise about that. That is a clear implication.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The honourable Member may have a lot of faults, but deli very is not one of them. He says what he wishes to say! And I heard what he said, and I heard what he implied, and I am responding to the implication.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I am repeating the point, Sir. I was invited by Dr. Bradley Niles and accepted the invitation. I also repeat that I am not complaining about the fact that the programme that was settled by the Government for those occasions was varied in such a way as it pleased whoever was organising the programme.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: That is what I am telling him. It was varied in however way they want to organise the programme. No problem!

(Aside: The programme was not varied. That is the point.)

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The other point I want to make, Sir, is that there are several other persons in this country who, in respect of some of the programmes, whether it be talking about craftsmen of our fate or otherwise, could equally have been interviewed to make contributions.

(Aside: Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Ezra Alleyne was on every day.)

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The honourable Member is going to talk about Ezra Alleyne.

(Aside: And Bree St. John.)

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Why are you all so touchy? The honourable Member must know that there are a whole host of people who have made a contribution and know as much about the building of Barbados who could have been interviewed for a programme. Every morning on my screen, I hear the voices of only three people repeating the same thing.

(Aside: Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Who? Ezra Alleyne, Dame Elsie Payne and Dr. Leonard Shorey? Those are the three I hear.)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the honourable Member for Christ Church West continue his debating?

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I will continue, Sir, as soon as the honourable Members stop the cross talk.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Would the honourable Members stop the cross talk and let the Honourable Member continue, then?

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The point that I am making, Sir, is that we must begin to involve a whole cross section of the community on these occasions and do not believe that they should be limited to a few people. Down through the years, several people in this community have obviously been in the process of nation building for a long time, and those people, too must be recognized on these occasions.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, one of the debates that the Barbados Labour Party will not be able to carry well is a debate about Independence.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have been trying to establish that we are not debating Independence.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: No, Sir. But we are debating Parliamentarians and Members of the CPA, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Continue. I will listen carefully.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I promise you, Sir, that I will not stray.

The Honourable Member, in talking about we should try to get the widest cross section

(Aside: The cement man.)

Hon. B. M. TAITT: You are a man who is always saying do not interfere with you. Leave me alone, please. You know my tongue is like a razor. Leave me alone!

This cross section this year, 1987, is the widest cross section there has ever been in Barbados from 1966, and the honourable Member must join with all those in the rest of the community who are applauding the way in which we have approached these celebrations. The first voice of partisanship I have heard so far is that of the honourable Member this evening. It is remarkable that in respect of Craftsmen of our Fate, the debate has not been "who", the debate has been, "how?" It is remarkable that in Barbados we have a debate that is not centering on the who.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: There is not a person on this side, so far, who has appeared, and it cannot be.....

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Look, please do not let us discuss anyone.

The honourable Member had a legitimate input, which he was making, but he suffers from this disability, Sir, that no matter what he is doing, he must divert to throw a little bit of mealy mouthing.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I object!

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Proper objection. Hon. B. M. TAITT: Partisanship.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Proper objection.

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

(Aside: Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Do you want to pay damages like Comissiong?)

Hon. B. M. TAITT: You see that now? Even from his seat he is interfering again.

The Labour Party might as well understand that on Thursday night we are going to expose them. There are things we are not going to say in here, because we believe that out there is where we should discuss the Labour Party. We have a bevy of speakers for you on Thursday night to discuss this Resolution and other things, so we are not going to spend any time doing politics here.

We are saying that Independence has always been a time of nation for us. You do not have to tell the Democratic Labour Party that it should be a time of national consideration. That is why we went in the first place.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I beg your pardon. I will give you that in due course.

Mr. Chairman, it is a very simple matter. The Democratic Labour Party believes that every single person in Barbados should participate in Independence, and we believe that the stress should be on the youth. We are spending most of the money in the direction of the younger people, but we cannot fail to recognise that the country itself has been built by those who are now in the evening of their years. Everybody has made a contribution. If the honourable Member is saying that members of the CPA may have been left out, or appeared to have been left out, that is a valid point to be raised, because if you are a member of the CPA, it means that you have participated in putting the laws on the Statute Books, and the honourable Members over there and over here know that I feel very strongly that in some matters a level of bi-partisanship must prevail. 6.00 p.m.

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: If I am saying exactly what you said, I am saying it better and clearer, and I am saying it with more sincerity.

Laughter.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On that basis, Sir, I think I am going to stop.

The question that Head 12 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 13 - PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 13 - Prime Minister's Office - Subheads 1,2,4, 7, 8 and 11 - stand part.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question that Head 13 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 14 - INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT DIVISION

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I move that Head 14 stand part

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

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS (St. Thomas): Mr. Chairman, a few weeks ago, we were reading about problems with Aero Services. We have not heard anything since, and I wonder if the Honourable Minister could tell us what is the position with Aero Services.

I am aware that they have sent home two of the pilots. I believe they have been pursuing their rights through the unions, so I am not going to say anything that may prejudice the negotiations on behalf of the pilots and NUPW.

I am also aware that the Skyvan Aircraft which Aero Services had is no longer in Barbados.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I believe I was in here three weeks ago, but I do not remember all of this being said about the Skyvan.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Oh, I may not have been in the House at the time. I do not remember it being said.

The question I want to pose is, what were the terms of the sale or the arrangement made with Guyana about the Skyvan? I do not know if those terms were made known.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: All right. If the Minister does not have the information now, I am not going to pursue it I thought there might have been an immediate answer.

In relation to the Baron Aircraft, I wonder if the Minister could tell the House what is the state of airworthiness of the Baron Aircraft. That aircraft always had landing gear problems, and it also had engine problems. I believe that may have been the one that crash landed at the airport a few months ago. I understand that before the investigation into that accident was completed, the aircraft was being stripped of its parts and the parts were being sold to Air Mustique. I do not know if the Government is aware that that is a breach of the principle surrounding the investigation. If the Government is not aware, I am happy to be drawing it to Government's attention. I raise this because it seems to me that Government must pay some attention, so long as it retains responsibility for Aero Services, to the airworthiness of the aircraft under the control of Aero Services.

On November 9, 1987, the Islander Aircraft had engine failure, with nine passengers aboard, just shortly after take off from Union Island. We heard nothing about that. We had a problem last week, and that made a whole page spread in the *Nation*. The Islander and the Baron are aircrafts which fly between Barbados, particularly St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Martinique and Union Island, and there is grave concern in the aircraft industry among persons who have expertise in aero-nautical management and engineering that we are not paying - when I say "we", I mean we as Barbadians - enough attention to the state of the aircrafts which operate under the aegis of Aero Services. I mention those two incidents in the hope that the Minister will immediately try to investigate what are the problems and how they are being tackled, to make sure that we can eliminate the element of risk as much as possible from the operations of these aircrafts.

Only a couple of years ago, in our time, I remember well a member of the Attorney General's staff, a draftsman, who is in the regiment or was at the time was going to St. Vincent or St. Lucia, was travelling, and the door in the aircraft started to open in flight, and a number of them had to tie on some rope and hold it. I think we need to pay some attention Sir, because I have no doubt that Government is still pursuing the policy of chartering these aircrafts. I just draw it to Government's attention that these are some of the problems with Aero Services and equipment. 6.10p.m.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES (St. Michael North): Mr. Chairman, anyone who is engaged in the aeronautics business would understand that there are tremendous risks involved. Aero Services is a very small airline service that the Government of Barbados, wisely or unwisely, and probably unwisely, provides here in this country. I say probably unwisely because it is not like a Transport Board service that one has to provide to get people to and from work, and quite honestly, I am still at a loss to know why a Government of Barbados should get involved in a little charter service of Aero Services to bail out Barclays, as it was at that time. This was done at the time when they were the Government

Asides.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: It is quite true, it was bought out in order, as it was said, to bail out Barclays at that particular time.

I do not believe that a Government should be involved in that kind of service, but when you get involved in that service, you are accepting the risks of that service. BWIA has risks, British Airways, with all its great expertise, has risks, and so has Pan Am. There are risks involved, and because there is an accident or two, it does not mean that there is general unairworthiness.

There was an accident at the Grantley Adams International Airport. I cannot confirm that parts were sold

to Air Mustique before any of the investigations were complete. We have to watch carefully how people now are going to come bringing information, probably to serve their own ends. The aircraft, as I understand it, was a complete write off. I believe some people did indicate some pilot error, but I will not go into that I do not know if the matter is complete or not as yet.

There was, it is true, a couple of weeks ago, an Islander that suffered some engine problems on take off from Union Island. That, again, is part of the risks of the business. The aircraft, I believe, was returned to Union Island after take off, the passengers were looked after in a different way, and the aircraft is now back in Barbados undergoing repairs.

Let us put it this way, Sir. We are concerned, we have to be as concerned, about the airworthiness of an aircraft, because there are lives involved. I appreciate the concern of the honourable Members on the other side, and we will do all that we can, so long as we are maintaining that kind of service, so long as the Government is responsible for the kind of service that Aero Services provide, to make sure that people who travel in those aircraft do so safely. If the honourable Member has any information which he would like to pass to me, I will gladly receive it and investigate, and let the honourable Member know the result of the investigation.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, I accept what the Minister has said. I will write the Minister and give him a list of the problems with the Baron that has had the engine problems for two years. One of the problems with the Islander is that it had a fuel gauge that has not worked for two years, and the problem with Aero Services is that they do not have basic parts. They do not have tyres, they do not have bulbs, they do not have little spare parts, and they have to borrow from Air Mustique, and Air Mustique is a direct competitor with Aero Services. They allowed Air Mustique to come into Barbados and pick up passengers in Barbados, competing with Aero Services. I will set out all of that in the letter to the Minister. I think that the policy has to be reshaped.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE (Christ Church West): Sir, I wonder as well, if I may move to another point, if he would tell us what is the Government's position on the problems confronting the Government's investment in Leeward Islands Air Transport Services.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Do you want to know what it is about? What position have you taken in the discussions that went on with LIAT, the recent meeting with LIAT and the problems which have occurred in relation to the fact that the management company is a company set up by employees of LIAT, which is supplying LIAT with all of the spare parts?

