

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1986 - 91

Tuesday, February 16, 1988

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

PRESENT

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

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

Hon. 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.)

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

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

Mr. E. Bourne

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

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

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

Prayers were led by Fr. Ivan Harewood. Mr.

SPEAKER: The House is in session.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of Tuesday, February 9, 1988.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I move that the Minutes for the proceedings of this Honourable Chamber on Tuesday, February 9, 1988 be taken as read and confirmed.

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR

Mr. SPEAKER: I am to announce that I am in receipt of the following:

The Accounts and Statements for the month of December 1987 as prepared by the Accountant General.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:

The Customs Tariff (Amendment) Order, 1988.

The Customs Tariff (Amendment) (No. 2) Order, 1988.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES Hon. P. M.

GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I give notice of:

A Resolution to grant the sum of \$857 285 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. 45.

I will also state that I hope, with the concurrence of the House, we will probably be able to do this Resolution in all its stages today.

I give notice too, Sir, of the following:

A Resolution to grant the sum of \$212,836 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. 46.

A Bill to amend the Ombudsman Act, Cap. 8A.

A Bill to amend and consolidate the law relating to the raising of local loans by the Government of Barbados.

FIRST READINGS OF BILLS

On separate motions of Hon. P. M. GREAVES, seconded by Hon. M. A. KING, the following Bills were read a first time:

A Bill to amend the Ombudsman Act, Cap. 8A.

A Bill to amend and consolidate the law relating to the raising of local loans by the Government of Barbados.

ORAL REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 73 is ready.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, before proceeding on the business of the day, I move, Sir, that Standing Orders 6, 16, 18, 20, 42(5), 43 and 44 be suspended for the remainder of the day's sitting.

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

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

BILL TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION OF BARBADOS, (DEBATE RESUMED)

Order No. 2 was called - To move that the House resume debate on the second reading of a Bill to amend the Constitution of Barbados.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Christ Church West, Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I think it is appropriate for me to recount today the rationale which has been advanced by the Honourable Attorney-General, the Member for Christ Church West Central, (Hon. M. A. King), for the changes which it is being proposed to make to Section 42 of the Constitution.

I understand that there are three principal reasons which he has advanced. The first is that some of the language in Section 42 is tautologous or repetitious, and that, therefore, from a drafting point of view, there is need for clarification. His second reason, as I understand it, is that parliamentary control is absent in so far as His Excellency the Governor-General has the power, acting on the advice of the Commission, to make regulations for the election of members to the House of Assembly. The third reason is that the law as it stands gives the Governor-General, acting on the advice of the Commission, power to alter what the Minister has described as substantive or fundamental laws.

He has particularly characterised the law relating to some aspects of the conduct of election of members - the age of majority, for instance - as well as the law relating to the function of the electoral controversies court, as two examples which he would cite. The gravamen of his charge is that he, and the Government, is of the view that there ought to be some parliamentary input into those aspects of legislation. 12.25 p.m.

In relation to the second reason which he has advanced, he said that he must contrast the position in relation to the power of the Governor-General to make regulations affecting the election of members to the House of Assembly with the position of the Governor-General, acting on the advice of the Commission, in relation to the changes in the constituency boundaries. The solution which he is proposing to deal with these problems is to take away the power from the Governor-General to make laws relating to the election of members of the House of Assembly and the determination of controversies arising out of elections, and, therefore, those powers would now, on the draft before this House, remain within Parliament, obviously on the initiative of the Executive or the Cabinet.

The solution which is proposed, Mr. Speaker, seems to me, on the face of it, that it would leave intact the power of the Electoral and Boundaries Commission to make regulations over the conduct of elections, registration of voters and the daily conduct of elections. Frankly, what we would have is that, in this area of the law, there would still be no control, no parliamentary intervention, other than to the extent that Parliament may see it fit to bring a Resolution before Parliament dealing with any of these matters.

I want, at the outset, to make clear, in a historical context, the Opposition's reasons for having amended this section of our Constitution. I believe that those reasons were valid at the time of the amendment in 1981 - in fact, in my view, they were valid long before 1981 - and those reasons remain valid today.

I believe that we can now agree that there is a need to preserve the independence of the electoral process and procedures in Barbados. I think that this is fundamental to the functioning of the parliamentary system of democracy as understood in our countries, it is an ideal to which we should all aim and it is a principle that we should all seek to maintain.

Secondly, it has been fundamental to the Opposition's position, well before the coming into effect of the Constitution of Barbados, that we should try wherever possible, whenever possible, and as strongly as possible, to preserve free and fair elections. This is a principle which we have sought to project in our international relations, and I think that it is important that whatever is done in this House should seek to preserve that principle. I think we should also seek to remove, as much as possible, from day-to-day partisan political controversies and divisions, what I consider to be one of the most important institutional aspects of freedom and democracy for a country such as Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, I will have to remind that our view on the need for an Electoral and Boundaries Commission, which has institutional protection within the Constitution, was not the view of the Democratic Labour Party leading up to the formation of an independent Constitution for Barbados. The view then as expressed by the Democratic Labour Party - the honourable Member had one or two political points to make, so I think he has to listen to one or two political points - was that boundaries and the change of boundaries was a matter essentially for the House; that the procedure, Mr. Speaker, which was followed, was that the House from time to time established its own Boundaries Commission, and under the Representation of the People Act the Minister then brought an Order down.

That has led to a great deal of dissatisfaction in the political life of Barbados. In 1971, it led to the allegation of the change in boundaries, particularly in the Christ Church area - I remember Parish Land very well - which really left a great division within the system of Barbados. The then honourable senior Member for Christ Church, Mr. Bernard SL John, as he then was, had, I think, with some justification, quite a lot of reason to complain that the time in which the change was effected did not leave a reasonable time for voters to know where they were going, how they were going and in which constituency they were..

The Labour Party consistently - in 1966, 1971 and 1976 - placed within its manifestos - and it is there for all to see - that it was necessary for us in that context to enshrine an independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission within the Constitution and to give it a special protection in the Constitution, so much so that, as the honourable Member has said, the provisions now form part of the enshrined sections of the Constitution of Barbados. I am pleased to see that there is now ready acceptance of the need for such a commission. Indeed, I believe that its acceptance puts Barbados in a position today that we can argue with conviction when we speak in the international community, whether it be to Haiti, Guyana, or elsewhere, on these issues.

The stand which we take on this Bill, Mr. Speaker, is simply this - to the extent that it will bring an improvement in constitutional protection of fair and free elections, it will get our support. Therefore, the Bill must ensure that kept intact are the two fundamental reasons and principles which I outlined at the beginning of my speech, which have always inspired the position of the Barbados Labour Party, and I want, in that context and against that background, to look at the three reasons which the Minister has advanced.

I do not think reason No. 1 would, by itself, have been a sufficient reason for the change. I think the Minister will

concede that. The fact that language is tautologous or repetitious may only mean that that may not be the elegant form of drafting. It may just be that within the Caribbean our draughtsmen still follow each other, because I think the Minister will concede that provisions similar to these occur in other Constitutions of the Caribbean in almost identical form. 12.35 p.m.

I think that you will find that the language used here, as I said in the debate on the change which was made, occurred in the Constitution of Jamaica, I believe, and I think St. Vincent was (the other example I cited). In any event the language was culled from the recommendations contained in the Cox Report on the Review of the Constitution which was laid in this House, I believe, some time in 1979 or thereabouts. That would not be a sufficient reason, I think, for the Government to bring this Bill before the House.

The reason which the Government really relies on is the feeling that Parliament must have a say in some aspects of the law relating to the election of Members of this Honourable House. It is my contention that Parliament will always have a say, and, even as the law stands, does have a say. The question is, should it have a say when changes are proposed to those laws to the extent that it must have final parliamentary approval in one form or other - and there are various forms in which that approval can be given - or should the Commission merely act on its own?

In my view, if we are going to make a change, we have to ensure that the change that we are making does not perpetuate the problem of which the Minister spoke. That is the first thing I want to counsel. Secondly, we have to ensure that whatever say Parliament has will not undermine the principle which the original amendment sought to enshrine, namely, preserving the independence of the electoral process.

Sir, the Minister cited the case of voters. Let me be the first to confess that it was intended to alter the constitution further to preserve within the Constitution and to have a particular section dealing with the right to vote and the age at which one acquires that right. The Cox Commission made this very clear, and I read, Mr. Speaker, with your permission from page 27 at paragraph 69 of that report. It recommended that the Constitution should provide not only that there should be elections not later than every five years, but that the electorate must have the right to vote - I believe that that should meet with the approval of everyone - and in the draft, later on there is reference to the age at which the right to vote should be exercised. That recommendation was accepted by the Cabinet of the day, and indeed you will see within the debate in the Senate - I believe the debate took place in the Senate on April 29, 1981 - Sir Mencea

Cox, who was then in the Senate, said that he regretted that the legislation at the time did not also include that provision.

So I would agree with the Minister that the right to - vote and the age at which one exercises that right is a matter of prime importance. As far as we on this side are concerned, we are prepared, if an amendment is being made at this stage, to use the opportunity to enshrine that right at the same time. So you can isolate one of the areas in which there is some concern as to whether only the Governor-General, acting on the advice of the Commission, should have a say. That is our position; it arises out of this report, I believe that it is a sound position, and I believe it is a position that should meet with the complete approval of this House.

The other area in which the Minister expressed some concern is the area of the Election Court. The Election ** Court, although it is referred to within the context of the Representation of the People Act, really is another division of, in a way, of the overall Supreme Court of Judicature in Barbados, and the Supreme Court of Judicature in Barbados has protection' within the Constitution itself. Certainly, speaking from our point of view, we would see no harm again if an amendment is called for in enshrining within the ^ Constitution, to make it quite clear that one cannot tamper with that court, the appropriate position, if it is required.

Those are the two main areas I think to which the Minister adverted. I am willing with the Minister to agree that they are two important areas which each one of us will want to ensure that they are there and that they are protected. I can see no harm in providing that protection within the framework of an amendment to these sections, and it would mean an amendment to a later section as well.

I think this debate should also raise, Sir, a few other questions which I have. Constitutional amendment is something that excites the populace at large. Once a ^ constitution is promulgated, it becomes the fundamental law of Barbados. There will be several occasions within the b'fe of any country that Parliament, or the legislatures of the Parliament, will have to advert to their fundamental law, but one of the mysteries of the English parliamentary system of democracy is that it has managed to survive centuries without having any one place to which you can look for its fundamental law. Its system has evolved over * the years, although it has taken struggle, including serious class struggle within the British system of politics to have reached the high stage at which their democracy has reached on these matters. But Magna Charta is as fundamental to them, if not more fundamental, than Section 3, of our Constitution.

The Honourable Deputy Prime Minister will remember Section 3. He and I can see some of our work still in that section, the hours spent at Lancaster House in framing the Constitution. I believe in this House, and not in any way boasting about it, we are probably the only two survivors of those who were present at the Lancaster House Conference. The honourable Member for St. Thomas (Mr. D. A. C. Simmons) was also at Lancaster House, but he was in the position of an objective commentator on what was happening on the outside. 12.45 p.m.

It seems to me that one of the things that we are going to have to look at, despite what segment comes, is that we have to recognise that, from time to time, we are going to have to review, in the light of developments within our country, the Constitution as it stands and deal with the problems which are presented.

Sir, I have always felt very strongly that we had to repatriate the Constitution of Barbados.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I can assure the honourable Member for St. Michael West (Hon. B. M. Taitt), when he says I have got the headlines now, that when I speak, I speak for posterity, not merely for the next day, Sir.

Laughter.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: My speech is not for headlines, my speech is to make a contribution so that it has some lasting value in effect, more so on an issue such as this, Sir. The honourable Member must know this.

This is not the first time that I have expressed that view. Within the very debate on the changes that were made under Section 42, I expressed that view. The reason why I say it is not because we have not got power to alter our own Constitution - in fact, we are at present setting out on that exercise here - but it is because, in truth and in fact, the Constitution of Barbados still is an Order-In-Council of Her Majesty sitting in Council and acting on an enabling Act passed by the British Parliament. I believe that we can agree among ourselves that this Parliament, in its 350th year next year, is supreme enough, constituted as it is by those of us within the Parliamentary framework, to now have our own Constitution set out in our own Parliamentary document, and we have reached the stage of maturity that we can rely on ourselves to ensure that it is respected in that regard.

One of the aims of the Cox Commission which was set up was to do just that, to try to repatriate the Constitution here. The Attorney-General will probably have

access to the files now, but from my memory of what happened on the Cox Commission, after the report was laid, preliminary work was started on an overall Constitutional Bill. When I left as the Attorney-General, discussions had been taking place between the Cabinet Office, which has prime responsibility for this subject, and the Attorney-General about the overall drafting of the Bill to repatriate the Constitution.

The second point I want to make, Sir, is that there are sound recommendations within the Cox Commission Report, many of them non-controversial, many of which would get acceptance from the main political parties in this country, which ought to be implemented. The 1986 manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party made it quite clear that we would have continued with the implementation of those proposals. It is another area on which we can all agree.

I said that there are some areas that are non-controversial. I will cite one for the benefit of this House. Section 10 of the Constitution deals with children out of wedlock acquiring citizenship, and they acquire citizenship now only through their mothers. We have since then, by the Status of Children Reform Act, abolished the stigma of illegitimacy - all children are equal and they are the children of their natural parents - and it seems to me that the Constitutional document should be altered to reflect this as well.

As I see it - and this is one of the reasons why I will be recommending to this House that this Bill goes before a Select Committee of the House - there is also the situation \ that we ought to hear, to some extent, from the public on the particular change being suggested. A Select Committee will give us an opportunity to sit down and consider those aspects of the matter. It would also give us an opportunity to make related changes on this aspect of the Bill that may be of interest to us in this House.

I also want to say to the Minister that, as I understand it, one of the mechanisms to achieve the Parliamentary control of which he speaks could be the use of what is known as the affirmative resolution, which is provided for in the Interpretation Act of Barbados and in the Rules of the House. Mr. Speaker, you would be very familiar with this. It is possible, therefore, to retain the parliamentary say by making it obligatory for the Commission to lay the regulations on the House and that those regulations should be subjected to affirmative resolution. It is also possible to have a review on the assumption that, for instance, the regulations do not at first meet with the approval of the House, to build in a review procedure for reviewing the regulations.

The Minister cited the situation where a draft Order is made after the Boundaries Commission has laid its report. He cited that when that comes back to the House, if it is affirmed by the House, then the necessary Order is made. If however, the House amends it, or if the House does not affirm it, then, in such cases, the Minister can lay the Order. I would like to see the opportunity also taken for the Minister's final Order, whenever that comes, under Section 41 (D), to be subjected to the House's final approval.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I do not think that that is so as it is. It says: "Where the motion for the approval is rejected by either House, the Minister shall amend the draft and lay it before the House not later than two months after the day of its rejection and approval."

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Section 5: Where any draft made is approved by resolution, the Minister shall submit it to the Governor-General. That Order shall come into effect on the next dissolution unless revoked. I believe that that is the section that would cover that.

What is not in, however, is that we have not put in a provision which makes it obligatory for the Commission to consult and get some public reaction to changes in boundaries before that is done. I think the honourable Member is familiar with the provision in the United Kingdom and elsewhere where that provision exists. I have read the honourable Member's speech - probably I have missed something that he said at the time - but I cannot recall seeing him advert to that. Probably he did; and maybe he can draw my attention to the debate where that occurred.

In the United Kingdom, the position is that, normally, in the four commissions - I think there are now five, because there is now a commission dealing with elections to the European Parliament - when they make a proposal, they publish their proposal and given time for it to be studied. It is my contention that this can still be done by regulations which the Commission could make. I have not seen any regulations made by the Commission. I have not seen any published. I think that the only regulations that were made by the Commission so far are regulations dealing with political broadcasting. I cannot recall seeing any regulations so far dealing with the question of the publication of changes of boundaries. My contention would be that even in the absence of a specific provision in the Constitution, the Constitution, as it stands, permits the Commission to make those sort of regulations, and the regulations have not yet been made. I would like to see that

improvement on it even in the making of the regulations which can be made. 12.55 p.m.

Asides.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The Prime Minister showed me his contribution on the debate at 5520. I do not believe we got a response on that. I am not sure whether the Prime Minister or myself spoke on that aspect. I answered most of the points which had been made. From my recollection, the Prime Minister was then suffering a sore throat and I was taking charge of the measure, and he spoke on the point. There was a lot of concern about the appointment of the staff and judicial review was another area. I think those were dealt with.

What is significant is that I think that in that debate I made some reference to the affirmative resolution point as well, because I assumed that there would have been affirmative resolution. But it went to the Senate and those changes were never made at the time. I would like to suggest that at present, even as the legislation stands, it is possible to publish regulations allowing there to be some participation on the changes which are recommended.

So, Mr. Speaker, to summarise the points which I want to make on this, the first is that we recommend to the Government the need to send the amendment to a Select Committee. I believe that that would give us an opportunity, within the serious study that goes on within Select Committees - at least some of the Select Committees that I have sat on have given serious consideration to these measures - to meet as well with the advisers from the Drafting Section of the Government to fine tune any infelicities of language, of legal drafting, which may have been taken over from the recommended draft by Professor Carnegie and the others who dealt with this matter. Secondly, it would give an opportunity to any members of the public who may want to be heard on the question of review, if the Committee so chooses, an opportunity to deal with this matter.

Sir, it is a matter for the Government to decide whether it wants a Committee of both Houses of Parliament. My own view is that the matter is principally a matter for the Lower House, but I can see no difficulty with both Houses of Parliament having a say on the matter, if it is the view of this House and the Upper House as well.

Thirdly, I would like to suggest, in any event, to the Honourable Minister who has taken charge of this Resolution, that one of the legal processes of achieving parliamentary say without doing any damage to the fundamental principles of which I spoke is the mechanism of the affirmative resolution. It permits the Government and

other Members of Parliament, the Opposition,, to be able to air any reservations, approvals or disapprovals which we have of the particular legislation, and it permits the Commission with the opportunity to hear what reservations or views that we have. It would not undermine, either, the position of the Government on the matter, but at the same time, I think that it would give us an opportunity to canvas as wide an area of public views on this particular pan of the institutional framework and protection of democratic institutions as we have. Subject to that, if my suggestions are accepted, I believe that this matter could be dealt with reasonably expeditiously, given the changes which were made.

Let me, however, use the last few minutes that I have to speak on this measure to make a few points. Certainly speaking from the point of the Opposition, we are satisfied that the Electoral and Boundaries Commission has brought a high sense of duty to the task it is performing. The members have seen both sides of the political spectrum here, and people outside the two main political parties, have listened to any representations which we have had to make to them, whether they are justified or unjustified, and, I believe, have reacted sensibly to them. The fact that the five members who constitute the Commission have been appointed in the manner in which they have, has enabled, I believe, the political concerns of the two main political parties to be taken into account, and yet, at the same time we have managed to achieve a high measure of independence for this Commission. The Commission is constituted of people, I think, of the highest integrity, and they have brought that approach to their tasks. I believe that they have, as much as any of us politicians have, within their breasts the strong feeling that they, too, must make a contribution and ultimately must seek to safeguard those principles of which I spoke. And although this House has not yet had the benefit of a report from the Commission, I want publicly to say that I commend them on the work that they have been doing and to say the transition has gone rather smoothly.

The 1981 elections were not conducted under this system, but the 1986 were. I am not saying that, when conducted, our elections do not have problems. But I cannot say that our problems amount in any way to the son of problems that we have seen in other countries, including other Caribbean countries. There are problems, but the problems which I have noticed occurred were caused by various administrative difficulties, and we should all work towards getting rid of those as well, as soon as possible. 1.05 p.m.

One of the things that the Opposition and I would welcome very early is that the Commission, regardless of if we have finished this amendment or not, should deal with a reform of the whole area of the electoral laws. At the

moment the electoral laws are scattered in the Representation of the People Act, the Election Controversies Act, and the House of Assembly, I think, Rules.

There are various bits of legislation dealing with this. In some respects, we can update the legislation. I do not know whether the Minister is in a position to say whether this exercise has started, because although the Commission has the responsibility for it and has its own independent legal adviser, I believe, it has to work hand in hand with the Attorney-General's Chambers and with the Prime Minister's Ministry, which has responsibility for electoral matters. I believe the legal adviser is a very distinguished former Solicitor-General in whom both sides of the House could have great confidence that he will bring an objective and non-partisan approach to this matter. So I would like to see that we get out of the way, well ahead of elections, this son of hearing.

I believe that we have reached, and particularly as we approach our 350th anniversary, the stage where the form of our electoral laws and their content should not be a cause for political parties to be warring about. I do not think we need that any more in this country. I have said that on several occasions. I think there are enough precedents in the Commonwealth and elsewhere to guide us. In the last couple of years, I have studied rather deeply the systems obtaining in most of the Canadian provinces as well as in the United Kingdom, and there are enough precedents there to assist us. I think the Chief Electoral Officer has also been exposed rather extensively to the provisions in Canada and elsewhere and is familiar with them.

Secondly, I think, Sir, that we have to get out of the realm of controversy the whole area of enumeration. This is a matter well within the bosom of the Commission itself, and I would expect that we will have an enumeration exercise very soon from now, conducted as is provided for within the Constitution by the Commission itself, but in such a way that neither of the major political parties, or any other political party on the sideline, can be dissatisfied with the electoral process and how we go about it I want to repeat, however, that regardless of the criticisms that have come from both political parties of each other from time to time, Barbados has still achieved a very high level of performance in this regard, and as one of the people in public life at present having responsibility for preserving the institutions which have served us well, I say that whatever criticisms we may make in our anxiety to improve the system, or whatever political point we may make against each other, one must always accept the fact that Barbados does stand out in the Caribbean and in the Commonwealth in this regard for the fact that we have had very high systems. We have been able to change

Governments from time to time, as we will change Governments again from time to time, Sir.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I will tell the honourable Member for St. Michael West, who speaks *sotto voce*, not to say these things, because when I look into this debate for 1981,¹ I see the prediction made by myself and others as to how soon the other side would have been sitting in the Government benches. I have heard the prediction once, for instance, that it would be 300 years before the Democratic Labour Party went out of power. I think the honourable Member remembers that statement made by the then Leader of the Barbados National Party, Mr. Ernest Deighton Mottley of late memory. In fact, when I look through various debates of this House, I see that from time to time, depending on which side of the fence we are sitting at the time, we forecast that we will be the other side of the fence within a certain time. But one thing is certain, as night follows day, and I can promise the Government this, there will be a change of Government.

(Aside: At some time.)

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: At some time, the honourable Member has to be very conscious of that.

Sir, regardless of whether we sit over there or over here, there are some matters too fundamental to the continuation of our country which will outlast us as individuals, and we should try always to make sure when we speak about them that we speak with a certain amount of sobriety and responsibility. That is why in this particular area we have come into the House to say to the Government that once it is an improvement, we are quite prepared - if it is an improvement - to play our role in that regard, and once it is a matter that relates to the fundamental principles of our political life, then once again we are prepared to play our part in that regard.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Prime Minister.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD (St. Michael South): Mr. Speaker, it is very hazardous to make predictions in life, particularly in relation to the political aspects. In 1981, the Honourable Leader of the Opposition did make some predictions about how long they, the Barbados Labour Party Government, would remain in power and how long the Democratic Labour Party would remain in Opposition. When we reflect on these things, we wonder what it is that guides us in making the kinds of predictions that we tend to make. Certainly reality seems to be far away from the actual considerations which cause us to make those kinds of predictions.

In 1981, the Member for Christ Church West (Hon. H. deB. Forde) - he was then Attorney-General - indicated that, at some time in the future, the Members who were on this side of the House at that time, the Opposition, might have the privilege of looking after the enforcement of the particular piece of legislation that was being discussed in perhaps 100 years, and he then went on to say that hope springs eternal in the human breast. He said probably 100 years, but, then, he was very specific and definite, and he said it was certainly not going to be in the next five years. But 81 and 5 make 86, and then, lo and behold, in 1986 the very persons whom he said would not be in the Government formed the Government.

Laughter.

1.15p.m.

I suppose there is a little tongue-in-the-cheek and humour when these kinds of comments are made. Those comments, obviously, had to be based in humour, certainly not in reality. Who would, however, have predicted that in respect of the 1981 amendments to the Constitution introduced by the then Attorney-General, now Leader of the Opposition, we would be considering this particular amendment now, and not only that, but the said Member would be saying that he agrees that there should be amendments and changes to the legislation which he introduced and piloted through this Honourable Chamber.

I think that when we are considering any matter before this Honourable Chamber, it is most important that we bear in mind that it is not only narrow political advantage that speakers - when I say speakers, the Members speaking from the floor, Sir - may be seeking at any particular moment, but they are seeking what is good for the people of Barbados, and of this country which we all love so much. That has to be uppermost in our consideration.

Having examined the amendments of 1981, and looking at the experiences arising out of those amendments, we have come to the conclusion that there is need for some change in the amendments, and, as I understand it, the Opposition is agreeing that there is need for a change. I think the people of this country should understand that there is agreement between the Government and the Opposition that the Constitution, as amended in 1981, is now in need of change in certain respects. I do not think there is any doubt about this.

Let us understand what is happening. I think the people of this country should understand that the Constitution that we are proposing to amend is not the 1966 Constitution. It is not the Constitution as amended in 1974. The amendments that we are talking about arise out of the changes introduced by the Barbados Labour Party Government in 1981. The experience out of the operations

of those amendments indicates that there is a need for an amendment

Asides.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: If the Commission asks for or suggests amendments, it is out of its experience of operating under the Constitution under which it has been set up. I do not think that there is any doubt about this. It is out of the experience of seeking to operate the 1981 amendments that we are dealing with this particular matter.

Let us understand that there is agreement on the fundamentals as expressed by the Leader of the Opposition. No one in this country would deny that there is need to preserve and protect a system of free and fair elections in this country, and no one would deny that we should take all necessary and appropriate steps to ensure that that form of Government known as parliamentary democracy should be part and parcel not only of our practice, but also of the highest law of the land. So it is not a question now of principle involved here, it is a question of how we actually proceed in seeking to give meaning and purpose, flesh and body, to those principles.

In the pre-1966 Constitution, as well as in the 1966 Independence Constitution and thereafter, we have had in this country a system of elections of which the entire country can be proud. We have fair and free elections. There have been charges, there have been counter-charges, but, by and large, the system that we have operated compares favourably with the best that have been seen anytime and thereafter in any other country that you can call. •!• think that what we have done in this country stands up favourably with what happens where elections are conducted in the highest possible traditions.

What happened is that during the late 1970s, in pursuit of a belief that the electoral system and the concept of fair and free elections should be enshrined in the Constitution, a Constitutional Commission was set up, the objective of which was to examine ways by which the Constitution of Barbados needed amendment. Out of the deliberations of that particular commission, proposals were made for the establishment of an Electoral and Boundaries Commission, and therein arises the problem. 1.25 p.m.

When once a decision was taken to set up an independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission - not that there was anything fundamentally wrong with the way in which elections and the whole election procedures had been conducted before that time, but, as it were, in order to make assurance doubly sure, the Government of the day felt that an Electoral and Boundaries Commission should be appointed as an independent body - the question then arose

as to what power should be given to that particular body. I think that it is arising out of that question that the difficulties have emerged, because under the previous arrangements, this Parliament had control over the laws relating to boundaries, to the representation of the people, laws relating to controversies arising out of elections and it had control over matters relating to registration and the procedures of elections. All of these were either in the Constitution, or, as the Leader of the House indicated, in different laws on the Statute Books of this country. But when this independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission was established, in order to seek to give it the kind of independence which was considered desirable as a matter of judgment, certain very grave difficulties arose.

Let me give an example. In dealing with boundaries and the delineation of constituencies, we actually have two procedures. One calls for the Commission to come up with a draft Order and for that Order to be laid, and it makes provision for what should happen if there is agreement, if there is disagreement and matters of that sort. The position of Parliament is protected in that particular procedure, because it comes to Parliament. Then there is another mechanism, I believe that is Section 42(2), which gives the Governor-General the power to make regulations on the advice of the Electoral and Boundaries Commission, and that has no reference at all to Parliament.

It is clear that something is wrong here. That is patent. We have two different procedures, one involving Parliament and the other not involving Parliament, but both relating to the same question of boundaries and constituencies, so it should be clear to anyone who examines the matter that there is need for an amendment so "...it there can be no confusion in this area and that the whole matter should be set out in a most pellucid manner. I think the people of Barbados should understand that, therefore, there is need for an amendment to the Constitution and that is agreed on both sides.

Other questions are raised here. I am not sure that the suggestion by the Leader of the Opposition is one which we can necessarily accept. I think it is a matter which needs to be examined. I refer to the suggestion that the regulations which may be made by the Governor-General, on the advice of the Commission, should be subject to an affirmative resolution of Parliament. I have some problems with that because I am not sure the Governor-General is part of the parliamentary process. Constitutionally and procedurally, I am not sure whether we should have our Governor-General in a position where he can make regulations as the highest authority in the land, and then what he has made is then brought back into Parliament - not only in a court, but brought back into Parliament - for Parliament then to decide whether what he has done is correct or not. I think this is a matter that needs very careful

examination. I believe that something does not quite square in that particular suggestion, and it is a matter that should be carefully examined.

(*Aside:* Hon. B. M. TAITT: Repeat the part about the Governor-General and Parliament.)

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: He is a part of Parliament in the third stage.

I think that this is a very fundamental point, one for the students of the Constitution, I almost said constitutional experts like myself, but I looked across and saw the honourable Member for St. Thomas (Mr. D. A. C. Simmons) listening very carefully, so I will not pursue that particular line. He was only a student journalist at the Constitutional Conference.

Aside.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: An "objective journalist".

I think this is an area . that needs very careful examination. I do not think that that would be a solution to the problem that we are talking about, and it may very well put our Governor-General in a situation that he should not be in.

I think there is a more fundamental question that we have to ask ourselves, and it is whether the power that has been given to the Electoral and Boundaries Commission is not too great a power. Let us understand exactly what we are talking about. The Electoral and Boundaries Commission has been given power to make regulations and these regulations, according to what was envisaged, I believe, in the report of the Cox Commission, the Constitutional Review Commission, was meant to include these rules and regulations which fall under the Representation of the People Act, and the powers are set out in the 1981 amendments to the Constitution. 1.35p.m.

When we consider that, for purposes of argument, this can include the power as to the size of deposit which a prospective candidate should make, let us understand again what we are talking about. Before someone can be nominated as a candidate, one has to make a deposit, and the level of that deposit is now fixed by Parliament. It is set out under, I believe, the Representation of the People Act and rules made thereunder, but the fact is that it is done by Parliament. I seriously raise the question as to whether that kind of power, to say what the deposit should be, should be fixed by an Electoral and Boundaries Commission. I have my serious doubts about that. I believe that that is a power that should remain vested inside of Parliament itself, rather

than being put in the hands of an Electoral and Boundaries Commission.

There are other issues. If we examine the matter relating to the nomination of candidates, how many persons should constitute a valid nomination? Should you have a proposer and seconder, or only a proposer, or should six persons or 20 persons constitute the subscribers to the nomination? That, again, is a matter that is determined by Parliament.

Aside.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I am not sure if Parliament can abolish the whole....

(*Aside:* Hon. P. M. GREAVES: It can abolish the Constitution)

Laughter.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Parliament can abolish the whole Commission, that may be true, but it appears to me that once you-put these powers in the Constitution by way of amendment, before Parliament can do any such abolition, it would have to change the Constitution first of all. You cannot give the Commission power to do certain things and then say that Parliament can come and change it.

I believe that if we go through the kinds of areas which have been given to the Commission, we will find that Parliament has surrendered, in my view, certain areas of responsibility which should be retained by Parliament itself. I have just identified two of those areas, and there are other areas in which there may be conflict.

It is most important that the whole area of election expenses should be controlled.

Asides.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I am just drawing some instances. I am throwing them out for consideration, because let us not try to do anything too hastily when, in fact, there are some very fundamental issues involved here,

Parliament itself should have a say in how much money might legitimately be spent on election expenses. The actual administration of procedures is a matter that an independent Boundaries Commission can deal with. But if we have a situation in which the law says one thing, that a Member of Parliament may spend only \$2 per registered voter, or whatever it is.....