Perhaps I will write and give the Minister the information. He obviously does not know. There are management personnel in LIAT that have their own company, buying little parts out of Miami, making all of the supplies, and that is part of the problem you have with it, and that is why the Government's subventions in the region continue to increase. I promise the Minister that I will write to him on a confidential basis and give him the information on it

The question that Head 14 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 15-CABINETOFFICE

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 15 - Cabinet Office - Subheads 1,4, 5,6, 7,8, and 9 - stand part

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I beg to second that

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

HEAD 16 - MINISTRY OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 16 - Ministry of the Public Service - Subheads 1,2,4,5,7,8,9 and 10 - stand part

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I beg to second that

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Printing, Sir, Subhead 9.1 wish to ask the Minister responsible for printing and the Honourable Attorney General to investigate how it is that before the Annual Report of the Commissioner of Police for 1986 was laid on this Table, before the Honourable Minister responsible for that Report had the opportunity to come into the House and beg to lay it, it was in the hands of the Press.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am talking about the real report with a yellowish, beigish back. I am not talking about this one for 1985. This is mauve. This was laid and we all have it. 6.20 p.m.

I am not sure that it is not a breach of privilege of this Honourable House. I have not researched it, but Members on the front bench on the other side would know that the procedure is.....

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: If the Government is satisfied to just say to me "the printer", if the Government is satisfied for its official publications which should be laid in this Chamber in accordance with a procedure to be out on the street before it is laid in accordance with the proper procedure, if that is the Government's attitude to a kind of callous business where, I assume, Cabinet authorises a report to be printed and laid, and while it is being printed

it can be out on the streets for public consumption, I think that it is an interference with the primacy of Parliament for a start, and I think that it is a matter that merits investigation.

Extracts from that report formed the basis of an article last Thursday in a section of the Press, and I was able to get a glimpse of the colour of the report, and the backing of it, on the weekend.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am sure it is that, but I really feel that honourable Members should treat this as a matter of some seriousness and let us try in future to ensure that the proper procedures are followed. I think it is a matter that merits some internal investigation, and I raise it

We are not going to be debating the police, or the Commissioner or anything like that I am dealing with the principle. This seems to me to be militating against the primacy of Parliament.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: A leak is a leak, Sir, but a leak is different from a situation where the actual report is out on the street and people can be quoted and, according to the newspaper - this was the disturbing thing - this was while the Government presses were rolling at 4 o'clock. That is how the article began.

If honourable Members give me a minute, I would find the exact quotation. I am quoting, Sir, from the *Nation* of Thursday, November 19, 1987, a photocopy of the front page, the second paragraph. I am going to make this a document of the House.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: It is not proper to read from a newspaper. Without quoting it you may try to get it into the proceedings, following it as closely as possible.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Yes, Sir. It said, if I may refresh my mind, "The Commissioner in his 1986 Annual Report, which was still rolling off the Government's presses at 4.00 p.m. yesterday " * That tells us straight that it was being printed at the Government Printery and somebody took one, or God knows how many. We may speculate.

I think that we should go a little further and investigate and find out exactly what was the break in the chain of propriety that should attend these kinds of matters.

Hon. M. A. KING (Christ Church West Central): Mr. Chairman, the honourable Member for St. Thomas (Mr. D. A. C. Simmons) has raised a question in relation to the dissemination of a report in circumstances, I suppose, which need to be examined. It is not the first report which has been disseminated in the public domain before it was duly authorised to be so. We have had occasions spoken of in this Honourable Chamber when reports of the Central Bank were on the street before they were officially laid in

Parliament, and, clearly, one of the problems which any Government has to confront in this country is security in relation to its documents and in relation to all sorts of things.

The honourable Member has spoken very cavalierly, talking about if this is the Government's attitude to the question of security. We do not take security lightly.

Asides.

Hon. M. A. KING: Maybe the *sotto voce* comments you may have been hearing relate to a position of exasperation about how things of this kind happen. They will continue to happen unless appropriate procedures can be devised to deal with them. All I can assure you is that we will have a look at the matter, see where problems have arisen and look to see to what extent they can be dealt with.

You will remember that when this House was meeting in the other Chamber, certain Cabinet documents came in the public domain, and we tried to investigate the matter, too. This is not the only kind of document which will fall into that category.

You talked about the fact that that report has reached the public domain. Do you have a copy? I do not know. I have not seen the report in public yet, but you stated as a fact that the report is in the public domain. Could you give us more direct evidence of that? Where can we have it?

Asides.

Hon. M. A. KING: If the honourable Member for St. Thomas can give us chapter and verse about into whose hands the document fell, maybe we could retrace it from that. I think you can understand that whenever the police is investigating matters, they need leads. Perhaps if we have a lead by identifying the hand in which the report is, maybe tracing it back from there could lead us precisely to where the problem is, so with a little co-operation from the honourable Member for St. Thomas, I am sure we can come to grips with the problem.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I really admire the Honourable Attorney General for seeking to prompt me into disclosing my sources. He knows that he has absolutely no chance. It is not for me to investigate it. It is the Government's document and they must investigate it. Suffice it to say I have described the document. I have seen a copy, and that is a good enough lead, Sir.

The question that Head 16 stand part of the Resolution was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.
6.30 p.m.

HEAD 18 - AUDIT

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 18 - Audit - stand part of the Schedule.

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

The question that Head 18 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 19 - MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 19 - Ministry of Finance - stand part.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I beg to second that

Mr. J. J. PAYNE (St. James North): Mr. Chairman, I want to make a short contribution on Subhead 6, and it concerns a matter which is of some concern to me and many of the residents of the constituency which I represent. From time to time, the National Petroleum Corporation carries out extension work on some of our highways, and Mr. Chairman, the particular area in point is Highway I, where they are making some extensions from Trents northward in St. James.

My complaint, Mr. Chairman, is twofold. First of all, it seems to me that the corporation takes a very long time in carrying out its work. The pace at which work is carried out seems to be, in some circumstances, very slow, and the amount of inconvenience caused to the residents of these areas is something that Government*will have to look at a little more closely when these kinds of projects are undertaken.

The other thing, Mr. Chairman, is that when these works are carried out, you find that vehicles, in particular, heavy duty vehicles, have to be diverted from the highway on to minor roads, and they commit a lot of damage to tenantry roads by virtue of the diversion. We have a situation where tenantry roads in Trents have now been completely broken, to the extent that they are practically impassable to traffic. We have a situation, for example, where Mount Standfast tenantry roads are going to face the same situation when the workers reach that area, also the roads of Lower Carlton.

My question, therefore, is what reparatory work will be done? Could the Honourable Minister give some indication as to whether there is some plan to repair the damage that was done not only to the actual highway, but to the sub-roads or tenantry roads which are going to be damaged as a result of the diversion? This is a matter which I believe needs a close look, and which I would like to have some information on.

Thank you.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, just a point on Subhead 3, Land Tax Department.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I think we are at Head 19. You will have to wait until we reach Head 20.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD (St. Michael South): Mr. Chairman, to reply briefly to one of the points raised by the honourable Member for St. James North (Mr. J. J. Payne), I can confirm that there is considerable damage to the roads in Trents. I travel there by day and by night on the diversion, and I am not sure that it is due to the fact that vehicles have been diverted. I think there were small potholes in the road,

and with the very heavy rains, and that being virtually part of a water course across which the roads have been constructed, the potholes have now turned into ditches and very near well into gullies. I believe that the roads are damaging the vehicles, not the vehicles damaging the roads.

That road is very bad; in fact, I think so bad that water is now, up to this morning, settled on the road, and you cannot even see, unless you travel the road often, that there are ditches in the road. I believe a considerable amount of damage is being done to the underbodies of vehicles by having to divert on to that road as a result of the excavations on the main highway.

I do not think there is one cause for it. I think the vehicles have aggravated the situation, but I think it started out with some potholes in the road. I believe that the Ministry of Transport and Works would be aware of the situation and would get the water pumped off as quickly as possible so that some kind of repair work can be done to the roads to bring them up to some standard.

As far as how quickly the roads will be repaired, or how quickly the excavations can be done so that the roads can be returned into a reasonable state of repair, that is a consummation devoutly to be wished, and it is an objective with which we all agree. Hopefully, we will seek to get them reinstated at the earliest possible time.

The question that Head 19 — Ministry of Finance — stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 20 - REVENUE COLLECTION

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 20 - Revenue Collection - stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS (St. Thomas): Mr. Chairman, I am grateful for your drawing my attention to the matter just now. I wonder if the Minister could tell us what is the position with the Land Tax Demand Notices that are currently coming out. I have a situation where a piece of raw land, which was valued at \$54 600 last year....

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: It is a four acre lot of agricultural land. I do not know if it has on canes. It had on canes last year, but I am not sure if it has canes this year. It is 3.875 acres, and was valued at \$54 600 with tax payable \$546.00. The same piece of land, on the Demand Notice that has come out this year on 18th November, is now valued at \$94 800. 6.40 p.m.

(Aside: Hon. C. V. WALKER: What is the land use?)

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The land has not been used. It is agricultural....

(Aside: Hon. C. V. WALKER: Code?)

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Code? I want to know if there is any policy....

(Aside: Where is it situated?)

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Up by the bad road by Neils. It is not mine, it is somebody else's. The Land Tax now has gone up by a good 60 per cent Nobody has been to revalue it, I mean, they could have done it from the office, and I am asking the Minister whether there was an ongoing revaluation.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Do you mean the form that you had to fill in. I do not know if these people had done that. I remember the form that came out.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am hearing that there was a notice of valuation early in November.

(Aside: Hon. C. V. WALKER: Yes, which has a code.)

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: All right. Sir, that explains it. The Honourable Minister of Education has explained it. I did not think of the three year cycle.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD (St. Michael South): Just a point, Mr. Chairman. Periodically, I believe every three years, there is a revaluation of the land holdings in the country, and I believe that this is part of that particular cycle. There is provision, if there are problems, to take them up, in the first instance, with the Commissioner of Land Valuation, and then there are the formal appeal procedures against the valuation. These procedures may be used.

(Asides: Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Oh yes!)

The question that Head 20 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 25 - MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND FISHERIES

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 25 - Subheads 1, 2, 3,4, 5, 6, 7, 8,9, 10, 11,12,13,14 and 18 stand part

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

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS (St Thomas): Mr. Chairman, I have a problem that I wish to direct the Minister's attention to.

While the Barbados Labour Party had been in Government, it started the encouragement of export agriculture. The present Government has carried on that policy and has sought to extend and expand it Non-sugar

agricultural exports, starting with the vegetables and exotic crops, flowers ...

Asides.

(Aside: Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Yams. Explain to me now!)

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, I really did not remember the yams.

Laughter.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I remember the yam boxes

Laughter.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: that were piled up by Mr. Alleyne, Sir at the BMC.

(Aside: Yes!)

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Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The previous Government had an experiment with yams, probably sweet potatoes and so on, and it has gradually developed, and each successive Government has carried it a bit further.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Do you want a little break for the Chairman?

(Aside: Yes.)

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Yes, Sir, all right. I understand.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Finish.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: It is going to take me ten minutes, Sir. We might have the floor wet. Sir.

Laughter.

LEAVE TO SIT AGAIN

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I move, Sir, that Your Honour do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

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

The question that Mr. CHAIRMAN report progress and ask for leave to sit again, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be suspended until 7.45 this evening, Sir.

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

The question that this sitting be suspended until 7.45 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without

division, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.
6.50 p.m.

ON RESUMPTION

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER left the Chair and the House resumed Committee of Supply Mr. R. P. BYER in the Chair.

HEAD 25 - MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND FISHERIES (RESUMED)

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS (St. Thomas): Mr. Chairman, I had been dealing with the export of non-sugar agricultural crops, and I was on the point that the Government in the last few months has intensified its drive to encourage local farmers to join the scheme to export these non-sugar products overseas. In particular, there has been a lot of emphasis placed on the cultivation of things like okras, hot peppers and squash. I have been participating in the hot pepper and okra schemes, and we are having a number of severe problems. I wonder whether the Minister is aware, and if he could tell us what is going to happen, because the small farmers stand to lose a substantial amount I am in a loss situation now. I am carrying it for the time being, but there are others who perhaps are bigger than I am.

Starting with the okras, BMC requires that you grow okras of between two and four inches for the export market. Of course, if you do not pick your okras on the weekend, you find that there is a tremendous amount which are good, not hard, but are beyond the length that is required for export. So you got to plug them on the local market, and I believe there has been a substantial over-capacity in the last few weeks.

The Government, through the Spring Hall Scheme and at Spencers, I believe has suffered, and they are not getting the okras off. I am told - I do not know if it is true - that the Government has had to cut down all of the okra trees at Spring Hall and Spencers. I have heard it, I do not know if it is true.

There needs to be a lot of co-ordination between the farmers and the packing house, because farmers have been feeling that they are being hard done by when they take their produce to the packing house and then are getting them rejected. I have not had any problems in the last two weeks with my own, but other people have been having problems. The problem that I have had is that they say they will come and collect on a particular day and do not come, so the okra tends to go off, and you then have to be selling on the local market. We need to have a bit more efficiency in the collection of the okras.

As I said, I am not too bothered, because I am getting rid of mine through supermarkets and to the wholesalers. I am selling to them direct. But there are small farmers who are complaining, and I want to draw that to the Minister's attention in relation to the okras.

In relation to the hot peppers, there seems to have been a problem with the quality of the seed. At least this is what the ladies, the extension officers, I suppose you would call them, have been telling us. The seeds that were given out in seedling form were not of the best quality, and when the plant started to flower, it showed evidence of mosaic and other diseases. That is going to be a severe financial loss to the farmers who planted them if they cannot get a market other than the American market.

The American market is very, very - my friend, the Leader of the Opposition, will say persnickety - very fussy about the quality of produce. One is not quarrelling about the standards that have been set, one understands that, but one has a better chance of getting into the English market, and I wonder how much the English market could take of a product like hot peppers, which, perhaps, does not have the same scope for distribution and for use by people in England as in the States, where you have the Latins and our own people over there who will be more in tune to the hot peppers.

I think that Government in its planning - I may be totally wrong, but it is just an idea - ought to give consideration to finding alternative markets for some of these products where the standards of the alternative markets may not be as stringent as the American market. Otherwise, a lot of us small farmers are going to take a severe loss. It would be a disincentive and it will kill the programme.

The programme, I am satisfied, has a lot of potential for the farmer as well as the economy. I believe that all those who are participating would want to see it succeed. But we need some more assistance from Government or the BMC in the identification of additional, and, perhaps, different, markets. Otherwise, we will be in a disastrous situation.

I would be grateful if the Minister would tell us to what extent he can help. I know, for example, Mr. Garvey has had many cases of peppers rejected - he must be running into 80 crates - and, as I said, we cannot continue much longer. We have got to start next year's programme by ensuring that the seed is not diseased, so that the ultimate plant can produce the kind of pepper that would be acceptable overseas.

I am much obliged to you.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Chairman, I am grateful to the honourable Member for St. Thomas (Mr. D. A. C. Simmons), who, obviously is speaking from a position of knowledge, because he is involved in the scheme.

The export programme has been having some teething problems. I am going to take them crop by crop and explain the Government's position.

The first thing is that the problem we are having in Barbados, for the first time, is that up until now Barbadian farmers have not been accustomed to grading. This is the first time grading of produce has been introduced in Barbados, particularly for this product. The Barbadian farmers are accustomed, as you know, to selling whatever they grow - you take some of the bad ones with the good ones.

As the Member for SL Thomas quite rightly said, we have gone into a very, very difficult market for our produce, and this is the American market, although we are into the English market as well. I will come back to tell you some of the things I have been doing in respect of England.

I am convinced the Americans do not intend for any Third World country to get any agricultural produce into America, except those in Latin America. They can always find some reason to reject your product.

Let us talk about the one that there has been less problems with, and that is the potatoes. The potatoes have been getting about an 80 per cent acceptance at the pack house. The reason is that the main suppliers of potatoes at the moment are ADC and one or two other big plantations and they are doing some regrading and they have given an 80% acceptance at the pack house when the requirement was between one and two pounds for potatoes. At first we were not doing any under one pound, but we subsequently have found a market for half pound and so on that has increased the profitability of the people growing potatoes.

Outside the difficulty of having to wash them, because we cannot export with any dirt on them at the moment, potatoes have been reasonably successful, and ADC has been making a little money on the potatoes. We have great hope for the potatoes, and we are going to be expanding the planting of potatoes.

We have two difficulties with the peppers. First of all, the peppers were propagated from seeds, which were taken from Hopewell Plantation. The preference for the Hopewell ones was because the peppers we exported were the ones from Hopewell. But during the propagation of the seeds, we did not get an exact replica of the pepper itself, so we had a slight variation problem. Not only that, but as the acreage increased, we had a problem with a little virus just at the top of the peppers.

The American market is so sensitive that they need most of the peppers ripe. Because of the newness of the farmers, we have not quite yet hit the exact time of reaping, so that we can reap green and they would ripen on their way to the market. We notice that when we reap them green, we do not get the virus problem. 7.55 p.m.

Our Entomology Department has been looking at the problem, and we have begun to believe we have licked it. But because of that, there has been a fear, particularly from that farmer we are talking about, and we believe it is due to the fact that the peppers are planted in a field that had had a crop before with bacteria, and that has gone over into the peppers. Now that we have detected that, because ADC obviously had very little problem with the rejection of peppers, we have recommended treatment for the peppers.

The other problem with peppers is the cost of harvesting, because it is one of those things you have to pick. But we believe that now we have licked the problem with the virus, and we ultimately get the picking right, you would not make a lot of money out of them, but you would more break even with the peppers.

The okras have been more problematic. As the honourable Member quite rightly said, they have to be between two to four inches, and if you delay picking any one day, you have a problem. The problem with ADC is not that ADC has cut back, but because they planted a > relatively big acreage, they were planted too close and the harvesting of the okras created a problem for the pickers. Therefore, to make it easier for the people to pick, they are thinning them out so that the people can go down through a line to pick the okras.