Asides.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Two dollars per registered voter? I do not know, I do not get up in that area. I cannot afford that kind of area, as the Member for St. Peter (Mr. O. S.Arthur).

Asides.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Is it \$1 now?

Aside.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: No. I think it was increased, was it not? Is it \$1 now?

Asides.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: It is \$1. But then the Commission may make regulations relating to expenses, and it can go and make regulations to the effect that a candidate can send out six or seven circulars.

Asides.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: No, I am not talking about almanacs.

Laughter.

(*Aside:* Hon. B. M. TAITT: Are you going to report that as an election expense?)

Laughter.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I understand he sent one of his officers here. I think there were four or five of them somewhere in Parliament. Can you imagine that? Almanacs!

(*Aside:* Hon. B. M. TAITT: But he did send me one.)

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I know of one instance where somebody said, well, I do not know why this has been sent to me, but the person then proceeded to cut off the picture and so on and kept the part with the calendar.

Laughter.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Cut off the picture!

Laughter.

(*Aside:* Hon. H. deB. FORDE: That is the one from your constituency?)

Laughter.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I think, Sir, we need a little levity, but we are discussing some very serious matters. The point I am making is that you can have a possibility of some conflict here, because the objective which Parliament may be trying to achieve could very well be circumvented by a commission which, in trying to ensure that there is maximum communication between a candidate and the electorate, might very well bring the whole process into conflict. I am not saying that there are not ways and means by which this may be rectified, but I think we have to realise that there are issues here which have to be examined, and I do not think that any pious consideration of the matter can dispose of it.

The fundamental question that we have to examine is, what really should be the powers of the Electoral and Boundaries Commission? We agree that there should be an independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission, but we still have to answer that fundamental question as to what powers should remain under the control of Parliament itself and what are the powers which should be given to the Electoral and Boundaries Commission so that it can have an independent responsibility for the administration and procedures for fair and free elections in the country. I believe this is a matter which has to be examined at some point. There is no reason why Parliament should surrender to any other body certain powers which should remain in Parliament itself. While seeking to get our independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission, we should not surrender the traditional powers which Parliament itself, and no other body in this country, should have control over. 1.45 p.m.

We are going to take the indication given by the Leader of the Opposition. It is a matter that needs examination, and we will, in due course, examine and give very careful consideration to his proposals. At this stage, we are disposed towards examining the matter further and then we will come up with something that can be agreeable, but we are dealing with electoral matters. I hope the Leader of the Opposition will understand that in respect of the other matter which he raised, which was not dealing with electoral matters, about other aspects of the Constitution, I do not think that we should deal with that in this particular exercise. Let us restrict ourselves to matters relating to Sections 41 and 42 and related matters. I think it will be better to proceed on that basis. We can then give a clear lead to the people of this country so that they would understand that it is in the interest of the country that there should be some amendment to the Constitution, that there is a clear case for some amendment to the Constitution, the exact details and nature of which we will have to give further consideration to.

Thank you.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: (St. Thomas): Sir, I was not here last Tuesday and so I did not hear the Honourable Attorney-General. But the Honourable Prime Minister made the clearest speech that I have heard from him since he has been elevated to this high office. He seemed to have had the problems caused by the 1981 amendment neatly in his own perspective.

In 1966, as I understand it, there was no fundamental or entrenched provision in the 1966 Constitution in relation to the electoral and boundaries process. That was a political decision, it was won on a majority at Lancaster House. But by 1981, the amendment that is now Sections 41 and 42 of the Constitution was introduced by the Barbados Labour Party, then forming the Government, to entrench an Electoral and Boundaries Commission in the Constitution so as to bring it in as a part of the fundamental law of the country in the future; - in other words, as part of the Constitution, which is the fundamental law.

As with any legislation, introduced by any Government from time to time, wrinkles, problems and infelicities will appear, people will have second thoughts, and a draftsman at a particular time is not expected to be far-sighted enough as to see to infinity or eternity. And so, allowing for the practical problems that will arise from time to time, there has to be the process of amendment, and I do not think any of us need to be ashamed that in our parliamentary duties, from time to time we have to amend legislation to make it more clear, legible or whatever reason.

I am not going to speak long, Sir. The point I wish to make is that the Honourable Prime Minister's speech today seemed to highlight a number of concerns and worries which an objective person, be he student journalist or....

Laughter.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: 48 year-old, grey-headed MP for St. Thomas, Sir,...

(Aside: Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Attorney-at-law.)

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I never talk about myself as an attorney-at-law, that is irrelevant.

It seems to me that the Prime Minister was highlighting concerns which any of us who wish to be objective, and who wish to lay aside any little political advantage that you could make by harping back to things that happened in elections in previous years - throw away

that - would have. If we want to be at a different level, we will be objective and magnanimous enough to know that there are real problems now that the Commission has got going, that practical problems will arise, or have arisen, as to whether there has not been an erosion of some of the powers that are inherent in the primacy of Parliament, or whether the Commission itself has not been given excessive powers, to put it another way, derogating from the supremacy of Parliament. These are legitimate concerns, and I think we need in a Select Committee setting to involve the public in the democratic process to an even greater extent than the system which we operate allows for, and that is to invite the public to come and give their own ideas, make their own suggestions and contributions, so that, ultimately, what comes out as a Select Committee report back to this House will be representative of a wide cross-section of view.

The Opposition's case, therefore, is that there may be underlying, fundamental questions which have not even been addressed by the amendment that was laid last Tuesday, and the amendment is, therefore, going to give us an opportunity to look again at the whole area covered by the two or three sections of the amendment. The Prime Minister himself said, "Let us not do anything too hastily when there are some very fundamental issues involved", and a number of questions he asked seems to me to be accepting that we need to give this matter some greater attention and study and try and get as many inputs as we can from members of the general public. That is why we had suggested to let it go to Select Committee, and whatever mechanisms we come up with will be brought back to Parliament, hopefully from a position of consensus. People like Carnegie can be invited to offer suggestions. 1.55 p.m.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I think this is a very convenient time to take the luncheon adjournment, and I move that the sitting be now suspended until 3 o'clock today.

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

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

ON RESUMPTION Mr.

SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS (CONT'D)

BILL TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION
OF BARBADOS (d.r.)

Mr. R. P. BYER (St. George South): Mr. Speaker, it is not very often that I get the opportunity to make contributions to debates, so when an opportunity like this arises, I would naturally grab at it.

When the learned Attorney-General introduced this measure on February 9, 1988, which was last Tuesday, I agreed with his analysis. He outlined in some detail why he thought it necessary that the Constitution should be altered in the manner that this Honourable House is now seeking to alter it, and in the course of his presentation he did pose the question, to what extent should Parliament delegate authority to make laws? And he followed that up by asking another one, did Parliament delegate power in the 1981 constitutional amendments to give the Governor-General the inordinate amount of power he has to make regulations according to Section 41 of the Constitution?

I was listening and I thought that the Leader of the Opposition would have adverted to that aspect of the Attorney-General's presentation, because I think that in speaking as he did, the Attorney-General had asked the Leader of the Opposition to address that aspect of his presentation. So at this stage I want to examine in what respects Parliament should delegate authority and try to see if the Electoral and Boundaries Commission has an inordinate amount of power and if in some way, if I may quote the words of the Member for St. Thomas (Mr. D. A. C. Simmons), that power derogates from the supremacy of Parliament, or, as we in Barbados would want to say, the supremacy of the Constitution. Furthermore, I would also like to question whether such an important matter as the conduct and regulating of elections ought to be left in the hands, to the extent that it is, of the Electoral and Boundaries Commission.

Let me at the outset say that I am all in favour of such a body. I do believe that we should have such a regulating body, but I think we should give some thought to the amount of power, the amount of authority, that that body should have.

There are basically four reasons for delegated legislation. In any of the learned journals we will see that Parliament delegates this authority to make laws to Ministers and Commissions, one reason being the pressure of parliamentary time. It is thought the time of Parliament will be saved for debating other measures if Parliament delegated its authority and delegated subordinate matters to Ministers and their departments.

Sometimes it is thought that a matter would be too technical, and this is another reason why authority is delegated.

Delegated authority also allows for some degree of flexibility, as changes can be made from time to time in the light of experience and without the need for amending legislation, meaning that when you have delegated legislation, it is not always necessary to come to Parliament to have amending legislation to achieve any purpose that you would want to achieve.

The last reason, the fourth reason, is in the area of emergency powers, and this needs no explanation. Suffice it to say that in times of crisis - for example, in war - where you have emergencies, there would be no time to ask for Acts of Parliament.

If we examine the criteria that I have outlined above, then I can see no reason for placing such an inordinate amount of power in the hands of the Governor-General, or in the hands of the Electoral and Boundaries Commission to be exercised by the Governor-General. I do not deny that delegated legislation can be controlled by Parliament. There are a number of ways that this can be done, and the Leader of the Opposition did in fact, advert to one of those reasons. The affirmative resolution procedure is one of the ways that Parliament adopts in its effort to control the spread and the purview, the extent, the expanse of delegated legislation. If we look at Section 41(b) of the Interpretation Act, we will see what this expression means.

I think the Prime Minister in his address did say that we ought to take some time and examine in some detail the recommendation by the learned Leader of the Opposition that we should take some time to examine this whole idea of the affirmative resolution procedure and see if it is the best method to extricate us from the difficulty in which we find ourselves. There is need for a change to the Constitution to put the matter beyond doubt, but I have some reservations that the affirmative resolution procedure is the correct approach. This is not denying that it is an approach that can be used, but we would still be in a position where Parliament would have the final controlling voice in so far as the passing of the regulations into effect is concerned, but in so far as the makeup of the regulations is concerned, Parliament would not have that control. It is my understanding that when you are dealing with a matter by affirmative resolution, no amendments are possible. I stand corrected on this point, but it is from that premise that I am proceeding.

I agree with the analysis given by the Attorney-General and his conclusion. As the law stands, the Governor-General has power to alter the substantive law of the country in so far as the delegation of power to change

certain aspects of electoral laws is concerned. In addition to the Prime Minister's reservation about the affirmative resolution procedure, as I said, I still have fundamental doubts about whether what we want to achieve by this change of the Constitution is a matter that is tailored for this affirmative resolution procedure. It would seem to me that the substantial and fundamental changes that we want to make to the Constitution ought not to be done by regulations as such, but should be embedded deeply into the Constitution.

Earlier on I said I would want to advert to the powers of the Electoral and Boundaries Commission. One of the basic principles of delegated legislation is that an enabling Act gives power to the Minister to make regulations. It does not seem to me that this is a principle following the establishment of the Electoral and Boundaries Commission, and I would want to just briefly advert to Section 41C of the Constitution of Barbados, where it states:

- (1) "The registration of voters and the conduct of elections in every constituency or any matters that appear to the Commission to be incidental to or consequential upon either shall be subject to the direction and supervision of the Commission.
- (2) "In the exercise of its functions under this section, the Commission shall not be subject to the direction or control of any person or authority."

3.10p.m.

That seems to me to be a lot of power that is placed in the hands of this body, and because of the supremacy of our Constitution, this Electoral and Boundaries Commission is now even placed outside, is so far as its functions and autonomy are concerned, the control of Parliament. It is for this reason that I would want to have this Honourable Chamber to have a further and deeper look at the functioning of this Commission. I believe that it is a necessary instrument of our electoral process, but at the same time, I am of the firm view that its scope must be redefined to the extent that Parliament does have some control over the way in which this body conducts itself. Parliament must look a little more closely at the role of the Electoral and Boundaries Commission. As I said, I agree that they should be one, but I am worried about the scope and the extent of its powers.

I think we should also look - and we must give this some considerable thought - to decide what matters should be the subject of delegated legislation. I do not think that we have given this any exhaustive study in Barbados, but I think the time has now come when we should, because we are here, really, trying to decide whether this aspect of the matter should be the subject of delegated legislation or not.

My own view is that we should follow the English example and set up some committee to decide what matters should be the subject of delegated legislation. I am of the view that exceptional matters ought to be the subject of delegated legislation, but that those matters should be within the context of our laws and regulations and of our Constitution.

Our Constitution is now 21 years old and it has served us well for its time. As the Member for St. Thomas said, we have to amend it in the light of our experiences, and matters pertaining to the Constitution, in my view, ought to be handled away from the heat of political, partisan behaviour. The Constitution is much too serious to be examined in an atmosphere of party politics. I think it ought to be given good thought before we decide what changes we would want to make to it, and that these changes should only come about after careful thought and consideration. After 21 years, there are certain changes that can be made to it as envisaged by the Cox Commission, but, I think, in that respect as well, we ought to give it great thought before these changes are effected.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I would urge that we carefully study this matter before us before we come to some conclusion, because, essentially, it is really a drafting problem that we have - how do we achieve what we want to achieve? I think we should give it very, very careful thought before we proceed in a state of urgency.

Thank you.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I will be very brief, because I do not think we should prolong this debate when, in fact, we seem to have agreement on all sides on what we want to achieve.

I was a member', as the Honourable Leader of the Opposition said, of the delegation to the United Kingdom at which the Constitution was hammered out, and, indeed, one of the things proposed, as has been said by the Leader of the Opposition, was a Boundaries Commission for Barbados. We, on our side, did not really see the need for a Boundaries Commission then. I am not even sure, even though we have it, that I am a convert, at this late stage, for an Electoral and Boundaries Commission. But we have it, Sir, and I am prepared to let it work. I am serious about this.

Sir, the history of elections in Barbados has been such that unless we have got progressively worse, we should not produce more laws than we really and truly need, and, frankly, "I think the history of our elections has been reasonably good. We have had problems, but the amendments that we have to the constitution will not cure those problems. We will still have problems. The fact that we have a Commission would not mean that we would not have problems with the register, and that is our main

problem. So sometimes the more that we seem to change things, the more they remain the same.

I think our main problem is with our registers. If we can get our registers tidied up and cleaned up, I think that the main complaints that we have been hearing from time to time about elections will disappear.

Sir, we have all complained about elections. I have complained about elections, but I would not say that the elections have not been free in Barbados, and I will still complain about them whenever there is a necessity to complain about them. The problems, really and truly, are matters relating to the register.

The Honourable Leader of the Opposition referred to change of boundaries in 1971 and that not enough time was given to a candidate who was a sitting member, Mr. St. John. Mr. Speaker, if he wants to be really fair, that Member had no less time than Mr. Morrison, who replaced him at the election immediately following. As a matter of fact, he probably had more time, because Mr. Morrison was a late-comer in those elections. The fact, which they do not want to acknowledge, is that people wanted to change them at the particular time. That is the truth.

There was no change made in the boundaries in 1971 for any political purpose. The fact is that after the Boundaries Commission sat in 1963 and reported in 1964, there were a lot of changes made, population-wise, in the communities and the districts. When the Commission reported in 1964, there was no Atlantic Shores at that time, but Atlantic Shores made a big difference at the time in the question of having to realign those boundaries. They do not want to acknowledge that, but at the same time, they never changed it. They are saying that it was a gerrymandering, but they came into power in 1976 and never changed it. They won with the same boundary in 1976, and they won again with the same boundary in 1981.

Asides.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: We had that throughout Barbados. Now we can hear it is nonsense.

Mr. Speaker, in 1980 changes were made to the boundaries, and in 1981 further changes were made to the boundaries. The Honourable Member for St. Thomas (Mr. D. A. C. Simmons) should be the last person to talk about somebody getting licked up when, in fact, the boundaries were changed.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The honourable Member for St. Philip North (Hon. W. O. Franklin) did not have any seat, but Mr. St. John had a seat then.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: So you could afford to lick up?

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: What happened in 1981 was to prevent him from getting in, but it backfired.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Now we have it, Sir! What happened in 1981 was to prevent the now honourable Member for St. Philip North from getting a seat. Now we hear the truth of it. But it backfired.

That is not what happened in 1971. Quite frankly, and I will say this now, I am one of those people who only realised, perhaps a week before elections, that Mr. Morrison had a chance, because none of us really believed that Mr. Morrison had a chance until very late during the elections. So it was not a question of changing boundaries to suit Mr. St. John.

(*Aside:* Hon. H. deB. FORDE: What about Orange Hill?)

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Orange Hill was a matter of getting physical boundaries set out. There were no roads in the boundaries, as reported by the Commission, to determine Orange Hill. We set out a gully on one side and roads on the other. I was the Minister at the time, so I know what I am talking about. Anyhow, Sir, I do not want to go too much into that, that is history now.

We have seen that there have been problems, and, quite frankly, Sir, the more I look at the constitutional amendments of 1981, the more confused I become about them. I am sure that if one would look carefully at these things, one would find more and more problems relating to them.

Let us look at a simple example, Sir. Section 42(11) states that if regulations are not made by the Governor-General, wherever the word "Minister" appears the word "Commission" should take the place. Section 68 of the Representation of the People Act gives the Minister power to make regulations; therefore, by that amendment, I would believe, seeing that regulations have not been made by the Governor-General, then the power to make those regulations under Section 68 would fall to the Commission. So do we have now the Governor-General making regulations and the Commission making regulations on the same matters? Is there a conflict in the Constitution? If there is a conflict then, would the Constitution take precedence over that aspect of it?

If the honourable Member checks it, he will see. Sir, they relate to identical matters, the conduct of elections, and the power given under Section 42(2) and the power given under Section 68 of the Constitution are virtually the same,

except that the power given under Section 42(2) is much wider, but also includes matters relating to Section 68. These are matters which we have to look at.

There is also a problem not dealt with in this Bill, a problem relating to the Electoral and Boundaries Commission itself. Let us look at the composition. The Boundaries Commission is composed of two persons appointed by the Governor-General on the recommendation of the Prime Minister and two persons on recommendation of the Leader of the Opposition, and then there is a Chairman, after consultation with the Leader of the Opposition. The Deputy Chairman is the person who is recommended by the Leader of the Opposition, so we now have a Commission where two are recommended by the then Prime Minister, Mr. St. John, and two recommended by the then Leader of the Opposition, the late Mr. Errol Barrow - that is still the Commission we have today - and the Chairman appointed by the then Prime Minister, after consultation. We still have that Commission today, we cannot change that Commission, and the life of that Commission is five years.

The intention, Sir, was that there should be a balance between the Government and the Opposition, two Government, two Opposition and the Chairman provided by the Government. But if the Deputy Chairman of the Commission, who is always appointed by the Opposition, falls dead tomorrow, he will then have to be appointed by the Opposition side again. They would have four to the Government's one.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of order: I am aware of the problems of which my friend is speaking, but there are two things that one has to bear in mind, and perhaps the Minister can address this warning. The idea was to get continuity in the Commission and to get it as far as possible outside of the partisan area. That is why I said that the people who have been appointed have proved themselves non-partisan. I believe the Commission has never taken a vote in all its deliberations.

Asides.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I said "I believe". I do not know, I believe. If I said I knew, I would say I know that they have never taken a vote, but there is belief as distinct from knowledge.

What I want to say, however, is that, obviously, if that situation occurred, although in law it looks as though there would be four people, in actual fact that is where conventions occur. It is obvious that in those circumstances, if for instance, to put it the other way, the Chairman is no longer there, the Chairman would be appointed by the Prime Minister, but there is consultation.

Take the Deputy Chairman, it is obvious in that case what would happen is that the Prime Minister would say whom he wants to the Leader of the Opposition. If the honourable Member does not believe that is obvious, then he does not want any convention. For the benefit of the honourable Member, if he has any problem with that now, he can speak to me on it.

: Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, that convention would only come into play if there was no law on it, but there is precise law on the matter, the law is clear on it.

We have to look carefully at those amendments to see if there are further amendments that should be made. Having pointed to some of those problems, I personally support the position taken by the two honourable Members on the other side who have spoken, and I honestly believe that it is a matter that one could better iron out in a Select Committee. I think, Sir, we should probably have another look at it and probably produce another draft, but certainly have another look at the legislation we have now. For this reason, I am going to move at this point that further consideration of this Bill be deferred.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I beg to second that.

The question that further consideration of the Bill be postponed was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 3.30p.m.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, there are two money Resolutions on the Order Paper. At the time I gave notice of matters today, I did indicate that we would be seeking approval of the other side, and leave of the House generally, to do another money Resolution, one for \$857 285.

I have since, Sir, been informed by the Leader of the Opposition and the Members on the other side that they would have absolutely no objection to our doing this money Resolution today as well. So when we go into Committee of Supply, we will deal with the three money Resolutions.

Order No. 1 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. M. A. KING, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee of Supply, with the instructions that the new Resolution be added to Order No. 1, Mr. R. P. BYER in the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1987-88 No.
43-\$1405 216

HEAD 28 - MINISTRY OF
LEGAL AFFAIRS

Hon. M. A. KING (Christ Church West Central): Mr. Chairman, Sir, supplementary appropriation is required for the Ministry of Legal Affairs principally for the purpose of paying outstanding amounts which have been owed in respect to Plant, Equipment and Furniture, and Supplies. Items have been purchased for the various departments through the Chief Supply Officer, and the supplementary appropriation under Head 28 is required for the purpose of meeting those expenses.

If honourable Members have any queries, I would invite them to raise them. The amounts are basically for supplies and necessary items for the various departments.

Mr. Chairman, I move that Head 28 stand part.

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

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

HEAD 29 - PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS

Hon. M. A. KING (Christ Church West Central): Under Head 29, Mr. Chairman, Subhead 7, Director of Public Prosecutions, the additional sum required is for the purpose of meeting the increase in telephone allowances which have been made to officers of the department. That is under Object No. 7 - Utilities.

Under Object No. 25 - Plant, Equipment and Furniture, supplementary provision is required to pay the Chief Supply Officer in respect of outstanding amounts for furniture which has been ordered in the financial year.

I move, Mr. Chairman, that Head 29 stand part.

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

The question that Head 29 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HE AD 30-POLICE

Hon. M. A. KING (Christ Church West Central): Mr. Chairman, amounts required under Head 30, Subhead 1, Object No. 25 and again to pay outstanding amounts due to the Central Purchasing Department in respect of furniture and equipment which was ordered for the Force in the financial year 1986-87.

Under Subhead 2 - General Police Services, supplementary provision of \$40 272 is required to pay amounts to the Central Purchasing Department, also in respect of supplies ordered during the year.

Under Object No. 11, supplementary provision is required to meet the cost of petrol supplied to the department within that year.

Under Object No. 12, the sum of \$324 178 is required in respect of uniforms for the police officers and for payment to the Transport Board - I am sure the Minister of Transport and Works would love to hear this - in respect of travel by police officers on Transport Board buses.

Under Subhead 4, the amount of \$91 630 is required to pay the Central Purchasing Department in respect of instruments ordered for the Police Band.

I move, Mr. Chairman, that Head 30 stand part.

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

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS (St. Thomas): Mr. Chairman, in a couple of weeks we will probably be able to debate these Heads in greater detail, if we get to them, but I have a couple of questions for the Attorney-General. First of all, I really would like to hear definitively how many policemen and women we now have in the Royal Barbados Police Force. When I was Attorney-General, at the end of 1985 we were well on the way to having the complement of 1 200 which the Commissioner of Police said was desirable and acceptable. I said we were well on the way, because in December, 1985 there were at least 50 recruits who passed out and were put into general policing service.

From all that I have been able to gather, there has been in 1987 an increase in crime. I am not going to say much more about it at this stage, because I presume we would get some information from the Minister, if not now, at the time of Estimates. But I would like to know to what extent policemen are being used on the west coast and the south coast carrying out surveillance aimed at the reduction of drug trafficking.

One does not wish any disclosure of police strategies or tactics - I would not expect the Minister to do that, Sir -

but there is concern among the general public, certainly concern among owners of properties in those areas, of the ease in which drugs can be trafficked on those two coasts. I would like some general information from the Minister at this stage which may serve to allay some of the fears in the general community. 3.40 p.m.

In regard to the Police Band, in December 1985, at the Annual Conference of the Police Association, I took to the meeting the architect's plan for a new Police Band Headquarters, which has been scaled down, having regard to Government's financial position. I wish to make a plea for work on the Police Band Headquarters to be started as soon as possible after the new financial year gets going. I seem to remember that we had planned to start the new band headquarters in September 1986, but the project has been deferred and deferred, and it is about time that we give the bandmen new and commodious headquarters, without being excessively lavish, having regard to Government's fiscal position. Just looking through the report of the Commissioner of Police earlier today, I was, indeed, amazed by the number of charitable functions that the band plays for. I think there were over 200 functions they played for in 1980. I have it here on page 29.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Do you want me to curse in here?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Of course not.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I would not do it, Sir.

There were over 251 ceremonies that the band attended in 1986, and they attended 192 fairs and other engagements. Only 39 of that 251 were paid for; 205, therefore, were engagements where the band performed a public service free of charge to the public. I think that that band, which has brought a lot of respect and fame to Barbados, ought to be housed in better conditions. Their case for better accommodation is a legitimate one and I am sure the Attorney-General is well aware of it. I wish to hear from him how soon he will start on the Band Headquarters.

Sir, one other matter. Some years ago, the police arrested a boat owned by a well-known supporter of the Democratic Labour Party. I believe the gentleman sued to recover damages, and I gather he got a judgment which was in his favour.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I do not know much about it, I was not involved in it, it was before my time up there.

But if the boat was seized illegally by the police, Sir, then he ought to be compensated, and if a judgment has come down, I am asking that he be paid. We should not fly in the face of a judgment, Sir, and Government should ensure that the gentleman, who is known to us and whose name I am not going to call, be paid.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: That is nothing to do with it. What has that got to do with it? I was reminding the honourable Members on that side how they are treating one ^ of their own. They are being neglectful of his interest.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: There is a little slope that has crept into the payment by Government of its debts. For example, in looking through these accounts and statements which were laid today, Sir, you will see that \$11 million * was voted for the Ministry of Housing and Lands for compensation, but only \$1 million has been paid out up to December 31. That is not good enough. It is not good enough - \$11 million voted for various persons whose properties have been acquired and who want to i, be compensated and only one mentioned here that has been paid up to the end of December! -

Now honourable Members on the other side will realise that some of these problems, if they are not structural, may be pathological, Sir, because when they were seeking to become the Government, the late Prime Minister Barrow got on television and said, "If people are not paid within a month put the Government in court" and / all of that. I would not be so irresponsible, because it is not an easy matter as all of that to say that the Government acquires your property and goes through the Section 3 and Section 4 procedures, and that, *ipso facto*, the money comes the next day. There are other things which cause delay in the payment of these funds, but I am asking that the Government attends to these matters with some expedition, and in particular the one that I mentioned earlier.

That is all I want to say on the police at this stage. We will debate this fully in the Estimates.

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, there are a number of questions raised by the honourable Member for St. Thomas (Mr. D. A. C. Simmons). I will deal with them just ^ as he asked them. How many policemen are in the force today? There are approximately the 1200 which he mentioned.

Police Forces are quite aware of the problems in relation to drug trafficking' on the south and west coasts, and they are taking the appropriate action to deal with the

problems. Some raids have taken place on the south coast, and apart from police action, lighting has been installed in areas where it had been suspected that a lot of the drugs have been peddled. This is outside buildings and so forth.

The problem with interdicting drugs and seizing the offenders is the problem which you meet all over the place, finding people actually in possession of the thing. Drug traffickers are smart - they make deals with those who want to purchase when they do not have the drug on them, and then all sorts of devious strategies are gone through in order for the person who has made the buy, so to speak, to pick up the thing away from the knowledge and surveillance of the police. It is a continuing problem which the police are dealing with day by day, and in matters of this kind, I always make the point that you need the co-operation of the public to beat this problem. 3.50p.m.

My learned friend....

(Aside: Hon. B. M. TAITT: Who?)

Hon. M. A. KING: honourable and learned, he is honourable and learned as well....made reference to the Police Band and pleaded the case for better accommodation. I think he must have made this plea with tongue-in-cheek, full well knowing that arrangements are well advanced for starting the band accommodation. The matter has gone out to tender and work will start very, very soon. I think we are probably at the moment just trying to organise somewhere to put the band in the meantime, whilst the work is being carried out. In fact, we are hoping that we will start the work extremely soon, I am talking about this financial year, within the next month or so, so arrangements are well in hand for getting the band's accommodation organised.

The honourable Member made reference to a person whose boat was seized, not by the police, but, I believe, seized by the Customs. The matter has gone to court and the court has pronounced in favour of the person whose boat was seized.

I agree with you entirely that the judgment of the court has to be honoured. The point is, though, that the court did not give judgment for a sum of money. The issue before the court was whether the Customs was justified in seizing the boat or not, and the court held that the Customs had no justification for seizing the boat. In the meantime, the boat has sunk, a whole lot of things have gone wrong with it, the condition of the boat has deteriorated completely, and the man is really in a predicament.

I believe I have seen correspondence in the Attorney-General's Chambers setting out the particulars of the claim

which the boat owner is making. But I think you will appreciate, as well as anybody else, that the quantum of the claim has to be established, and I believe that what the officers in the Legal Department are currently doing, is seeking to establish the quantum of claim.

Let me assure honourable Members that no one is more anxious than I am to see that a fair settlement in all the circumstances is reached, and I will do everything in my power to ensure that that settlement is reached at the earliest possible opportunity, because clearly the longer the person is deprived of the use of his boat, or the proceeds therefrom, the more inequitable the result is. So let there be no doubt that the matter will be receiving the appropriate attention.

I believe those are all the matters which the honourable Member raised.

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

HE AD 31-PRISONS

Hon. M. A. KING (Christ Church West Central):' Mr. Chairman, under Head 31, Object No. 10, Subhead 1, the sum of \$75 000 is required to pay the Central Purchasing Department in respect of supplies which have been ordered for the prisons during the last financial year.

Under Object No. 11 - Maintenance of Property - the amount of \$32 000 is required to make sewage disposal connections in order to fulfill the public health requirements of the department, and also to supplement the amount voted for the upkeep of vehicles.

Under Object No. 25, supplementary provision of \$19 000 is required to pay Central Purchasing to replace ovens at the prisons which cannot be repaired due to their age and quality.

These amounts are required urgently to supplement the amounts appropriated for the prisons in the Estimates.

I move that Head 31 stand part.

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

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS (St. Thomas): Although I indicated earlier that I would prefer to deal with a lot of these matters at Estimates time, the present serious problem of excessive overcrowding at the prisons prompts me to ask the Attorney-General what plans he has to deal with the situation.

I think that week before last there were about 421 prisoners in a prison that is now having to accommodate

two to a room, and in some cases three, not counting the civil prisoners, I mean people with criminal convictions^ and it is a problem. I wonder if the Ministry is planning anything to deal with this problem, and if so, I would be grateful to get an idea from the Minister.

Hon. M. A. KING: I can assure the honourable Member that the problem is receiving attention. The matter is being studied at the moment. No firm conclusions have been reached on it, but willingly and readily I assure the honourable Member that the matter is receiving our urgent attention.

The question that Head 31 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 4.00 p.m.

HEAD 32 - FIRE SERVICE DEPARTMENT

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

Hon. B. M. TATTT: 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 (Christ Church West Central): Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 33 - Probation Services - stand part. The money is required to cover the cost of the revision of telephone allowances payable to public officers.

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1987-88 NO. 44-\$2858 700

HEAD 43 - MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND INDUSTRY - \$2 858 700

Hon. W. W. HALL (St. Michael West Central): In respect of Head 43 - Ministry of Tourism and Sports, as it now is, Subhead 3 - Grants and Subventions (Barbados Board of Tourism) as clearly indicated in the Addendum, this Resolution seeks to provide supplementary funds in the sum of \$2 858 700 for the following purposes: advertising in U.S.A., \$1 322 750; promotion in Canada, \$320 000; promotion in Europe, \$207 000; commitments from 1986-87, \$1 008 950. This funding is being requested to maintain Barbados' profile in the various markets in the

light of the 1987 performances, when over 400 000 visitors came to Barbados by air.

Barbados over the years has enjoyed a very good image in the market-place and, as a consequence, one has obviously tended to believe not only that this is enough for us to sustain our thrust in the United States of America, Canada and Europe, but people are apt to feel that nothing else ought to be done. My view is that nothing is further from the truth than that.

My personal belief is that this good image has, more or less, been brought about by word of mouth when people who have come to our shores tell their friends and their family what a good place Barbados is. We often feel that having the sea, the sand and the surf, good people and superb attractions would be enough to keep our visitors coming. My view is, though, that we should try and make a big effort of telling people exactly that we survive because of our efficiency.