Picking okras is the real problem. To get, as you know, 100 pounds of okras, you have to do a lot of picking, and the cost of picking, more than anything else, seems to be so high in comparison with what producers get. So there is a big question mark against the okras.

Not only that, the Chief Agricultural Officer might have to restrict the okras anyhow, because we are going into the cotton season, and as you know, when we go into the cotton season, we may have a situation with the pink boll worm.

Contrary to what we believe, the pink boll worm has been found in some of the younger okras. We thought before it was only when the okras were ripe and drying that we got the pink boll worm. So it is very likely that we will have to scale down. After the picking of the existing trees, because of the two difficulties, we will not be inviting many farmers to go into okras during the coming cotton season. The main problem with the okras is the cost of the picking, and if you do not pick every day, you have a problem.

The squash has a different problem. The squash has no fungus or anything, but there is a physical problem on the outside of the squash; you find that when the squash rests on the ground, you get a few little marks. The American market is so particular that if they see these little marks, you have a problem. We have been selling them in the English market, and from all the stats we have got, it looks as if the squash would be able to break even. We are now going into melons.

The position is that BMC had agreed with the fanners that if they had pre-graded, the BMC would take those that were non-exportable and pay them at half the price. I have to admit that there was a period of one week when we had some problems at the pack house, and that was due to the fact that the person who was in charge of the pack house was in Canada on a mission looking at other markets, and her deputy is not as experienced as she is, and it was a real rush period, too, where we were dealing with the kind of volume we had never dealt with before in Barbados. If we look back at the programme now, with hindsight, probably one of the mistakes we made was when we increased the volume so dramatically before the staff was able to acquire the local technology to deal with it.

The season also started before we were able to get our refrigerator trucks. We had ordered refrigerator trucks, but they took some time to come, as well as the washing tanks for the plantations to take the pre-heat out of the produce.

We are very aware of the fact that some of the small farmers are in a loaded position. I have spoken to the BMC and they will have a meeting with the farmers to try to find a solution to it. As you realise, it is the first time we are doing it on this scale, but we must. We are going to make mistakes, and we are learning from the mistakes we have made. The programme is critical, and as was raised earlier, this is why the Ministry is trying to go ahead so rapidly with the introduction of its agro-industry facilities to get into things like pickles. I am certain that the P.M. is now fully aware of the necessity and we will get ahead very quickly with the agro-industry.

We are keeping in very close contact with the farmers, and the Ministry is very aware of the problems. We do not want to do anything to push off those fanners, because we believe that the programme will work. What we will do, however, is that from experience we will weed out some of the crops, and we will most likely weed out okras and introduce the belly pumpkin, which we also have a market for.

The point you raised is very good. On my way back home, I stopped in England specifically to try and get some smaller markets, smaller dealers who are not so particular with the quality. The man we are dealing with obviously is going into the supermarket, and as you know, the supermarket is top of the line, and he wants top-of-the-line produce that he can package and sell straight into the supermarket, so the moment you drop your grading and your quality, you have a problem. So we are trying to build up gradually a second market for smaller dealers who will go straight to the people coming off the street to buy, but who will not be as particular about the quality as the supermarkets.

As you are aware, as a farmer yourself, the whole idea of diversification, - and I have never given anybody to believe it is an easy thing - is a very, very demanding thing.

As people were coming new to it, despite the fact that we had a co-ordinating committee months before the package, which I almost fear, it is still that you had to have that on-the-ground knowledge that you could not pick up unless you had gone through it. We have now been able to examine the programme, and whatever we need to do, we will do to make sure that the fanners at least tide over, so you would not discourage them, because we believe the programme has potential not only for the farmers but for the whole island. We have taken very careful note and tomorrow we will have a full meeting with all the people involved.

I have made sure that the Chief Agricultural Officer put in additional extension people, because some of the smaller farmers are part time farmers, and when the extension people visit them during the day, they are not there. As a result of their not being full time farmers and on the spot when the extension people go, in order to guide them with the timeliness of such things as sprays and insecticide, this is where you have the problem.

Some of the bigger farmers in Barbados, who are professional farmers and would be on the spot, have not gone into the programme. In other words, they are sitting back and watching the small farmers make the mistakes and are hoping to come in at the end. You know how I feel about this. Some of these farmers are the people getting the subsidy from Government, and my position is that if they do not get in there and help us to develop the programme, they cannot expect us to look on them as favourably as we have done in the past. I feel very strongly about it, because you cannot allow the small people in Barbados to take the risks, to take the beating, and sit back and wait until all the mistakes have been ironed out and then come in and ride on the backs of the smaller fanners.

It took many, many years before sugar was brought to what it is, over 300 years. Researching, pest control and all the resources were put behind sugar. We now have to put the kind of resources behind non-sugar agriculture to iron out these problems, and I am certain that the Ministry intends to put those resources as we go along. We are the first to admit that we will make mistakes, but I am happy to say that some of the farmers understand it, and as long as I can find the scheme to tide them over this difficult period, the project will continue and be a success. 8.05 p.m.

I want to thank the honourable Members for their contributions. I am fully aware of what is going on, and I am monitoring the situation very closely.

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

HEAD 27 - METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

Hon. W O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 27 stand part

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that

The question that Head 27 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 28 - MINISTRY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 28 stand part

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

The question that Head 28 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 30 - POLICE

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 30 stand part.

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

The question that Head 30 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 31-PRISONS

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 31 stand part.

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

The question that Head 31 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 32 - FIRE SERVICE

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 32 stand part

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

The question that Head 32 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 33 - PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 33 stand part

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

The question that Head 33 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 34 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE

Hon. C. V. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 34 stand part.

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.

HEAD 35 - MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 35 stand part.

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

The question that Head 35 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 36 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 36 stand part

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

The question that Head 36 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 37 - MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND LANDS

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 37 stand part

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

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS (St Thomas): Mr. Chairman, I want to bring a matter of general interest to Government's attention, and I am taking the opportunity since this Head involves the National Housing Corporation. I am not however, going to speak specifically about houses.

Earlier this year, during the debate on the Draft Estimates, there was published in the back of the Estimates an Appendix G setting out the various requests of the statutory boards and the grants that had been approved for this financial year. The National Housing Corporation, for example, requested \$5.8 million and got \$3 million. I am not aware that an amendment was made to the draft Schedule, but when the Approved Estimates were circulated, Appendix G appearing on page 41 of the Approved Estimates had completely deleted the column originally headed "Grant Requested", without the authority of Parliament

In my submission, Mr. Chairman, if you are purporting to reproduce the Approved Estimates, Appendix G, which we voted on.....

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: We approved it We voted this on March 16, 17, 18 or some such date, and what is reproduced in the Approved Estimates show the deletion of a column. In my submission, this Schedule - I do not want to say it is illegal - does not clearly represent as law what Members voted on during the Estimates. 8.15p.m.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I see the point that is being raised, that we were voting money for the service of the island.

(Asides: You are splitting hairs.)

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am not splitting hairs, because I am looking back to show him, since he thinks he

has a point, that it is not a question of what we were voting. Let us assume we were voting money; my submission is that the Approved Estimates must correspond accurately with the Draft Estimates, except where the House approves amendments. Let me show you how the argument raised by the honourable Member for *Si. Lucy* (Hon. E. E. Greaves) is fallacious. He asked if we were voting money. Of course, but if you look at page 8, page 8 of the draft is only a record of capital expenditure for the ten year period 1976 to 1986. That is also reproduced on page 8 as is. We are nothing to do with 1976; that has passed and gone, so it is not a question of voting money. It is a question of this document.....

(*Aside* :Hon. P. M. GREAVES: That is not part of the Appropriation Bill.)

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I do not accept that I am wrong, and I raise it as a serious matter, because if the Approved Estimates must really represent everything that was in the Draft Estimates other than what was amended, then surely Appendix G, which forms part of this book,.....

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Appendix is also part of this document, and there is an Appendix G in the Approved Estimates. This is the Schedule to the Bill. Appendix G as reproduced in the Approved Estimates does not correspond with the first Appendix G. I find that it was a deliberate attempt on somebody's part to delete from the Approved Estimates record of the money voted for the service of this island, a column that would have assisted, for historical purposes, in determining to what extent Government was meeting the requests of the various departments for their running, just as we have a historical record in the beginning of the Estimates which shows, for comparative purposes, over a period of ten years, what were the various revenues, expenditures and so on. In my submission, Sir, it is totally wrong, indeed it is illegal now that I think of it, in the absence of a specific amendment, to delete that column for the Approved Estimates not to reflect precisely what the Draft Estimates reflected. I would not even accuse whoever did it of corruption. It is a malpractice.

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

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I just make the point, Sir, that there has been some sleight of hand. I am not accusing you. I do not know who has been responsible, but there is a definite decision taken to delete a column called "Grant Requested". I am asking the Government to accept responsibility for the decision by whomsoever to delete that column "Grant Requested" from the Draft Estimates and not let it appear in the Approved Estimates without the authority of Parliament to amend it as such.

When this matter came up during the Estimates and the Opposition pointed out the existence of Appendix G, there was talk of having people fired, it should never have been in, the late Prime Minister was going to deal with people and all that Appendix G, it was said, should never have been included in the Draft Estimates. The then Minister of Finance said he saw nothing wrong with having it in, that the House was entitled to the information. I do not believe that that was a view that was collectively shared, and it is since that debate, and the acrimony that arose as a result of Appendix G being part of this document, that we have now found a column deleted from Appendix G. 8.25p.m.

I do not feel it is fair to the House. If we come and debate something, unless we amend it, it should then not appear in a form different from what we debated. That is the simple point, Sir.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES (St. Michael North): Mr. Chairman, I would like to respond to some of the charges made by the honourable Member for St Thomas (Mr. D. A. C. Simmons). I do not think that should be allowed to stay on the record of this Chamber without a response.

In the first place, the honourable Member is accusing the Government - I do not necessarily mean parliamentarians, I mean those responsible to the Government in its widest sense - of deleting certain columns from a document. He is also saying that that document, by virtue of that deletion, is no longer the document that was passed. But this document was never passed, neither by itself nor as part of some other Instrument. The only Instrument that was discussed in relation to this document at the time was the Appropriation Bill. No other instrument!

This is not an Appendix, nor the schedule, as so stated in the Appropriation Bill. This is a document which is set out to assist Members, and it also sets out the authority under which the Accountant General should pay out certain monies and it sets out the principles for the auditing of those monies.

We set it out a bit differently from the last Government. With the last Government the Explanatory Notes were virtually non-existent. So as far as I am concerned, Sir, the monies that were passed under a certain subhead and object, or whatever it is called, could be used widely. We set out Explanatory Notes, and we are circumscribed, we are limited by the Explanatory Notes here for audit purposes and to assist the Accountant General.

This document is not part of the Appropriation Bill, and the question of its legal validity does not arise. It just does not arise. But it is still here for the assistance of honourable Members. If the honourable Member wants to point to what had been requested, he still has the Draft Estimates to point to it. There is nothing to stop him from using them in any forum in which he wants to use it. For

one thing, it is a draft that has been laid in Parliament, and which becomes a document of Parliament in the same way that if I had a letter and I laid it in Parliament, it becomes a document of Parliament, but it does not make that letter law. The fact of laying this document in Parliament does not make it any law.

So the question of this having no legal validity does not exist

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD (St. Michael South): Mr. Chairman, I speak in support of the points being made. I do not have to go as far as saying that the Estimates do not form part of the Appropriation Bill. I say that the Estimates should refer to the details of proposed expenditure, and requests from bodies for sums do not constitute any legal or official part of the details of proposed expenditure. So the arguments being advanced by the Member for St. Thomas are particularly inane in this situation. They should not, and they do not, constitute part of the Estimates. If they appeared in there, they were gratuitously included, and if they are excluded on this occasion, there is nothing wrong with the exclusion. They do not impair in any way the constitutionality or legality of the Estimates.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Prime Minister really cannot be saying what I think I am hearing him say, Sir.

Would he look at Appendix D and tell me then that that has no right appearing, Statement of the Public Debt and Sinking Fund? Each one is an appendix.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Appendix D. What are we into now?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You have another appendix. What I am saying is that.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Laughter.

(*Aside:* Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Details of sinking funds?)

(*Aside:* Hon. P. M. GREAVES: That is information given.)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would not venture to suggest

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: You cannot, Mr. Chairman. I can say that

I think this is a very big red herring being drawn across the trail of this particular debate. I do not wish to derogate from the importance of the Estimates, but I am saying that the point which the Member for St. Thomas is making has no validity at all in this particular argument I think, quite frankly, that we have spent too much time on this little

matter that he has raised. If he wishes to carry it further, let him set down a question. He will get the answer and we will deal with it in that way.

Aside.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Do not tell me requests. How can requests from bodies form part of the Estimates?

Aside.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: How can that form part of the Estimates? From statutory bodies? So you want the requests from each particular department? It is ridiculous!

Aside.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: From each department?

Asides.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: It is ridiculous!

Hon. H. deB. FORDE (Christ Church West): The Government is really blowing hot and cold on this. I recall very well that when the former Minister of Finance, the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central (Dr. R. C. Haynes), was in the Opposition, the then Opposition made a song and dance about revealing to Parliament and to Members information concerning the various requests made by statutory boards in particular, and he went so far as departments of Government. If one looks back to the debate, I have never accepted the fact that that information appeared in the appendix as any mistake of any Government Department. The then Minister - and if you research it, you will see - felt at the time that this information should be given to parliamentarians.

I understand the change to be that the Government now has second thoughts as to whether the Estimates Committee of the House - let us get it quite clear, Sir, - is entitled in considering the Estimates to look at all of the information, including the various requests made by statutory boards and Government departments.

The reason one wants this information is to know if the requests were reasonable and were not answered, whether enough has been voted and that sort of thing.

The second point which I believe must be made, Sir, is that when the document came down, it became a document of this House. This House made changes to that document. Those changes were made in a Committee of this House. Those changes were changes to the actual figures and corrections to some of the notes.

The document as printed does not represent the document in the House as changed by the House. I am not going to get into an argument as to whether every item in this document forms part of the Schedule of the Appropriation Bill. Of course, it does not. You see an Appropriation Bill when it is finally published. It does not obviously have in the information that is contained in the whole of the

Estimates. But the point must be made that the document of the House has been altered, not with the knowledge of the House but probably with the knowledge of part of the House. This is really the gravamen of the charge of the Honourable Member.

(*Aside:* Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: When you say "part of the House", what do you mean?)

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Obviously some Members. Maybe the backbenchers and the people on this side did not know that there was a change. It might have been a decision of the Cabinet, just as it may have been a decision of the Cabinet to send the document printed down in the form in which it came down. The Cabinet would have looked at the document. I do not know whether the procedure has changed, but in my day the draft document was always brought before the Cabinet, and by the time you come down here and the documents are laid, you would have looked through the document. You may not have looked at it with the care you wanted to look at it, but the point is that it would have been presented in Cabinet, and the gravamen of what we are saying is that if you are not going to then print the document in the manner in which it has been altered by Parliament, then Parliament should be told. 8.35 p.m.

Sir, on the general position of releasing information, I cannot understand why one would want to be so concerned about not making that information available. I can warn the Government now that in the Estimates Debate next year we will be asking for the information. If our procedure was different than what it is now and followed the procedure in various Committees in the House of Commons, or even in Jamaica House - the honourable Member knows this, he has taught this subject so well - that type of information would be there. You have a general debate on the Finance Bill you go right into a debate on the Estimates. Some of our procedures have been followed, I suppose, for several years, and we have not changed them, but is there any reason why we cannot have full discussion and disclosure?

Obviously, every department or statutory board is not going to get every cent that it has asked for, because there is not a complete open-ended position of Government's finances unless it is raising taxes. So the fact that they do not get is not the point. Members want to be able to consider why some departments may have been preferred more than another department, and it is legitimate information that an honourable Member should ask for. That is the only reason.

I know the Government became sensitive to it in the last Estimates Debate. But speaking for myself, I considered it an improvement to make information available for the benefit of the Estimates Committee. So I hope that the Government will have second thoughts about not making the information available in the future.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I note that the honourable Member for Christ Church West has limited his

contribution on this matter to giving information. He has not touched on the legality or constitutionality of the matter at all. I can understand why he limited it to that matter.

In the Draft Estimates are set out certain information for the information of honourable Members of the House. One cannot consider every single page to be a Schedule to the Appropriation Bill. It is not. If one would look at the final Appropriation Bill, it sets out precisely, Sir, what is voted and what is not voted on. Therefore, the question of constitutionality does not arise.

If one wants to refer to information, the mere fact that it no longer appears in the Approved Estimates does not mean, Sir, that the honourable Members on the other side are automatically deprived of the information that was in the Draft Estimates and is not in the Approved Estimates. Information that was in the Draft Estimates will still be there, and the draft estimates is a document of Estimates of Expenditure. It is a document that is laid in the House, and any document that is laid in the House becomes a document of the House, and one can refer to that document whenever it is laid for any information contained therein.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Sir: Let me explain how it is relevant. Because when I was going through these on the weekend, the Approved Estimates, I was looking for the statutory boards to see how much they got, and when I got here I did not see "Grants Requested." How much did they ask for and how much did they get? So that I would know the information that I had in March was not now available to me and it was only then that I detected that there was something wrong with the document.

Asides.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, if the honourable Member has burned his Draft Estimates, or stored it up, or had it stolen, that is his problem. It still remains a document of the House, and if he cannot find it at his house, and if it cannot be found at his leader's house, or the home of the honourable Member to his left, he can come to this House and find it in this House, because it is still available to Parliament, because it is in the Draft Estimates. I do not see the point of continuing this matter, because it is a small matter. As a matter of fact, it is a non-matter. It is not just small, it is a non-matter.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I must stand again, Mr. Chairman, because we have to get it right. I would like the Leader of the Opposition, the Member for Christ Church West, know that I have no intention of giving him the details relating to the requests from the several Government departments. They never gave us that information for all of the ten years that they were in office. It was never part of the procedures of this Honourable Chamber to give the request from the various executive and other departments of Government - never - nor from the statutory corporations. They never told us what the Member for St. Michael East (Hon. Dr. D. G. Blackman) was asking for the Ministry

of Transport and Works and could not get. How can they erect now a major problem here - a major problem - that because certain bits of information which they are claiming was in a draft document is not in the Approved Estimates, and that that is a major error on the part of Government?

Asides.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: That was not, and will not, be part of the information I am giving. We will come and we will tell you what we are asking for for the several departments as well as the statutory corporations and other public bodies. That is the Government's proposal and that is what we will be doing. What they have asked for is the internal business of the Administration of this country.