It is true to say that in Barbados when visitors come here, everything seems to work. We have a good telecommunications system. We have a good network of roads. We have good services, waterworks, gas, and, indeed, all the utilities. I think that, more so than most of the places in the cities of the world that I have visited, Barbados can truly be marketed as a place where efficiency abounds. This notwithstanding, and although we cannot compete with Jamaica, the Bahamas and the Grand Caymans in terms of the massive amount of money they spend advertising their countries, nor indeed, with the peso-based countries like Mexico and Colombia, I think we can truly say that we can market Barbados as an affordable destination, and, really, we can say, without fear of contradiction, that our hallmark is value for money.

Mr. Chairman, I think that it is also important to note that while we are thinking in terms of advertising in the United States and we are thinking of the traditional markets of Washington, Boston, New York and Baltimore, it is noteworthy that we have to look towards the non-traditional markets in Atlanta, Chicago, Texas and anywhere west of Chicago. To this end, we were very lucky in our negotiations with American Airlines and Eastern to have a hub coming out of San Juan daily, which would pick up the type of traffic that I have just mentioned. Also, we have had the opportunity in our deliberations with most of the airlines to be in a position to make sure that there has been a reduction in some of the airfares. This, I am quite sure, will be good news for many commuters coming here to Barbados, not only in the winter but in the summer.

We also have to understand that consumers are not obligated to come to Barbados. Let us face it, Barbados is not the only place in the world where we have 3 000 hours

of sunshine yearly. Indeed, in southern France, Italy, Jamaica and now the Dominican Republic, there are sunshine spots, so to speak, to which people will go. But I think that when it comes to value for money, and when it comes to coming to a good and an affordable destination, one where the people are wonderful and, indeed, very trainable, I would think that Barbados beats the whole field.

From last November to December, the Board of Tourism conducted an advertising campaign in the New York and the Boston markets. This programme ran for four weeks and it really gave Barbados very good exposure. But in recent weeks, there has been a softening in the United States market, and this has been attributed to the uncertainty in the retail market caused by the crash of the stock market in October, and, most people say, also by the fact of the intending general elections. In an effort, Sir, to reduce these impacts, and to consolidate our position in the Washington, Boston, Baltimore and New York markets, the Board of Tourism embarked on a six-week radio programme and this will be followed by a T.V. campaign within the next few weeks.

I think everyone recognises that to be on TV in the United States of America is a very expensive exercise. Barbados has not been on TV in America since April 1986, and in light of the softening of the US market, I think it is fair to say that increased visibility is essential at this time. This will help us to improve our present winter season and the early summer bookings.

In the destinations - New York, Baltimore, Boston, and Washington - we are talking about, it is interesting to note that television time is usually bought on the basis of the gross rate point, which is a measure of impressions of a particular advertising during the week. A minimum of about 100 gross rating points is considered satisfactory, and in New York, for 30 seconds you have to pay something like \$510; in Baltimore, \$115; Boston, \$245; and in Washington, \$160. But the individual rates on very important programmes are fantastic. For instance, on the Cosby Show, at prime time in New York, one would have to pay \$1 600 Barbadian dollars per second, so if you were to have 10 of those programmes, it would cost us about half a million dollars just like that. 4.10p.m.

I said that to emphasise the point that to advertise in New York, Canada or Europe is a rather expensive exercise. So when we come to this Honourable House for \$1 322 750, I think we are just scratching the surface, and therefore I would think that this money is merely needed to facilitate our radio programme, produce the TV programme and, of course, for air time. As far as the American programme is concerned, Sir, I think that a good case has been made out for this. As far as Canada is concerned, we

are requesting \$320 000 for a radio advertising campaign with other consumer and travelling trade advertising support.

Mr. Chairman, at present in Canada we are visible with the Co-operative Marketing Programme conducted by Southern Skies. It is one called "Breakfast in Barbados." It is a very popular programme, heard in six provinces. Indeed, during the winter the whole cast came to Barbados, and at least on four occasions you were able to hear the programme live from Barbados. It is the brainchild of a Barbadian, Mr. Irvine Skinner, and I think he has done a lot to make sure that Barbados has very high visibility.

On one station, CHUM FM in Toronto, you will find that there is an audience of 1.4 million listeners, and this programme is very popular indeed. In the capital City of Ottawa, on CFRA, the leading station, they have been able to have great rave reviews. The winners of the show on CHUM, about 20 people, will be coming down here and staying at a hotel on the south coast from March 4 to about March 10. Those on the one with CFRA will be coming down to Barbados from March 19 - 26.

This is a good programme for Barbados, and it has given us great visibility in Canada. If one looks at some of the effects that the US stock market crash has impacted on the Canadian travelling public, I think it has threatened to reduce the traffic which had been regained from this market over the last six to eight months. As you know, Sir, we in Barbados have always suffered a seasonal problem, and this has given us a lot of concern because we had myriad problems with this situation. I think it can be fair to say that the Air Tours programme out of Manchester and the Thompsons programme out of Toronto have done a lot to help the small hotels in Barbados, 80 per cent of whom are owned by Barbadians, and I think this has helped them to alleviate the problem which, for many years, have plagued them. As I said, \$320 000 is required for the Canadian programme.

As far as commitments for 1986-87 are concerned, that is \$1 008 950, we have had difficulties in meeting payments and commitments pertaining to the emergency marketing programme undertaken by the Board during the late summer and fall of 1986. I think I alluded to this already. Everyone can either confirm or deny the value of these programmes. I feel that they have been of immeasurable value to Barbados, and I am very glad to say, Sir, that they will continue in 1988.

As far as the European market is concerned, Sir, we are requesting \$207 000. It is a truism that the market in Europe, like the United Kingdom, has shown improved traffic patterns to Barbados. The resurgence of the European currencies have increased Barbados'

attractiveness in this market-place, with one major constraint, the unavailability of air seats from Europe.

Somehow, Europeans, for instance, if they are travelling from Cologne or Dusseldorf, then to Frankfurt, do not like the idea of overnighing in London, and as a consequence one finds that they rather like the idea of their flight originating in Europe. To offset this constraint, Mr. Chairman, the Board has embarked upon the development of the charter programmes from areas which have manifested a potential to produce traffic. To this end, Sir, and to ensure success of these programmes, with the Co-operative Marketing and the advertising support, we have entered into an agreement with two great tour operators from Scandinavia.

The first is Vingressor which is Sweden's largest tour operator. We are hoping to have the passengers flown by DC-8 and routed Stockholm, Oslo, Canary Islands, Barbados. They will be bringing about 240 passengers per week from October 27, 1988 to about April 13, 1989, a total of 24 weeks, bringing about 5 760 passengers. This will be about 120 000 bed nights, and I think that this is quite an achievement.

The other one, Sir, is Fritids Resor, which is Scandinavia's second largest tour operator. They will be bringing quite a few tourists from October 1988 to May 1989, 170 passengers per week for 35 weeks. I think this winter charter will be bringing a total of 6 100 passengers and will be routed from Copenhagen, Gander, (Newfoundland) to Barbados. These passengers will constitute 80 000 bed nights.

Between the two charters, starting in October and going through to April and May of next year, we would have about 200 000 bed nights. It is estimated that they will bring about Bds\$20 million to the economy. Several other charters are at various stages of development and include programmes from France, Italy and West Germany.

Having just explained the four areas we are requesting this money for, Parliament is therefore asked to approve this supplementary provision to Head 43, Subhead 03 - Grants and Subventions (Barbados Board of Tourism), in the sum of \$2 858 700.

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

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR (St. Peter): Mr. Chairman, this is the first opportunity that this Honourable House will have to engage in a debate on tourism, and in many respects it could not be more timely, since the performance of the tourist industry this year assumes an importance within the

context of the articulated Government policy that is more significant than that which it would ever have assumed in the recent or even distant past

The forecast of the performance of the Barbados economy this year requires nothing but the most stupendous performance on the part of the tourist industry if growth is to be realised at all, and if the balance of payments problems of the country are to be kept within any reasonable condition, to say nothing, Mr. Chairman, of the scope for employment generation. When I say, therefore, Sir, that one welcomes this opportunity, one welcomes it from the point of view that in discussing the performance of the tourist industry in 1988, one is, in fact, coming directly to terms with the core of Government's economic policy. In short, Sir, the expectation and the hopes are that a magnificent performance by tourism would in many respects compensate for continual difficulties being experienced in manufacturing and agriculture, among other sectors. 4.20 p.m.

The Minister, however, Mr. Chairman, said enough to imply that the particular measure before the House is a case of too little too late. One was shaken and staggered by his revelation, given in perfect honesty and truth, that there has been no promotion of Barbados on the American TV since April, 1986. That kind of revelation coming from the Minister immediately raises a number of significant questions as regards the possibility of sustaining recent growth in tourism and, more importantly, in having the tourist industry perform at the level which would allow it to compensate for the difficulties being experienced in other parts of the economy. In my intervention, Sir, I want to move the debate beyond the narrow confines of the specific amounts being spent on marketing and begin to look at some of the broader issues now confronting tourism within the context of the role prescribed for tourism in this year in question.

The first point that has to be made, Mr. Chairman, is that, even as the Minister was speaking, it might well be that Barbados is experiencing one of the worst tourist winter seasons in years. Indeed, Sir, if we were to look for a stupendous performance from tourism to underwrite the growth this year, we may have to revise the overall economic projections for the Barbados economy. The information at our disposal, Mr. Chairman, would seem to suggest that the arrivals for the last three months have certainly not been up to expectations, certainly have not been of an order of magnitude that would allow the tourist industry to perform the extraordinary role expected of it in 1988. So I really want the Minister, Sir, to reflect a bit more on the most recent performance in the sector, particularly with a view to speaking to the issue as to whether the performance of the sector is either within the lines of

expectation, and, secondly and most importantly, whether we can this year expect from tourism that extraordinary performance that would allow the industry to make up for the shortfalls that are expected in other sectors of the economy.

Mr. Chairman, I also have to make the point, from a narrow constituency point of view, that I am very deeply concerned with the development at Heywoods, to the extent that there are a microcosmic manifestation of a larger problem which seems to be confronting the industry as a whole. It is a fact, Sir, that during the course of the last year occupancy at Heywoods was barely 50 per cent. And an extraordinary situation has been reached where staff has had to be laid off at Heywoods in January of this year. At a time when we would expect that staff would be being taken on, a situation has emerged at Heywoods where staff has, in fact, had to be laid off at the heart of the winter season.

Aside.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Has been laid off in January at Heywoods! That is a fact!

Aside.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: The Minister will tell us how many there are, but it is a fact that staff was laid off at Heywoods in January.

Mr. Chairman, a very sad situation has been developing at that hotel. There have been a lot of conflicts surrounding the role of the management group which was responsible for its operation. As I understand it, the management group is to leave at the end of April, and a large number of key staff have left the enterprise without adequate arrangements being made for the replacement of that key staff. The hotel, therefore, Sir, has faced a tremendous difficulty as regards its operations, and those difficulties as regards management and the retention of key staff have been made even more severe by the nature of the marketing programme that has been pursued on its behalf.

A situation, Sir, of institutional chaos exists now at that hotel, and that situation has to be addressed by April of this year, when the existing management arrangement comes to an end and some alternative has to be put in its place. Given the performance of that hotel over the course of the last year, and given the nature of the institutional chaos - and we can debate this this afternoon - which exists at Heywoods, I am interested to hear from the Minister as to exactly what are Government's proposals and his Ministry's thinking pertaining to the most viable and feasible operation of that public enterprise in the immediate future.

I could not, Sir, enter nor leave this debate without seeking to draw out from Government its attitude towards the refurbishing programme, of which so much is being made. In 1984, a very clear policy decision was taken by the Barbados Labour Party to allow materials used for the purposes of refurbishment of hotels duty free access to Barbados. Recognising that some of the hotel plant in Barbados is old, and that the industry depends upon the quality of the service it provides and the quality of its facilities to maintain its viability in the market-place, it is quite obvious, therefore, Sir, that if we are going to offer an improved tourist product in this country, we must have an ongoing programme of hotel refurbishment as part of that quality improvement.

Many of the larger hotels, Mr. Chairman, benefitted between 1984 and 1986 from the refurbishment concessions that were provided. There was a lingering difficulty in having the smaller hotels take advantage of the tax concessions for refurbishment. Any decision to stop the concessions for hotel refurbishment at this time will bear most adversely on that part of the Barbados hotel industry which stands most in need of the assistance, the small hoteliers. We met with them, Sir - I had meetings with them in my capacity as the Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Finance - even to encourage them to adopt a group approach to the purchase of their materials so that the Ministry of Finance at that time could have acted with expedition on their problems.

The point I am making, Sir, is the point that I hope that is not to be missed on the Government side. A lot of effort is apparently being made to bringing the small hoteliers into the business as an integral part of the policy. If you are to cease the refurbishment concession at this time...

Aside.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: No! There was a commitment given that the concessions for hotel refurbishment would continue, and in our manifesto, if he would notice very carefully, we stated that as a matter of policy.

Aside.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: The honourable Member for St. Michael West (Hon. B. M. Taitt), Sir, will never be able to show, nor establish, that the grant of concessions for the importation of materials to refurbish hotels was stopped by the Barbados Labour Party. And.....

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir: Since he said that the honourable Member for St. Michael West would not be able to show, he is misleading the House,

because the matter was dealt with in a statement during the fixing of policy in a Budget, and a fixed time was given. 4.30p.m.

If it was intended for it to be as he is now saying, it would have been "until such time or until further notice." A fixed time was given, and that is why they have to apply now. So do not start trying to get any kudos. You fixed the time and you are the one who has put them into trouble, and you know that

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Point made.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the fact of the situation is simply this. In 1984, when the concessions were made, not in the Budget Speech but in the Mini-Budget of 1984, a specific time was set within which concessions would have effect. That was relaxed, and in operational terms, even up until the last date on which I was the Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Finance and Planning, I was still receiving and dealing with requests from hoteliers for duty-free concessions for refurbishments. The limit of which he speaks might have been stated out front, but it was relaxed in the light of prevailing experience, Sir, to cope particularly, as I said, with the fact that the small hoteliers had not benefitted. The Barbados Labour Party manifesto, recognising the continued need for it, gave that commitment, but recognising that up to that point the persons who had made the most use of it were the larger hotels in Barbados and there was a continuing need for the programme so that the smaller hotels could benefit. If you stop the programme now, you will hurt that part of the industry.

Asides.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Do not tell me that we froze it. We continued to operate the policy. We even met with them.

I want, Mr. Chairman, to find out what is Government's policy in this particular matter. I want to know if the Government can give a commitment this afternoon that that important programme, designed to improve the quality of the tourist plant in this country, is not going to be treated lightly by Government.

I do not want to speak, Sir, about meetings that were held by hoteliers with the Ministry of Finance and the attitude of the Ministry of Finance.

Asides.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Which Minister? I do not know which Minister it is.

Aside.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: But I do not want, Mr. Chairman, to have to speak about the seeming indifference by the Ministry of Finance....

Aside.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR:.... Minister of State for Finance.....to persons in the hotel industry who put this case to him, particularly the small hoteliers, who are yet to benefit in full from the programme. The argument is being put that Government is so strapped for cash, and that there are so many hands being held out, that it cannot continue to give concessions in this very important area. I would argue that it is a pennywise but pound foolish approach, given the extraordinary role assigned to tourism this year.

It behoves the Minister to go into greater detail regarding the adequacy of the marketing arrangements and, in particular, the institutional changes that are necessary to cause tourism to perform at the level that economic circumstances now require it to perform at.

Asides.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, I will have to wind up now, but I will be back.

There are a number of institutional matters that have to be addressed at the level of the Board of Tourism, and we need to hear from the Minister of Tourism how he is going to get on top of that institutional situation as well.

I am obliged to you, Sir, but I shall return.

Hon. B. M. TAITT (St. Michael West): Mr. Chairman, I really did not intend to participate, but I think that we have a problem in this country, that information put out in a particular way, even though it is wrong, can become the standard-bearer of the point of departure for discussion in the country.

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Nobody do not say anything about you, Henry. Man, you are not worthwhile talking about.

Mr. Chairman, one of the problems we have to face constantly in this country is that the Barbados Labour Party continues to believe that people's memories are so short that they can risk anything from year to year, in the hope that the people forgot what happened last year.