Asides.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: You can get it however you wish to get it, but it would not be part of that particular procedure. That is exactly the position. We will give you the information, and we will make sure that the Estimates contain the details of proposed expenditure. If you are seeking further information, the kind of information that you never provided for us in all of these times

Asides.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: That is why I can tell you that, because I am now the Prime Minister. You seem not to understand that. It just would not be coming in the Estimates.

Hon. M. A. KING (Christ Church West Central): Mr. Chairman, I do not want to prolong this debate at any great length.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I want to hear the Attorney General.

Hon. M. A. KING: I think this matter should be dealt with in the context to relevance. This document, Barbados Estimates, contains relevant information in relation to the finances of the country, Estimates of Expenditure and Estimates of Revenue. 8.45 p.m.

When one is talking about requests from statutory boards or requests from various departments of Government - if we want to take this matter to its absurdical conclusion - is that a word?

Laughter.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You had better put that in inverted commas.

{*Aside:* Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: It is very relevant to the point raised here!}

Hon. M. A. KING: If one wants to take this matter to its most absurd conclusion, I think - was it in mathematics you used to use the term *reductio ad absurdum*!

(*Aside:* Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: That's right. Illogic, then.)

Hon. M. A. KING: You would have a column in relation to every aspect of the Estimates, in relation to every department, showing the sums of money which each department requested.

Aside.

Hon. M. A. KING: Do not tell me. The fact is that that kind of information is not relevant. It is not any accurate information on which anybody can base anything, because the fact is that departments are wont to either overestimate or underestimate their needs. What is relevant and what is important is the sum of money which has been actually approved, and what has been appropriated for the purpose for which it is desired. So it seems to me that the argument which is being advanced can be dismissed on the ground of irrelevance.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I must come back on a point. I want to make it absolutely clear. The Prime Minister may say what he, as the head of the Executive, wants to bring down to this House, but he must clearly understand that when the Estimates are voted, they are voted by this House, which grants supplies for the Executive to run the Government. It is not the Executive in itself which determines finally what are the supplies which will run the country. The House is entitled to the maximum amount of information available to enable

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The honourable Member had better go and read a constitutional book if he does not understand what I am talking about. The House is entitled to information, and I cannot understand how the Honourable Attorney General is going to tell me that the information is not relevant. If one thing it is, it is relevant. It is relevant because if Members are to consider whether the votes they granted are adequate or not, they would want to know what the departments were asking for, why they were asking for it and why it was refused.

The Prime Minister is going to hammer home the point as to whether or not it was granted in prior Administrations, whether it be the BLP or the DLP Administration. I have never known the point to have been raised about Members asking for the information globally, other than for the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central. I think that if you were to go back through the debates, you will see that the honourable Member once said that that type of information should be made available. I believe it might have been a year before the change of Government, and one of the reasons why this occurred is because he said that he considered it relevant, and whenever, if ever, he became in a position to make the information available, he would make it available, and he did make it available.

I want to make it clear, Sir. I will warn the Prime Minister, if it is not contained in the Estimates, the questions will be directed to him. He can then say he does not want to tell the House, in which case we will vote on every Head of the Estimates and we will reduce every one by a dollar and we will go to the polls. That is all.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: You do not have to wait.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There are two honourable members on their feet

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I tell you, I stick to my word.

Mr. CHAIRMAN rose.

Both honourable Members took their seats.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR rose.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Wait, you want to challenge the Leader of the Opposition and want to challenge the Prime Minister, too?

Laughter.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: That is all right.

I do not think that the Member for Christ Church West needs to work up any holy anger or indignation about this. I will speak to him in very soft terms. I tell you now that that information will not be available. You can ask for it and you can vote against it, it will not be available, not from official sources. If you get it otherwise, that is for you, but I am telling you from now - you do not have to guess what I am going to do, I am telling you - open, up front - that is not information that you are entitled to. This House is entitled to know what the Government proposes in relation to the several departments and Ministries. That is what you are entitled to know, and that is the information that will be provided.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR (St. Peter): Mr. Chairman, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Yes, your time had to come.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, this particular debate I think is very significant, because the particular issue - Appendix G - has not so much only to do with providing the Members of the House with a set of numbers, but it really grew out of a concern to put in place a policy as regards state enterprises, and to control the deficits of state enterprises within the context of an overall policy designed to control the overall deficit of the consolidated public sector.

When the former Minister of Finance made the commitment to provide this information, he was making that commitment to provide the information within the context of an overall policy to so show the deficits of state enterprises that the country would be in a position to know the deficit that the taxpayers would have eventually to meet, whether arising from the Central Government or whether arising from the operation of the state enterprises. Even

though it was not presented by us, it was made a point of issue by the former Prime Minister as part of what he saw as an effort by the Democratic Labour Party to bring a new form of good government to the people of this country. He felt that it would be important for the people of the country to know precisely the amount, the deficits shown on the Central Government side, and also shown on the part of state corporations, they would be entitled to have to meet at some time.

I am amused, Mr. Chairman, by the concern that the Democratic Labour Party has shown about this Appendix G, which is really innocuous. It is an innocuous statement if you were to really look at it in a very sensitive way. It has a right to be in here, but the manner in which the Democratic Labour Party has reacted to Appendix G has been more by way of panic than by way of reason. 8.55 p.m.

They have been embarrassed, Sir, by the fact that the only corporation that has got what it asked for is the Defence Board. That is what has caused the issue surrounding Appendix G. But there is no difficulty when you consider the facts of the situation. There is no particular problem or difficulty surrounding a corporation putting a request to the Estimates Committee and the Estimates Committee saying it is not going to give it what it wants. That happens to every state corporation, it happens in every Government in the world, and to give you the classic case of what I am putting to you, the National Housing Corporation put forward a request for \$27 million which, obviously, the country was in no position to honour, and they did not get the \$27 million.

The fact that you can show what was requested and what was given, if you were serious in dealing with this in a scientific way, just show the extent to which the Government is trying to keep corporations in line with reality. I therefore, Mr. Chairman, must tell you that were it not for the fact of the political embarrassment surrounding the Defence Board being the only corporation that got what it requested, this information could be completely innocuous, because it is the responsibility of the Ministry of Finance to exercise financial discipline, and if any Ministry of Finance could be so blind as to give every state corporation exactly what it asked for, it would be the Minister of Finance who would be abrogating his responsibility to allocate priority and things of this character.

The Government by reacting this way, by taking the extreme position, by saying that information pertaining to deficits or the requests of state corporations is something that can be withheld from this House, after having taken the high ground in a previous commitment that it was information that we were entitled to know as part of the exercise of a general policy, to control the scope of operation of state enterprises, is a Government which, I am saying is, at conflict with itself. Therefore, the issue goes, to my mind, beyond the numbers.

The House must accept that there is no corporation in Barbados that can expect to get everything that it asks for. You cannot truly expect that information provided on that, that shows what was requested and what was asked for, cannot, in the normal course of things, be information that ought to embarrass a Government. But the embarrassment here arose for a political reason, and this is why I joined the debate. If the Government is now committed to the policy of not providing information on the state corporations, in keeping with the principle that informed the original decision, the Government has a further obligation to say what is going to be its policy towards its state corporations, because they are becoming more and more confused as the policy now exists.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN (St. Michael East): Mr. Chairman, I believe this matter is really a very simple matter. I believe that it is almost infantile for a House to be carrying on on this matter for nearly 45 minutes. It is a simple matter.

When the Government presents its estimates, those figures really mathematise Government's policy for that particular year. What a bureaucrat proposed to the Government is not Government policy; it is the bureaucrats' interpretation of Government's policy, and the political directorate then brings the policy here.

The political directorate must not be asked to interpret what the bureaucrat means. A party does not go into an election campaign arguing for the position of the civil servants, so if a civil servant puts up something, it is not necessarily Government policy. The political directorate modifies it and says what Government policy is, and then brings the policy here. That is all the Estimates represents, the Government policy in numerical terms, the Government policy in dollars and cents.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I must not let some things go in the House and appear unchallenged. It is not true that what information is in Appendix G is information that is put up by bureaucrats only. The honourable Member knows, as all of us know, that each Ministry with responsibility for a statutory board comes before an Estimates Committee and asks for a certain amount of money. Therefore, it is the request of the Ministry with responsibility.

Asides.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I have to clarify that. The honourable Member's argument may stand otherwise.

When the matter is considered, the Ministry of Finance then determines to recommend to Cabinet what is the position.

(Aside: Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: Sit down!)

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The honourable Member can shout as much as he likes. If he does not want to hear, he can go outside.

Asides.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The honourable Member knows that if it is the National Housing Corporation, the Minister would have put forward the recommendation.

Asides.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: You are too badly behaved. Why do you not go outside the House if you do not want to hear? Or do you not know how to behave?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Quiet, quiet. Let us get back to the debate.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The point I am making is that if it is the National Housing Corporation, it is not a bureaucrat putting up the matter. It must be a matter that has come because the Ministry itself, as represented by its Minister, is putting forward a particular request to the Estimates Committee presided over by the Prime Minister.

I would be very surprised if you went through this list and see that the National Housing Corporation has requested \$5 854 726, to hear that that is not a request coming with the approval of the particular Minister concerned. The Export Promotion Corporation has a request for \$2115 580. I do not accept, and cannot accept, no matter how much the honourable Member shouts, that that is a request from a bureaucrat. It must have come with ministerial approval.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I think it is time we got off this foolish point. It is rubbish! It is nonsense! They are looking for something to hold on to which is nothing to hold on to. It is absolute nonsense, and I think, Sir, it is time that we move on from this point because Members are repeating themselves. Over there they are talking foolishness!