Sir, the debate on tourism requires a lot more than this debate this afternoon. It requires something that will allow honourable Members to speak at length and to articulate their positions, because in a Committee debate, where we are discussing a simple Resolution to top up the requirements for promotion for the rest of the year, we really cannot articulate tourism policy. Therefore, the honourable Member for St. Peter (Mr. O. S. Arthur) ought not to use this opportunity to sneak in small points that may, when taken out of context in a report, give the impression that he was asking fundamental questions which could not be answered.

The refurbishing programme is not a matter that started when he was Parliamentary Secretary, it is a matter that has been accepted on all sides as a requirement for development of tourism in this country. It started with the policy of giving duty-free concessions to those who were establishing hotels. It started with the whole concept of giving hoteliers who invested in the hotel industry in the 1960s tax-free incentives. It started in 1958, when they set up a Board of Tourism and a Development Board which had responsibility for Tourism and Industry, which, when it was separated in the 1960s, became a Development Board and a Tourist Board. In other words, Sir, that has always been accepted, and it was intensified when we established the Hilton Hotel in 1966, to give the impetus to development of tourism.

We must avoid getting involved in what I call picayune and jejune discussion about tourism. We have passed the stage where we discuss those kinds of things. The fact is that the Minister of Finance under the Barbados Labour Party, in pursuance of the policy of giving hoteliers concessions, granted tax-free concession to those hoteliers who would be refurbishing the hotels, that the raw materials brought in for refurbishment would be allowed to come in duty-free. But it was the Minister of Finance in the Barbados Labour Party who fixed the time, and the President of the Hotel Association in 1986 called upon his colleagues in the tourism industry to redouble their efforts to fall within the net that had been laid out by the Barbados Labour Party. It now falls to the Democratic Labour Party to determine to what extent it is prepared to extend the refurbishment concessions, because the honourable Member must know that whatever concessions are given, it is the larger hotels that benefit from the concessions, and the smaller hotels, because they are strapped for funds, are not able to always participate.

Sir, that brings us to the policy of how you go about putting the small hotels on the treadmill where they would be able to benefit from these various concessions, and this brings me to the statement made by a man called Aaron Truss, who everybody else thought had disappeared. Suddenly, today, he reappears, and he has the temerity to

articulate in 14 columns of paper about tourism in this country. The reason the small hoteliers in Barbados have not been able to benefit from the concessions is because there has been a lack of planning to allow those small hotels to benefit, because you can only benefit if you make some kind of profit. 4.40 p.m.

The small hoteliers in this country, from 1984, when the then Prime Minister said, and I quote -

Mr. CHAIRMAN: From which document?

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I will tell you in a moment, Sir. You know I would never do that

This document is dated October 23, 1984, "STATEMENT AND PROPOSALS MADE TO THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY BY THE MINISTER OF FINANCE FOR THE PURPOSE OF RAISING REVENUE TO MEET PUBLIC EXPENDITURE." At page 13 of that document, after talking about comprehensive measures to Cabinet on assistance for the industry, addressing the hotel industry, the Minister of Finance said:

"With the classification system being introduced for hotels, it is necessary that the various properties be kept in good condition if they are to maintain standards. However, because of difficulties which the industry is currently experiencing, the Government has no doubt that it will be very burdensome for hotels to finance the renovations which they need to undertake. The Hotel Aids Act....."

which was passed by the Democratic Labour Party,

"will therefore....."

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Which one? I withdraw that, Sir. I know that I am right, but they say I am wrong and I withdraw it

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The Hotel Aids Act was passed in the 1960s.

(Aside: That is the old Act.)

Hon. B. M. TAITT: That one was repealed, my friend. That was amended. The Hotel Aids Act, to which he refers here, was passed by the Democratic Labour Party, but I will let you have the Act, no problem.

"The Hotel Aids Act will therefore be amended to expand the categories of duty free importation of materials, supplies and equipment to include items necessary for programmes of refurbishing as well as for construction and expansion."

He went on, Sir, and they, the Barbados Labour Party, fixed the time frame.

But this is what I want to say - for all of the years when Aaron Truss was the Minister, there was no plan that is discernibly found on any file, anywhere, in any Ministry in this country. The small hotels in Barbados were sucking salt when, in the words of Tom Adams, the then Prime Minister, a hurricane was descending on the hotel industry in this country, "a veritable hurricane" was how he described it

When Aaron Truss became Minister, no one heard of any plan for tourism. The small hotel owners in this country were suffering under a total of 385 000 visitors. The lowest level of visitors to this country occurred during the time that he was the Minister.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: It could have been lower. Not 385 000 What was the figure? Three hundred and twenty thousand.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Listen, I listened to you, and you should know by now that there is no one in this House who can put me off, least of all you.

Two hundred and whatever it is, the point is, Sir, that the industry went into its nadir, it had the lowest returns - and the honourable Member sitting next to you can confirm this - on its

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TATTT: They do not understand the English language, "nadir" is causing them trouble. N-A-D-I-R is causing the two of them trouble.

The industry was in a position where every single person in Barbados agreed that tourism had reached its lowest ebb, and the reason why has to do with the attitude which is displayed even today. They seem to think that, somehow, tourism is an industry which you can run like how you run a bank, or how you ran a board. The difference between the Democratic Labour Party and the Barbados Labour Party on tourism is that we recognise that tourism is an industry which can only be successful when the total population perceives it as part of their responsibility. We

recognise that a board of 19 or 20 or 22 is reflective not of any fixed concept of what should constitute a "manageable board", but of the understanding that all of those persons who have a primordial responsibility in tourism will participate in the planning of tourism. So the concept which came to Barbados in 1986, when the Democratic Labour Party took over tourism again, was that we would allow all of the people who participated in tourism to function as part of the planning of tourism. That is why the phrase, "Tourism is our business: let's play our part", has come to mean something to the people of Barbados, and the sooner the likes of Aaron Truss and company recognise that Barbados' tourism is not about a small sector of the community directing the rest of the community, but that it has to do with everybody in Barbados participating in the development of tourism, the better it will be for all those who, like him, wish to utter words about a plan.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: One more minute.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: One has to recognise that a policy of tourism has to do with the development of tourism for the country.

How can you look in the face of 420 000 people who come to a country, as compared with whatever they had in 1985, and then try to give the impression that tourism is failing in this country? It is casting aspersions on the intelligence of every single person in this country to raise questions of this nature.

When I speak again, and I will, I will outline the policies which were articulated in a document, not word of mouth, for the Board of Tourism, a plan and policies which allow for a fixed number of persons that should be achieved by the end of 1986. The 420 000 is in excess of the target that had been set by nearly 40 000. The target that was set was 380 000, and I am going to articulate it and put the document on record in this House, because this business of trying to give people the impression that, all of a sudden, they are coming to fruition has got to stop.

We have got, finally, to agree that tourism is an industry that requires a mature approach and not the foolishness of bipartisan, back and forth footbaling that has been attempted over the last few years. We have to understand that tourism is not something that is practised by Barbados, it is practised by every country in the world. The United States, the United Kingdom, they all benefit substantially from tourism. They practise tourism and spend more money in the promotion of tourism than we can ever spend. Yet, constantly what we are getting is a lot of lilliputians who are arguing with trivia and not recognising that we have moved, and we ought to move, beyond the kind of back and forth that used to go on not so long ago.

I am not going to trespass on the areas of the Minister, because I know he is going to answer the details. But since I was the person responsible for taking up tourism at the point when the Barbados Labour Party went out, I am going to defend to the death the policies which we set about putting in shape, because the answers are there for all to see. It is not something which we have to find in a book. Any child, man, woman or taxi driver in this country will be able to tell you whether tourism has been successful, and I will be able to articulate for you how it was done.

Mr. Chairman, I am much obliged to you. I promise that I will speak again. 4.50 p.m.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD (St. Michael South): Mr. Chairman, I just wish to refer to one particular point which was raised, and it related to the concessions to the hotel industry and what has happened to that. I believe the Minister of Health did explain the position in respect of that, that concessions were devised and granted for a period of time, which period of time expired, and then they were extended for a period of one year by the Democratic Labour Party for a period of one year, and that period of time has expired.

The hotel industry has been asked to submit proposals in the areas, or additional areas, in which they feel that concessions should be granted to them. That information has not yet come into the Ministry of Finance, and as soon as it comes in, we will deal with it, but on the basis that the Minister of Health has indicated, that is, to make sure that hotels, not only large hotels, but medium-sized hotels and small hotels, may be able to benefit from the concessions and to participate in this regime. That is the position, there is no mystery about it, but I want to know what kind of comfort the Opposition can gain if they seek to draw attention to problems inside the tourism industry rather than taking a constructive view of the whole matter.

As far as the level of public debate in this country is concerned, there are some nagging comments being made as far as the financial management of this country is concerned, and wanting to know which Minister of Finance and that kind of puerile comment

There is only one Minister of Finance in this country. There is a Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office and there is a Parliamentary Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office, and they have been allocated special responsibilities relating to Finance.

The Barbados Labour Party had not only the Minister of Finance, but the Member for St. Peter (Mr. O. S. Arthur) himself was in the Ministry of Finance, and they also had a Minister of State in Planning, or something like that. I do

not understand what are these nagging kind of points that are being raised by people who have nothing else to say.

Let us understand the position, that nothing is going to deflect us from taking the kinds of decisions that are required for maintaining the economy of this country on an even keel. Let us not forget that it was because of the complete mismanagement of the finances and the economy of this country that we find ourselves in this position. The Barbados Labour Party Government had to streak, go naked, to the International Monetary Fund in 1981 as a result of their policies, and the debt in this country rose to unprecedented heights under the Barbados Labour Party. Unemployment rose to unprecedented heights when the Member for St. Peter was in the Ministry of Finance. Those are the situations that we are to correct. But, now, all of a sudden, they are talking as though they have all of the solutions to the problems, that everything is being done wrong in this country, and that nobody knows what to do in these particular circumstances. That kind of talk is not going to deflect us.

Your record is not good on this particular matter and you have no moral basis on which to attack the Democratic Labour Party in terms of the management of the economy, and, least of all, in the sector of tourism. Instead of going down that road, let us come and put our heads together. Instead of looking for the areas in which you can find something to cavil at, try and be constructive and raise the level of public debate in this country.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE (Christ Church West): Mr. Chairman, the Prime Minister began by asking for constructive debate on this issue, and proceeded, of course, to make it as partisan as ever, and as ridiculous as ever, by his claim that the Barbados Labour Party really has no moral authority to speak on any of the economic issues facing this country, and he said, least of all, on tourism.

I want to remind the House and the Minister that in the period prior to 1976, the economy of this country reached one of the lowest areas which it could ever have reached in the last 40 years. The Prime Minister must remember that, prior to that time, unemployment reached the highest level that it has ever reached in Barbados. It did not even reach it in the period of the second worst recession that we have had. In relation to tourism, he must concede that the tourism plant was in such a bad state that it was not contributing to the economy in the manner in which we had expect it.

Asides.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: In the period prior to 1976, between the years 1973 and 1976, for the information of the honourable Member for the City (Mr. P. J. M. Miller). The

honourable Member will also see that in 1979, which was one of the high water marks of the tourist sector, we reached the highest number of visitors that had come to Barbados up to then, and that number was only exceeded for the first time last year, 1987, by 420 000.,

But I am not in the numbers game in this debate - the honourable Member may be in the numbers game, and you can keep citing numbers to show what has happened - because I believe that the Ministers know that the stay of visitors in Barbados has declined. If you take the same 420 000 people, you have to recognise that their stay here, I believe, last year was about 6.1 days or nights, however you like to put it, so, effectively, their length of stay in Barbados was equal to that when we had 100 000 less in 1982 than we had last year.

Asides.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: You would say it is absolute foolishness.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, order.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Let me give you a simple point. If your length of stay of visitors remain at the 6.1 that it was before, and you get 420 000 people,....

Asides.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: But it has remained. It is not an "if" and "but". Why does not the honourable Member go and read "Trends" and the latest statistics from CTCRC on the problem? If he does, he would realise that they have not exceeded, the 1982 and 1983 levels. Ask your advisers; and they will tell, if you do not know. Do not play only the number games. You must look effectively at the length of stay of visitors in the island, and one of the first and effective areas that you have to increase is the length of stay of visitors.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: If the honourable Member will give way, Sir: The honourable Member is saying, do not use the numbers game. I used the 420 000, so I am going to elucidate.

With 420 000, if he says that that means that there is a 6.1, as he puts it, then let him do a comparative analysis of the amount of money spent in 1982 as compared with 1987. If he does that, then his position would be valid. Let him talk about the amount of money spent in the country.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: If the honourable Member wants to know, if he reads the statistics, he will find that the position of the hotels today is that they are no better off

when they have got their income before fixed charges. Why does he not look and find that out? 5.00 p.m.

Asides.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: If the honourable Member would read some of the briefs that they have in the Ministry, he would not keep shouting that I am not telling the truth. The honourable Member must know what briefs there are. You can advise the honourable Member to abuse as much as he likes, but the publications, which are international publications, always have the statistics, and you must read them. You must know that there are people who are analysing them and that they are in the public domain. Statistics are coming before us every day.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir: the honourable Member is giving the impression that he is analysing them, but he is not giving the House any information. He also said that other people are analysing them. I challenge him to give the information point by point to this House. We have all night. Give the information.

He is misleading the House. He is giving die impression that 1987 is the same as 1982, and I say that is an abominable misrepresentation of the facts. In 1982, the earnings could not have been the same. I submit that they are something like \$100 million less. Let him prove otherwise. Let him give the information - he has in front of him - from the international community.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The honourable Member should subscribe to some of the publications instead of merely shouting and screaming, and then he would not be in a position to shout.

Let me deal with some of the main problems that are confronting the hotel industry. The industry is still in a recession, regardless of what the Government is saying. It is still in a very serious recession, and it does not give the Opposition, as the honourable Member seems to think, any pleasure when we come in here to speak, or speak in any respect, about any sector of the economy which may be in trouble. To the extent that the economy is in trouble, whether it be in tourism, manufacturing or agriculture, we are all in trouble, and it does not give us any pleasure. We have to make the points in this House because it is our duty to make them, and if the Government does not want to hear, we are still going to make the points. And the tourism industry, despite the numbers game, happens to be in very serious trouble.

The honourable Member for St. Peter (Mr. O. S. Arthur) made the point that at this stage we are being called upon to shoulder an extraordinary role. Indeed, if the Prime

Minister had been in here at the time, he would have heard when the honourable Member began that he said it is because it is being called on to shoulder an extraordinary role that he welcomes the opportunity, although we are in Committee of Supply rather than in a whole debate, to ask some questions of the Minister.

Sir, let us say this for the Minister. The Minister got up and started to speak in a very candid and open manner on these matters, and I welcome the candour that he brought to the subject. Obviously, it was not the diplomacy or the suavity of the honourable Member for St. Michael West (Hon. B. A. Taitt), but it was with much more candour and *bona fides* than we would expect in this House.

He made two points, and there are two vital points, one of which was followed through by the honourable Member for St. Peter. He made the point, as he said, that enough had not been spent - I am paraphrasing his words - and nothing has been spent on television advertising in the United States since April 1986. The honourable Member for St. Michael West says it is a waste of money.

The second point he made is that part of the problem confronting the industry where the industry cannot make full use of the rise in European currencies *vis-a-vis* the United States dollar and *vis-a-vis* our own dollar, is because there are not enough seats out of Europe, and in particular he referred to the lack of seats out of Germany. He went on to say that this lack of seats was felt by people coming into the country from Cologne, Dusseldorf and Frankfurt.

Sir, that is the major point, and it is a major point that you will hear from every hotelier, the lack of proper airline seats into Barbados. When it is emphasised in relation to the context of Europe, we must think again about it in the decision to close Caribbean Airways at the time it was done, and without putting in place adequate arrangements to service the route.

Sir, BWIA has allocated, as they know, 70 seats on that route to Barbados out of Europe. BA has not one seat, to date, out of Europe in place, and, therefore, we have the exact point which the Minister made, that there are several people stranded who would like to get here out of Europe, and I am saying that the Government did not look at the cost benefit analysis of closing Caribbean Airways at the time.