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Would someone move it then?

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: It was moved a long time. Just put the question, Sir.

The question that Head 37 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 39 - MINISTRY OF EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR RELATIONS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 39 stand part.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

The question that Head 39 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 9.05 p.m.

HEAD 40 - MINISTRY OF TRADE AND COMMERCE

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 40 - Ministry of Trade and Commerce - stand part of the Schedule.

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

The question that Head 40 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 42 - MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT, WORKS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 42 - Ministry of Transport, Works and Telecommunications - stand part of the Schedule.

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

The question that Head 42 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 43 - MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND INDUSTRY

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 43 - Ministry of Tourism and Industry - stand part of the Schedule.

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

The question that Head 43 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 50 - POST OFFICE

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 50 - Post Office - stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS (St. Thomas): Mr. Chairman, I feel that the postal workers are a group to whom we have not paid any particular attention for years, beyond building a new building and so on. We tend every year in the Estimates to talk about the police, the Fire Service and prison officers, and I think the time has come when we have to say a few things about the postal workers. They have a number of problems. I thought the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister was the Minister responsible for them, but it is now the honourable Member for St. Michael East (Hon. Dr. D. G. Blackman), and I want to address a few concerns to him, so that when he is looking at the Post Office, perhaps he will bear some of these things in mind.

The postmen and postladies receive a salary of \$1106 a month and they get a travelling allowance of \$110 on top

of that. Most of them use motorcycles, but it is only those who are appointed who are eligible for a loan of \$2 500 towards the purchase of a motorcycle. Out of that \$2 500, I think they have to pay the Road Tax and insurance on the motorcycle, and so on.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I deal with postmen who have big motorcycles to get to work - the majority of them have motorcycles - and they are finding it.....

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I do not know of any Government which raised an insurance premium for United, New India, Caribbean Home or any of them. I do not know of any Government that could raise an insurance premium, so what kind of rubbish am I hearing now?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is why we should stick to what is relevant.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Yes; you must not talk rubbish; let us stick to what is relevant

They have to get two pairs of pants a year, but in fact many of them only get one pair of pants a year, and these are concerns which the postmen and postladies are expressing. I think they want their circumstances looked into.

They get \$2500, from which they have the various outgoings for licensing and insurance. Government says that, on top of that, between the hours of 8.00 in the morning and 12 noon, they must then act as security guards. Post people from St. John, St. Philip, St. Lucy, St. Joseph and St. Andrew have had directives that between 8.00 and 12 o'clock they must assist on the mail vans as security guards. I do not think that it is entirely fair to ask them virtually to do two kinds of work for one salary. The answer surely is for Government to take on pure security guards to follow the mail and let the post people do their work. I do not know how many jobs it will create, but it will create some jobs by way of additional security.

A postman on his job surely between 8.00 and 12 noon must be sorting mail. I have an experience of it in England at Christmas time. You have mail to sort and you have, obviously, various other duties to do, but there is concern within the Post Office Department that they are being asked to double up and do these functions of security guards. It is affecting the morale in the Post Office, and it is an area, I think, of concern. All we are asking the Government to do is to look into it

I do not know if they are unionised. Perhaps the honourable Member for Christ Church East Central (Mr. R. L. Morris), as a unionist, if they are in the BWU, will check up on it. I have some information and I am satisfied

that it is legitimate information. Government has not answered; I don't know.

Some time ago, Sir, there was Post Office Week or Postmen Week or something.....

(*Aside: How long was it started?*)

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The Minister responsible did not even appear on television. When it is Police Week, Dentist Week and Health Week, the Ministers go on television. Nobody does anything like that for the postmen, and they feel like they are poor relations. They fed left out They want hugging up; they want to be made to feel that they are doing a job for which the country is grateful and for which the Government recompenses the quality of service that they render. I do not think that any of us, if we really think about it, can quarrel with the quality of service that is provided by postmen and postladies in Barbados. We have an excellent postal service inland, overseas and otherwise. I think it is an area that we should give some attention to and show some interest in the welfare of the Post Office workers. 9.15p.m.

(*Aside: That is the word you were looking for all night*)

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I do not know if the Minister knows about their acting as security guards, but that seems to be one of the biggest problems at the moment affecting morale.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS (Christ Church East Central): Mr. Chairman, I listened very carefully to the honourable Member for St. Thomas speaking under his trade union hat tonight. It is a role which I am unaccustomed to hearing him perform in.

I am a bit surprised to hear that he is representing very forcibly the views of a number of organised workers who happen to be one of the best organised groups in the Barbados Workers Union. The postmen have been in the union since the early 1960s, and they have always been a group that is very progressive in terms of representing their own interest. I believe that he would know that some of the matters that he raised here tonight are matters that are exercising the energies of the Barbados Workers Union in discussion with Government. Therefore, we are glad for the reinforcement that is coming from his direction. I can assure him that the union is looking at these matters, and we believe that the Government would be willing to discuss the matters which are, at this time, matters of concern to the postmen.

In terms of the perception that he has, that postmen believe that they are poor relations of everybody else because they do not have a week that is named after them, I would like to suggest to him that this concept of...__

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: They had a week. Sir, but the Minister did not become involved.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What is happening here? Is this a private conversation between two honourable gentlemen?

Laughter.

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Mr. R. L. MORRIS: I think the honourable Member would know there is some exaggeration in that kind of position anyhow. If people develop a week on their own behalf - because in the first place, nobody can develop a week for postmen or policemen or anybody else, it has to be developed by them - their pride in their week should not come from whether somebody spent time with them or not, but the pride should come from how well they organised their own week. If a Minister did not go on one occasion, I do not see how that could be a matter for deflating people's perception about themselves.

What I have been hearing is that they felt that they are poor relations, they want to feel that they are doing a good job. I cannot see that kind of feeling emanating from the fact that you had some activities and a Minister did not turn up. Something would have to be fundamentally wrong with those people's perception of themselves, and knowing the > postmen, they are not that kind of people who are so insecure about who they are and whether they matter to this country. So I do not understand that

The point that I think the honourable Member for St. Lucy (Hon. E. E. Greaves) was making earlier as an aside was about the difficulties that postmen experience over insurance. The response was that the past Administration had nothing to do with whether premiums went up at the various insurance companies. But you had something to do with the Unlimited Liability Act, an Act that allowed unlimited liability in terms of insurance and certainly that would have allowed insurance companies to carry up their premiums very high. The Barbados Workers Union made several representations on behalf of the same postmen, that it was detrimental to them, because they found it very, very difficult to insure the vehicles that are part of their work. '

The matter of postmen acting as security guards is a matter that goes back to the time of your Administration. This is not anything that started after May 28, 1986. I do not understand how you all get in this Chamber and get on as though you are so pure.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Sir. Before the Government changed we heard how the former Minister for the Post Office had too many security guards at the Post Office. Now he is telling me the postmen were doing.....

(*Aside: He did not say in the Post Office.*)

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am saying, Sir, on a point of elucidation, ...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Wait a minute. The honourable gentleman, just a minute. «

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, on a point of elucidation.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You were on a point of order first. You are on a point of elucidation now.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: All the same time, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: But you are.....

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I think the honourable Member may have misunderstood me. What I am saying is that the complaint is that these postmen or post ladies, whoever they are, from the various out-stations find themselves, in addition to performing normal postal duties, detailed to work between 8.00 and 12.00 with the mail as security personnel. Do I make it clear now? That is the complaint.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: In response to that, first of all, the union is looking at the matter, and the union has been looking at the matter for some time going back to the time when the Barbados Labour Party Administration was the Administration that formed the Government.

Aside.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Do you want to see the union file? I heard you had opportunities of seeing the union file a long time ago. I understand that you had opportunity to represent the union, but you did not want to see the file.

(Aside: He refused to represent the union?)

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: He refused to represent the union. He did not want to see any file.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Post Office.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: You were representing other people. What do you want to see the union file for now?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Post Office!

Laughter.

Asides.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: What do you want me to ask him?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Come on, let us get on with the debate.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: You do not want to see the union files now. You had a chance to see them a long time ago. You refused them because you were looking at other files.

Laughter.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: You gave up the case because you were looking at other files. What do you want to see the union files for now?

Laughter.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The honourable Member can never say that I have legitimately refused to represent

anybody. If the opportunity comes and he wants to be represented, I will give him legitimate representation.

Asides.

Laughter.

(Aside: Hon. H. deB. FORDE: That is not true!)

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: What kind of representation would I be coming to you for? What in my life would you expect that I would want to come to you for any kind of representation for? '

Laughter.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: You have other people to represent, you find them. They might be around you, very close around you. Do not use those kinds of terms to me.

Laughter.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: You would not have to represent me in anything.

Laughter.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: I may have to represent you.

Laughter.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: The point on the Post Office is that the matter is under consideration by the trade union, and it goes back to the time when the Barbados Labour Party formed the Administration of this country.

Aside.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: You use that kind of language to people that feel inferior to you! I do not!

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let us get on with the debate.

(Aside: Hon. H. deB. FORDE: If the honourable Member wants to be offensive, he can continue to be offensive.)

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Do not use that kind of language to me!

The question that Head 50 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On the motion of Hon. P. M. GREAVES, seconded by Hon. M. A. KING. Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of six money Resolutions in Committee of Supply, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On separate motions of Hon. P. M. GREAVES, seconded by Hon. M. A. KING, the Resolutions were read a first time, a second time and agreed to. 9.25 p.m.

QUESTION TIME

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I move, Sir, that Question time be now taken.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is now Question Time.

The honourable Member for Christ Church East (Mr. E. Bourne).

Question re street lighting in Thyme Bottom.

MtE. BOURNE: Question No. 34, To ask the Minister of Transport, Works and Telecommunications: (1) Is the Minister aware that there is an urgent need for the provision of street lighting at Thyme Bottom in the constituency of Christ Church East? (2) Will the Minister cause appropriate street lighting to be installed in that district before Christmas, 1986?

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: The Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 34 is as follows:

1. "Yes, Sir".

2. "It is proposed to install seven street-lights in Thyme Bottom during the current financial year".

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Christ Church East, Question No. 36.

Question re road works in various parts of Christ Church.

Mr. E. BOURNE: Question No. 36, To ask the Minister of Transport, Works and Telecommunications: Will the Minister take steps to ensure (1) the early repair, and raising of the road surface of the Silver Sands Coast Road, the Breedy's Land Road which joins Ealing Park 1 and 2 to Hopewell, and the Ealing Grove Boggs Road, all of which are presently almost impassable, and (2) the provision of slipper drains for those roads?

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: The Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 36 is as follows:

"Yes, Sir.

Silver Sands Coast Road, Breedy's Land Road, and the Ealing Grove/Boggs Road were partially resurfaced. Consideration will be given to further resurfacing and the construction of slipper drains on these roads in the Ministry's 1987/88 Roads Programme."

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The honourable Member for St. James North, Question No. 48.

Question re roads in Sunset Crest, St James

Mr. J. J. PAYNE: Question No. 48: To ask the Minister of Transport, Works and Telecommunications: 1. Is the Minister aware that written representations were made to the previous Government requesting that the roads in the Sunset Crest Development, Saint James, be taken over by Government? 2. Is the Minister also aware that an undertaking was given by the previous Government to the Sunset Crest Owners Association to take over the roads but was never fulfilled? 3. Will the Minister take urgent steps

to effect the taking over of the said roads as is earnestly expected by the Residents of Sunset Crest?

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: The Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 48 is as follows:

1. Yes, Sir.

2. Yes, Sir.

3. The Minister approved a programme for 1987/88 which includes Sunset Crest and it is expected that work will commence during this financial year.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No supplementary.

Laughter.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The honourable Member for St. Peter, Question No. 82.

Question re deletion of first point in salary scale Z.39

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Question No. 82:

To ask the Prime Minister. 1. Will the Minister state whether in accordance with the statement in this House by the then Prime Minister on 10th March, 1987, the first point in the salary scale, Z.39, has been deleted with consequential adjustments to the grading of any posts which have such a commencing salary? 2. If the deletion and consequential adjustments have not yet been made, will the Minister please indicate when action will be taken to bring them into effect?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Prime Minister.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the reply to Parliamentary Question No. 82 is as follows:

"The Reply to this question is available in official documents."

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any supplementary?

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Yes. Will the honourable Prime Minister please state and identify the official document, and the date of its publication?

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: You should know that.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: What official document? The Central Bank Report?

Asides.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order. Any further supplementaries?

(Aside: Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Look for it.)

Asides.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Yes, that is the answer.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is the end of Question Time.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, on a point of elucidation.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You were on a point of order first. You are on a point of elucidation now.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: All the same time, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: But you are.....

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I think the honourable Member may have misunderstood me. What I am saying is that the complaint is that these postmen or post ladies, whoever they are, from the various out-stations find themselves, in addition to performing normal postal duties, detailed to work between 8.00 and 12.00 with the mail as security personnel. Do I make it clear now? That is the complaint.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: In response to that, first of all, the union is looking at the matter, and the union has been looking at the matter for some time going back to the time when the Barbados Labour Party Administration was the Administration that formed the Government

Aside.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Do you want to see the union file? I heard you had opportunities of seeing the union file a long time ago. I understand that you had opportunity to represent the union, but you did not want to see the file.

(Aside: He refused to represent the union?)

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: He refused to represent the union. He did not want to see any file.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Post Office.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: You were representing other people. What do you want to see the union file for now?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Post Office!

Laughter.

Asides.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: What do you want me to ask him?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Come on, let us get on with the debate.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: You do not want to see the union files now. You had a chance to see them a long time ago. You refused them because you were looking at other files.

Laughter.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: You gave up the case because you were looking at other files. What do you want to see the union files for now?

Laughter.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The honourable Member can never say that I have legitimately refused to represent

anybody. If the opportunity comes and he wants to be represented, I will give him legitimate representation.

Asides.

Laughter.

(Aside: Hon. H. deB. FORDE: That is not true!)

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: What kind of representation would I be coming to you for? What in my life would you expect that I would want to come to you for any kind of representation for?

Laughter.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: You have other people to represent, you find them. They might be around you, very close around you. Do not use those kinds of terms to me.

Laughter.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: You would not have to represent me in anything.

Laughter.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: I may have to represent you.

Laughter.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: The point on the Post Office is that the matter is under consideration by the trade union, and it goes back to the time when the Barbados Labour Party formed the Administration of this country.

Aside.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: You use that kind of language to people that feel inferior to you! I do not!

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let us get on with the debate.

(Aside: Hon. H. deB. FORDE: If the honourable Member wants to be offensive, he can continue to be offensive.)

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Do not use that kind of language to me!

The question that Head 50 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On the motion of Hon. P. M. GREWES, seconded by Hon. M. A. KING, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of six money Resolutions in Committee of Supply, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On separate motions of Hon. P. M. GREWES, seconded by Hon. M. A. KING, the Resolutions were read a first time, a second time and agreed to. 9.25 p.m.

QUESTION TIME

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I move, Sir, that Question time be now taken.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is now Question Time.

The honourable Member for Christ Church East (Mr. E. Bourne).

Question re street lighting in Thyme Bottom.

MtE. BOURNE: Question No. 34, To ask the Minister of Transport, Works and Telecommunications: (1) Is the Minister aware that there is an urgent need for the provision of street lighting at Thyme Bottom in the constituency of Christ Church East? (2) Will the Minister cause appropriate street lighting to be installed in that district before Christmas, 1986?

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: The Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 34 is as follows:

1. 'Yes, Sir'.

2. "It is proposed to install seven street-lights in Thyme Bottom during the current financial year".

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Christ Church East, Question No. 36.

Question re road works in various parts of Christ Church.

Mr. E. BOURNE: Question No. 36, To ask the Minister of Transport, Works and Telecommunications: Will the Minister take steps to ensure (1) the early repair, and raising of the road surface of the Silver Sands Coast Road, the Breedy's Land Road which joins Ealing Park 1 and 2 to Hopewell, and the Ealing Grove Boggs Road, all of which arc presently almost impassable, and (2) the provision of slipper drains for those roads?

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Silver Sands Coast Road, Breedy's Land Road, and the Ealing Grove/Boggs Road were partially resurfaced. Consideration will be given to further resurfacing and the construction of slipper drains on these roads in the Ministry's 1987/88 Roads Programme."

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The honourable Member for St. James North, Question No. 48.

Question re roads in Sunset Crest, St. James

Mr. J. J. PAYNE: Question No. 48: To ask the Minister of Transport, Works and Telecommunications: 1. Is the Minister aware that written representations were made to the previous Government requesting that the roads in the Sunset Crest Development, Saint James, be taken over by Government? 2. Is the Minister also aware that an undertaking was given by the previous Government to the Sunset Crest Owners Association to take over the roads but was never fulfilled? 3. Will the Minister take urgent steps

to effect the taking over of the said roads as is earnestly expected by the Residents of Sunset Crest?

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: The Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 48 is as follows:

1. Yes, Sir.

2. Yes, Sir.

3. The Minister approved a programme for 1987/88 which includes Sunset Crest and it is expected that work will commence during this financial year.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No supplementary.

Laughter.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The honourable Member for St. Peter, Question No. 82.

Question re deletion of first point in salary scale Z.39

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Question No. 82:

To ask the Prime Minister. 1. Will the Minister state whether in accordance with the statement in this House by the then Prime Minister on 10th March, 1987, the first point in the salary scale, Z.39, has been deleted with consequential adjustments to the grading of any posts which have such a commencing salary? 2. If the deletion and consequential adjustments have not yet been made, will the Minister please indicate when action will be taken to bring them into effect?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Prime Minister.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the reply to Parliamentary Question No. 82 is as follows:

"The Reply to this question is available in official documents."

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any supplementary?

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Yes. Will the honourable Prime Minister please state and identify the official document, and the date of its publication?

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: You should know that.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: What official document? The Central Bank Report?

Asides.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order. Any further supplementaries?

(*Aside:* Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Look for it.)

Asides.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Yes, that is the answer.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is the end of Question Time.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have had a long sitting....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: An exciting one, too.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: and it is high time, Sir, for us to go to our respective abodes, or wherever Members want to go to.

I move that this House do now adjourn until December 8, 1987 at 12 o'clock noon, Sir.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: I second that, Sir.

The question that this House do adjourn until December 8, 1987 at 12 o'clock noon was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly. 9.32 p.m.

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FORDE, Hon. H. deB. (Christ Church West)

FRANKLIN, Hon. W. O. (St. Philip North)

GREAVES, Hon. E. E. (St. Lucy)

GREAVES, Hon. P. M. (St. Michael North)

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TROTMAN, C. L. (St. Michael Central)

WALKER, Hon. C. V. (St. George North)