Hon. W. W. HALL: Mr. Chairman, I never said that people were stranded. That is a figment of the imagination of the Leader of the Opposition. What I did say is that when you have people coming out of Germany from Cologne, Dusseldorf and the other areas, they did not like the idea of having to overnight in London. I have a lot more to say, but I will sit now.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: We usually allow the honourable Members to make their speeches. They do not make their points and give way easily. The Minister said there is an unavailability of seats out of Europe that they do not like the idea of alighting in London.

(Asides: Overnighting in London.)

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Overnighting in London. That is exactly the point that we made in here when the Caribbean Airways issue was before this House. Furthermore, the Government has the office in Frankfurt in a state of limbo. The manager in Frankfurt has been holed up in London; only now he is acting in the place of Miss Alleyne, who has resigned. He was holed up in London. How long has he been in London?

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order I cannot allow him to continue to misrepresent the facts. He is saying that you had the manager of the German office holed up in London. Is he a thief? He is a man who is working for the Board. He was at the Board's office in London.

He knows that the manager in London resigned when I was Minister, which is many months ago, so to say that the man was holed up is to mislead the House. The lady who was manager resigned and got married, and the manager from Germany was brought to head the office in London. The honourable Member knows this. If I did not know that he knew, I would not get up. I know that he knows, and, therefore, he is misleading the House, I submit, Sir.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Let the Minister give the dates, Sir. Let him send for the files and get the dates.

They have an acting manager, Mr. Beckles - I am not even sure he is acting in the capacity of the manager - because the Board and the Minister cannot make up their minds as to whether they are keeping Frankfurt closed or opened. You had announcements from the Ministry at one stage that they were going to close Frankfurt, they started to dismantle the Frankfurt office and to move people, to be caught with the fact that the air queues were going up, that people travelling out of Europe had a greater availability of money in order to make use of tourism to the Caribbean. That is a fact,

Asides.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Ask the Government. I am not getting it direct, I go to Europe. I hear you speaking *sotto voce*. I follow the trends and I read the statistics, as well as the Economic Unit publications every week. Why do you not look on and see. You do not have to get it from somebody.

Information is not something you have to hide around the place. You are always looking to accuse somebody of getting something. Deal with the issues and you will know. I go to Europe, too, and I know what is happening, and I listen to people in the trade. Barbados is not the only people in the trade who is talking about the thing.

What has the Government done in relation to getting Lusthansa to come direct? Why did you lose out in the negotiations? 5.10p.m.

(*Aside*: Hon. B. M. TAITT: Henry man, that is unfair.)

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The point is that our competition is coming, as the Minister quite correctly says, from Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, Mexico and Antigua. We, therefore, must push on with a policy which must maximise the number of available airline seats into Barbados. Unless we can do that, and do it rapidly, then we are in danger not of losing the opportunity which has arisen.

We say, and we said in this House previously, that the subsidy which was going through Caribbean Airways was a necessary subsidy that the airline should have been given just when it was coming out of its problems.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: You say it is deeper problems.

Aside,

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: You decided to close the airline down without getting into place the adequate number of sr-ais that you needed, and your arrangements with P. itish Airways have not answered the problem of the Barbados tourism industry.

Aside.

Hen. H. deB. FORDE: That is your decision. You are the Government. I am not calling for anything.

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

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I am not the Government, you are the Government. The Prime Minister makes that clear every day. But as the Opposition, I am going to tell you how we see the problems. You may not like what I say or you may not agree with it. You are free to disagree, as I am free to disagree with you, but you are not going to silence me on them.

In relation to the Hotel Aids Act, Sir, the honourable Member for St. Michael West got up and wanted to claim the Hotel Aids Act. I am not concerned with that. I am saying today that there is a problem with the continuation of the programme for the refurbishing of hotels. I have listened very carefully to the Prime Minister, who has now put the onus on the industry to get back to the Government with its specific proposals on this point, as -I understand it But the point is that it is necessary to continue that programme.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: On a point of elucidation, Sir I had not used the word "onus" as far as the industry is concerned. But I should like to assure the Leader of the Opposition that assistance is continuing to the hotel industry *on an ad hoc* basis until such time as they put in their overall request. Individual hotels have been making requests, and in the spirit and framework of the concessions, we have been granting assistance to individual hotels. It is ongoing. .

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I am pleased to hear that, Sir. But I can tell the Minister that before he took over the Ministry of Finance, there were complaints about the length of time it was talcing to get a decision in relation to these very concessions we are talking about That was my information at the time.

It is necessary to continue the help, because, in my view, the accent cannot be on additional rooms *per se*. I recognise that in the last couple of years we have only had two new hotels being constructed, but what is necessary is not so much the provision of new plant as, indeed, the upgrading of existing plant And the system of registration of hotels, which we started under the Barbados Labour Party, has to be complemented with the upgrading of the rooms if our hoteliers are to be in a competitive position *vis-a-vis* our immediate competitors within the region and beyond. It is for this reason that the honourable Member for St. Peter was stressing the necessity for continuation and a clear statement on the programme of refurbishing the hotels in Barbados.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member can wind up now.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: All right, Sir. I will have to come back at this.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS (Christ Church East Central): Mr. Chairman, I recognise what the honourable Member for St. Peter (Mr. O. S. Arthur) said about its importance at this time when other sectors of the economy are perhaps not performing to the level that we would like to see them perform, even though there are positive signs of improvement in those other areas. But still, Sir, when those

statements are made one still has to look at the follow through in terms of discussions on those statements.

It seems to me that the other side has used some fairly particularistic approaches to the debate. They have stated concerns about whether we are aiding the hotel sector in terms of refurbishing, concerns about Caribbean Airways, which will always be a problem to them because we had to make the decision to close it down - and they will come back time and time again to try to justify whether or not that was a wise decision, even though the facts will stare them boldly in their faces - and concerns about Heywoods, which is in the honourable Member from St. Peter's constituency, so we will expect him to ask a few questions about Heywoods.

What annoys me, Sir, is the fact that the Barbados Labour Party likes us to forget what happened in the period after 1980 in the tourism sector of this country, when nobody could get up and say that Barbados was an affordable destination, as the Honourable Minister of Tourism can say now, when, because of their bankrupt policies, you could hear all over that Barbados was too expensive a destination, nobody would come to Barbados. We had a severe decrease in the amount of tourists coming here because of the prices in the tourism sector.

The fact is that because money was made in the hotel industry just after 1979, and there was no clear policy about tourism, there was too much construction in the sector at that time. A lot of the plant in Barbados is relatively new plant. People went ahead to build new hotels and to expand on existing plant.

If the Honourable Leader of the Opposition would use the information to which he referred objectively, that is, the "Trends In the Hotel Industry, International Edition, 1987", Pannell Ken- Forster, if he wanted really to use that information to educate the persons who would be listening to his information, he would give the facts and he would show that the industry in Barbados has been performing well, whether it is on a worldwide comparison or Caribbean comparison, in all of the effective areas. Yet, in spite of the positive comparisons, the report says that they are not making money. It indicates the areas where hotels are not making money - high interest payments, depreciation costs, all of those are clearly indicated - and it points back to the same thing that I was saying all the time, that the hotel sector, after 1980, went ahead on a wild scheme to extend and to build new plant, borrowing money at extremely high rates, under the Barbados Labour Party's Administration. That is the problem that they were faced with, the fact that there was no planning and, therefore, a lot of new beds were created at a time when visitors were not coming to the island in sufficient numbers, at the time when the price of a

hotel bed was rising and the prices of all the different things that the tourists were using in the industry were rising.

They want to indicate that, in fact, there have not been good performances in the tourism sector in 1986 and 1987. That cannot be borne out by the facts, even though one can understand the mathematics of what the Honourable Leader of the Opposition was trying to put to us, that you have to look not only at the number of bodies that came through here, but you have to look at the amount of average time spent here, multiplied, of course, by the room rates that you can realise. That is a fact, the mathematics are correct, but, clearly, he was looking in the realm of speculation. He did not dare to tell you what the outturn of the mathematics was. He was just giving you a framework in which you can do the analysis. We demand more of him than that! Do not just give us the way how to compute things, we can all do that. But tell us if there were 420 000, the most you ever had in your history, and if the bed nights went down from perhaps eight or nine to six per visitor, what were the rates that were realised and come up with the mathematics of it. Those outturn figures will be coming from the Central Bank, and we will be able to understand whether or not we are getting more revenue in 1986-87 than before.

What is sure is that the money is there. There is no question about that. So do not let us toy around with these things, because the facts will be there. Do not just go into speculation, because this is not a time for speculation. Let us get the facts, and the facts will be that the tourist sector is doing better now than it has ever done before.

The important thing about this is that it is a cross-dissector. If you look at the statistics coming from Pannell Kerr Forster when they are giving you their month by month information, the last details I have is for November, 1986 - I do not think I have seen anything since November, 1986-.....

Aside.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: You got something since 1986 from Pannell Kerr?

The most recent statistics from Pannell Kerr were extremely good. Luxury hotels have been doing fantastically well in this country; in fact, that is so throughout. When you look at Pannell, Kerr, Forster, the only thing that has been going down is the level of payroll cost. Everything else is up - the amount of visitors coming in, the length of stay, the amount of money that is being made by these areas, the profits - they have been going up according to that November figure. 5.20 p.m.

Everybody talks about contributions to the hoteliers, the hoteliers are asking for contributions in every area, but I want to underscore the contribution that the workers of Barbados have made to the industry. It is very important to recognise that the Barbados Workers Union is the only trade union in the private sector and, therefore, we have a responsibility in this very important sector of the economy in terms of wage negotiations, and I want the public to recognise the tremendous contribution that the workers have made to the upkeep of this industry over the last three negotiations. In fact, the levels that have been set are extremely reasonable levels. I think all have to recognise that the workers have pitched in and contributed to the welfare of the entire country by showing a maturity when they recognised that, because of inefficient Barbados Labour Party Administration, and because of the difficulties of management in the hotel sector, the country's economy was in jeopardy and the workers had to make their contribution.

That was not only in terms of taking reasonable wage increases over the time. You can check and see what the levels of wage increases in the hotel sector have been in the last three negotiations. They have been extremely reasonable. But even during the period of the Barbados Labour Party Administration, in addition to taking relatively low wage increases, they knew that they were going to be on week on - week off every year, especially in the so-called off-season, and they therefore have reason to be happy to have lived through 1986 and 1987 when the incidence of layoffs was extremely low. Before, almost every year you could expect major hotels to be laying off their staff consistently, or put them on week on - week off. That did not happen in 1986 or 1987, and that is the indicator of how well the tourism sector has been performing.

One remembers the amendment to the severance payments legislation. When it was moved from four weeks to 13 weeks, that was to accommodate the hotel sector so that hotels could lay off their people, but nobody had to use that particular provision in the Act in 1986 and 1987. That is because of the policy of the Democratic Labour Party to ensure that during the off-season, work was there for the workers of this country in the tourism sector.

In terms of the contribution that workers are making to the tourism industry, one area I want to highlight is the cruise line business that has been attracted to the Bridgetown Port. One is very pleased at the growth in this particular sector. I believe that week before, there were some six vessels at the harbour with about 5 000 visitors in one day. As a matter of fact, when I went down to the port, I had to ask if it was no longer a cargo port, but now a cruise line port. One is pleased with this kind of development

I want to let the public be aware that the stevedores and longshoremen in the Bridgetown Port, who are sometimes criticised by the public, who do not have access to the facts, have been making a significant contribution to the development of this particular sector of tourism. They gave a concession that they would not put on the normal gangs in working the containers that are brought in by these cruise liners. When containers come with stores; clearly the stevedores and the longshoremen could have demanded that the same kinds of gangs that are put on cargo vessels, and have been put on before on cruise liners, could have been put on. But they decided that to promote more of these vessels coming to Barbados, they themselves would hold off in terms of applying that labour. In fact, recently we understood that the Europa, one of these vessels, will be coming here with about 1200 persons bringing about 13 containers, and we were to look at the concessions in terms of not putting on port labour. So I just want to underscore the fact that the workers have been contributing to the health of the industry, and I would not like this to be forgotten.

There is one group of workers whom I think one has to look at in terms of performance of the tourism sector, and these are the taxi people, the small operators. I believe that they have a very important role to play in tourism in Barbados and I do not think that we need to belabour that. But it seems to me that, both at the airport and the seaport, we need to look again at how they operate within the whole framework of tourism, especially at the seaport.

It appears to me that a few relatively large operators are controlling most of the transportation at the Bridgetown Port, especially as it relates to cruise liners. These tour operators, because they have runners on board the vessels and because of the way how tourism business is organised in that area, seem to be controlling whatever revenue there is to come to road transport from that particular sector, and the small taximan has to be waiting on the outside waiting for the crumbs that fall off the table from these big operators.

I believe that we will have to look at a system where perhaps there is some quota arrangement for moving people out of the port rather than most of the big operators getting to move most of those people, especially in those arrangements where there is a linkage between the airport and the seaport, where people have to be transported from the seaport to the airport, because of arrangements that are made. It seems to me that the taxi drivers have to be given the opportunity to benefit from this influx of cruise line passengers who are coming here, because it seems to me that at this stage of development they are not getting that benefit. That is something that we will be looking at in another area, but I thought that, given the wide contribution

that they make to the tourist industry in our country, it is an area that we might need to look at.

We have been hearing, for instance, in terms of Jamaica, about the impact of the problems of the American Stock Exchange on currency fluctuations. What impact has that had on our industry? I do not know if the facts with the outturn figures are yet indicative of any particular impact, but I have been reading about what has happened in relation to Jamaica, and there is some indication that there were a number of cancellations because of uncertainty in the American market. I would like the Minister to give us some indication about whether there are any signs that the same thing is happening here.

I would like to compliment the Minister for his indications that there is a significant amount of work being done to bring tourists out of western Europe. I believe that western Europe represents a very significant and important market for us, and I am very happy to hear that there are plans ahead to bring people out of that area in a significant way in this year and the year coming.

There is a very useful article called "Developing Tourism" by Alistair McIntyre. I would say the journal is good, in spite of the fact that some people who are on the directorate might have views that are different from mine. I see that the Editorial Advisory Board has some persons here who have some views that do not seem to be reflective of, not the quality so much, but the thrust of the articles, but still I think that is a very useful one. 5.30p.m.

One of the areas that has been pushed here is the concept of educational tourism.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You have another two minutes.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Within the concept of educational tourism, I would like to recommend to the Minister of Tourism that the Trade Union Movement all over the world is a relatively wealthy movement, and it makes plans to move its members across the world in terms of looking for holiday destinations. I was wondering if there is a possibility, for instance, to tap that market when group plans may be made. Certainly the Barbados Workers Union will stand ready to give any assistance in terms of contacts with the AFLCIO and the L.O. Norway, Sweden and so on, whose members might want to come to a holiday destination on some sort of group plan. I believe there is some possibility to tap that particular market for the benefit of the country.

I want to finalise by saying that the Barbados Workers Union and the workers of this country have played their roles in making the tourism plant a healthier plant than it

was. Certainly in the early Eighties tourism in Barbados was chaotic. One can remember that whole regime when people were saying that you could not come to Barbados, it was one of the most expensive destinations, when there was a tremendous drop in the number of visitors coming here and when, in fact, the workers had to institute wage restraint on their own in order to bring some health back to the industry.

It seems to me now that the industry, because of the policies of the Democratic Labour Party, is beginning to show signs of health, and not only health, but certainly signs of growth and prosperity. I do not want this to be hidden up in an overall and omnibus figures, because if one gets the impression that there is no prosperity in the hotel industry, that would be false, because there are some plants that are doing well and are beginning to pay back their debts and so on. All that happened was that they wanted to pay off their debts in a very short period so that after that all would be gravy coming to them. So do not let them fool us in Barbados that parts of the hotel sector are not doing well, some are doing extremely well.

Thank you, Sir.

Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE (St. Michael North East): Mr. Chairman, I would like to compliment the Government, and indeed the Board of Tourism, for what I consider to be a dramatic turnaround in tourism over the last year and a half or so.

I am not one of the people who get too carried away by heated debates, I like to look at what I consider the reality of the situation. It is not so long ago, Sir, that hotels across this country found great difficulty in managing their financial affairs, to the extent that a number of them were sold out and only a certain group of people was buying or attaining these hotels. It is not so long ago that the hoteliers themselves were crying out for the pressures that they were having from all sides, including that of the then Government. So when you can have the kind of success story coming out of the tourism circles as to the turnaround that has been made in a very short space of time, I believe that it is time that we can pay compliments where they are due.

This Resolution seeks to provide what I consider a very small sum of money for the Board of Tourism to operate with, and I would be happy if we could provide more money if the returns are going to be as encouraging as we have seen over the last year or so.

I find from week to week, Sir, that a number of people, and primarily young people, come to see me in search of employment. Quite steadily over the period some of those people were employed, and still are employed, in

the tourist industry, but they had a problem of just a two-day, three-day, or just week on-week off. Within recent times, Sir, this situation has improved. That seems to say to me that there is a measure of improvement in the lot of persons who are employed in the tourist industry. It also seems to say to me that there is an improvement in the number of people who are employed in the tourist sector of this country.

What I am a little bit concerned about, Sir, is still the fact that there are people who complain - and some, I believe, rightly so - that the cost of vacationing in Barbados, especially going into some of the hotels in this country, is high. I understand very clearly, Sir, that nobody is in business to lose money, I understand they are in business to make a good proposition of it, but certainly there must be ways and means of reducing the cost of services to those persons who come to share our hospitality without reducing the quality of service.

One of the areas in which I would like to see some improvement is in the linkage between the use of locally-produced commodities in the tourist sector and those people who come to our shores. I still believe that too much money is spent on imported commodities where we have ample commodities of good quality that people can make use of, and I would like to see a programme devised where locally-produced commodities can be more meaningfully used.

I would like, also, to see a more honest approach right across the population of this country to what can be considered the bread and butter of this country in terms of its revenue. No one can say to me that some of the smaller hotels'pan now be claiming to be having a better slice of the cake and being able to improve the lot that has been systematically denied them over a period of time, and yet you have some of the bigger hotels who are charging much more exorbitant rates and they^e complaining to some extent, but under the collar you can hear them talking about the goodies that the Government had made available to them in the last Budget. We want to be honest in our approach to the livelihood of our country, and we want to say that if privileges have been extended to us, we are able to pass them on to everybody who is involved in the business of tourism so that they can share in the cake. 5.40 p.m.

I would also like, Sir, to compliment the Government on the fact that it has seen the light to give the concessions that it gave in the 1987 Budget and in terms of what we can see has been achieved because of these concessions that were given.

In complimenting the Government, Sir, all I would like to see is that the total populace of this country avoid the temptation of running down the country by the things they

say and some of the things that they do. I still believe that this little country of ours is, if not the best, one of the best territories in the world that people can come to, and we as Barbadians, either at home or abroad, must be careful about either seeking, or encouraging, people, to make derogatory remarks about our country, most of them not at all intending to correct a situation, but rather having a very serious trend to destroy what little we have.

I therefore, Sir, would like to see that all Barbadians play their part in developing what can be a really worthwhile industry to the height that we envisaged when we started way back to embrace tourism as a money-earner for this territory. I ask us all to accept it as our responsibility to share in the workload of making tourism a worthwhile money-earner for Barbados, and to desist from doing and saying things, sometimes more for political gain, sometimes with a distinct determination, to destroy that which we have tried to build up. It may seem harsh, Sir, but I come across it day by day, and I think that a word to the wise is enough, because so many people are looking at this country and what it offers to the rest of the world.

Thank you, Sir.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS (St. Thomas): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I wish to declare an interest, even in a kind of peripheral way.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: No, Sir. I said in a peripheral way.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Not profitable, merely peripheral.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Far, far from profitable, because I have a commercial interest in tourism, a little apartment hotel in Worthing.

Since the Government would hope and encourage the Opposition to speak only things that are complimentary of the Government and ignore all else, especially the last honourable Member- it seems that we are not expected to be critical or even alert the Government to matters of concern within the various sectors - and since I have been enjoined in the national interest not to worry with the criticisms of the industry, I will compliment this Government for the assistance it rendered to the country, particularly, to those involved in the tourist sector, in the summer of 1987. The planning for the Air Tours operation started before this Government got into power, but this Government gave it the necessary impetus and support to ensure that there was some job continuity in the sector in the summer. Indeed, we had the best summer in terms of arrivals for many, many years, if not ever, in 1987.

Members have spoken without figures and have painted a sorry state of tourism under the Barbados Labour Party. I would only draw members' attention to page 189 of the Annual Statistical Digest of the Central Bank for 1987, Table J3, and I am going to pick some five-year periods so that everyone will get an idea of figures. Since this is from the Central Bank and not from "Trends", I would expect that what is in this document would be classified by the Government as untrue, so subject to that caveat, that I expect the Members on the other side to say those figures are wrong, I will give them.

For the five-year period 1971-1976, arrivals moved from 189 000 in 1971 to 224 000 in 1976.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: He has a plaster for every sore. He said it was just getting off the ground.

That is an increase of 32 000 visitors in five years. In 1971, 189 000 came and by 1976 it had moved to 224 000. Let me be absolutely fair, in 1974 it had gone to 231 000 - then 221 000 then 224 000.

For the next five-year period, to 1980, it moved from 224 000 in 1976 to 370 000 in 1980.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: They have 1980 here period -1980,370 000. I am using the exact dates.

It increased in that period, therefore, by 146 000 under the Barbados Labour Party, as compared with 32 000 in a five-year period under them. It was so unaffordable that people did not want to come to Barbados, but, yet, 146 000 more came in the first five-year period under the Labour Party!

It went, then, to 353 000, and you had a severe drop in 1982 to 304 000. But it went back up to 368 000 in 1984, and as high as 370 000 for 1986. 5.50p.m.

Nobody has been aware, of course, that there was an international recession both in the early 1970s and in the early 1980s, and nobody is prepared to make any allowances for the vagaries of international recession on tourism travelling. I am prepared to say, Sir, that the international recession of 1973 could have affected the tourist product in even the two years succeeding, and the fact is that it never grew at any tremendous rate; 222 000 in 1973 and by 1976 it had only gone to 224 000.

In 1981, it was 353 000 and by 1982 it had dropped to 304 000, 328 000 in 1983 and 368 000 in 1984, so when the honourable Member for Christ Church East Central (Mr. R. L. Morris) says that Barbados was unaffordable under the Barbados Labour Party, chaotic, I would only say that the figures do not support the conclusions, the pejorative conclusions, made by the honourable Member for Christ Church East Central.

I did not want to speak on this because I do not know a lot about it. Having an interest as a shareholder and director of a little hotel property does not make one an expert. I am not going to pontificate. Indeed, with appropriate reservations, I would use words that were used by someone well known to us on January 29 this year. I know nothing of tourism, other than the fact that you need transportation to get you there, you need somewhere to stay when you get there, and you need something to eat when you get there. The author of those words will recognise himself. So I am not going to get into the great detail of tourism.

The small hotels, which were part of the Air Tours arrangement last year, were able to offer continuous employment to staff and so contribute to a level of stable employment in the country, or certainly, put another way, did not exacerbate the unemployment problem. Some of them were able to meet their interest payments to the Barbados Development Bank, and that was very important, but they were not able to make a profit. You could not make a profit at the rates that were being offered, and if the objective - and I do not believe it was the objective of the Government, it happened - of going after that market was to satisfy those two ideals of maintaining employment and assisting the hoteliers in meeting their interest payments, then it succeeded, but it did no more than that, Sir, so do not let us overstate it. If it was not designed to do anymore, then it met its objectives, and that is a lot.

I believe all those who were in the programme benefited from it, but it did not bring tremendous receipts to Barbados so as to assist in the kind of accretion of foreign reserves, which this country needs to help get us out of some of our present difficulties, given the failure of manufacturing and the deterioration in export earnings. In fact, the Government itself is watching very cautiously, and is cautiously optimistic of the future of tourism and the apparent resurgence. And they have to be, because it is a fickle industry.

Already, from January to now in this year, 1988, the figures are not good. Members have access to proprietors of some of these pleasure boats down the coast, and they will tell you that some days it is as good as 70 people on the Jolly Roger, and those are no-people at all. Government has to be cautiously optimistic, and they recognise this, and

they have said to persons overseas that the tourism and manufacturing sectors are confronting difficulties, and for this reason - I do not know if the Minister has said it, but I am saying it for him - Government has hired a private consultant team, under terms of reference drawn up with the advice from the World Bank, to recommend measures for these two sectors. The Minister would be able to tell us about that later on.

I was a little distressed, Sir, that the Honourable Prime Minister, coming from the southern end earlier tonight - he is in the north now - bowled some serious bouncers - he was bowling a line and a length that was getting up to the rib cage - and he was seeking to do two things, the first being to lay the blame for the present state of Government finances and/or the economy, I think they are two different things, on the Barbados Labour Party's policies over the years. Well, the one who was his predecessor in office said that, right or wrong, they intended to blame us for the next five years, so we have to expect it.

He also seems sensitive to criticism, in the newspapers and so on, which seems to be undermining his authority as Prime Minister and Minister of Finance. It is nothing that anybody on this side has said. But I would just ask the Prime Minister to be aware, in dealing with whether he is Minister of Finance, or perceived to be or not - it must be a matter of concern for the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance - that some group called the Professional Group, Certified and General Accountants or something, should invite a man who is not Minister of Finance to come and address them, and then he takes the opportunity to put blows vicariously in the Prime Minister and the Governor of the Central Bank for raising interest rates. That must be a matter of concern for a Prime Minister, and it will hurt him, and it will hurt tourism, too, the tourist products. It is nothing that the Opposition has done - that is the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central (Dr. R. C. Haynes)! The undermining is coming from inside at you, not from us!

There is a great disparity between the figures of 74 and 26, I will explain one of these days what 74 per cent and 26 per cent mean. It is nothing that we are doing on this side, it is all being done over there. The letters that Boos writes to the Advocate telling you to leave the policies of the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central in place are designed to weaken you, because the Prime Minister knows that the overall deficit at the end of December was \$225 million. Revenue is shortening. The revenue loss from the 1986 tax register - these are my notes, Sir - was more than 3 per cent of GDP on a full-year basis. Income tax collections declined by \$44 million, 22 per cent, in 1986-87. That is nothing to do with us. The measures of the alternative Budget caused a decline in revenue by 22 per cent, "with some additional revenue lost

occurring in the current fiscal year as refunds are being paid out of income tax withheld in the first half of 1986-87 at the previous tax rate. Total central Government revenue 1986-87 "

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member, another half second. Just finish the sentence.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: " rose by only 3.3 per cent, substantially below the growth in nominal terms." That is the problem confronting the Prime Minister, the policies of the alternative Budget. Do not blame us! 6.00 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: And the two Bs have told me and you that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time, time.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The two Bs. You read them up to Thursday.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I will not question the Central Bank Reports which the Honourable Member has just read. I will read from the Central Bank's Annual Report 1983. I am sorry the honourable Member has left his chair, Sir, I hope he will be able to hear me from wherever he is. At page 10, Annual Report 1983 Central Bank, under the heading "Tourism":

"Tourism output fell for the third successive year" The Annual Report 1984, Sir, and this is in many ways a response to what the Leader of the Opposition said, page 10: "The average length of stay for 1984 declined by about

The Central Bank Report 1985, under "Tourism", this one, page 5:

"Real output in the tourism sector is estimated to have declined by 3% during 1985. This reflects a 2% fall in arrivals and a 6% decrease in average length of stay"

So much for what the Leader of the Opposition has been saying about length of stay to show that it has been declining from, at least, during the Barbados Labour Party's time, and that the decline in output from tourism has been happening since the Barbados Labour Party came to office.

This time around, Sir, and in the context of the statements made by the honourable Member for St. Thomas (Mr. D. A. C. Simmons) who just sat down, and other information which has been put abroad in this country recently, I wish to say that when the Democratic Labour

Party became the Government of this country in 1986 and it established a Board of Tourism, there was an agreed policy, plan and programme that was written out in a document of 13 pages, which forms part of the record of the Board of Tourism and the Ministry of Tourism. That is to counter the concept of there having no plan and it is to answer the question raised by the honourable Member. I cannot, obviously, quote the whole document in the 15 minutes, but I wish to answer the specific questions, and I read as follows:

"The principal, though not exclusive, objectives of tourism in Barbados and therefore the Barbados Board of Tourism are as follows:

1. To increase on a continuous basis the level of tourist earnings."

In 1986 the earnings were \$647 million approximately. In 1987 they are in excess of \$700 million. On that count, Sir, I would say the policy has been achieved.

- "2. To achieve maximum employment from the industry, directly and indirectly, and reduce the level of seasonal and other under-employment in the industry".

Those were the two principal objectives that were given to the Board of Tourism at the very outset. So the answer to the honourable Member's question as to whether those were the two policy outlines, the answer is yes, and I have to agree with him that so far the Board, and therefore the Government, has been eminently successful.

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- "3. The objectives should be achieved at the least possible cost, financial, social and environmental.

I come to the problems we found in industry:

- "4. The principal problems in industry at the time are

- (i) the general decline in the number of tourist arrivals;
- (ii) the increasing degree of seasonality in the industry;
- (iii) increasing unemployment, including a deepening seasonality in employment;
- (iv) declining levels of income and profitability"

And the statement went on:

"The simple, if difficult, task for the Board is to reverse these trends dramatically."

We then set out targets for the Board. We said:

"Consistent with the above, the Board should seek to achieve the following global target arrivals: 1987,380 000; 1988,400 000."

Sir, the record is in and we have achieved 420 000 in 1987. So even if the Board does not do anything at all in 1988,.....

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: No, it is not that. It is that you cannot have your cake and eat it, too. You cannot come in here and say there was no planning and there was no organisation, and when we start to show you, you now say we are resting on our laurels. We had laurels from 1986. You left us nothing to rest on. We ought to have been able to rest on your laurels.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I do not have to say anything, but I will not allow any mealy-mouth utterings by the Barbados Labour Party to mislead this population. You have said that there is no plan, and I am saying to you that there was a plan and I am picking selectively from it.

"Marketing.

1. The objectives to increase visitor flows principally from the USA, Canada and the United Kingdom and Europe, and at the very minimum to maintain existing levels from the Caribbean and Latin American area.
2. To increase the number of visitors in the off season, particularly in the summer, July - August, and the fall, September - November"

Sir, I do not wish to go into any greater detail of this plan, because I am sure that the Minister of Tourism will be able to, and will outline how the plan was refined for the coming two years and how we propose to continue the revival in tourism. But it is not fair for the Barbados Labour Party to seek to be hanging on the bandwagon of the Democratic Labour Party and now try to give the impression that they had some overall plan for tourism.

The OAS has been asked to participate in a project for the development of the small hotels in this country because the Democratic Labour Party recognised early that the Barbados Labour Party had successfully, economically

murdered the small hoteliers in this country. They were unable to pay their debts to the Development Bank. They were unable to meet their commitments in the commercial place. It was only a decided policy to concentrate on the small hotels that allowed for the turnaround which has occurred in this country. All the small hoteliers, including the honourable Member who just sat down, are able to say today, thank God, they are able to hold on to their properties.

(Aside: Not all.)

Hon. B. M. TAITT: 'Sir, he says, not all. Let me say more than 95 per cent, Sir, because if I say all he will be able to prove that there is one little hotel somewhere in Chalky Mount that has four rooms that has not been successful.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I am sorry, you are successful.

Laughter.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Somewhere in the country, Sir. I am sure the one in Chalky Mount is successful.

Laughter.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: He would be able to say that I told lies to the House. 6.10 p.m.

The point we are making here, Sir, is that a systematic approach at recovering the industry was undertaken and has been sustained by the Democratic Labour Party, and it has been sustained with the assistance of every single sector in this community, except the Barbados Labour Party. The Barbados Labour Party continues to harp about matters which the people of this country have settled and take for granted, and tourism is one of them.

There is a feeling in this country, for example, and I touch on this point without going into details just now, that only certain people ought to be asked to give advice, ought to be asked to participate in the management of the tourism sector. It is impossible for us to have a vibrant and powerful tourism industry without the participation of all sectors, i

The honourable Member for St. Thomas, when the Prime Minister said that tourism was, or the economy is, in the doldrums because of the policies of the Barbados Labour Party, then turned to speeches made by the Member for St. Michael South Central (Dr. R. C. Haynes). If the Barbados Labour Party does not take the opportunity of the fact that the former Minister of Finance has resigned from

the Cabinet to try to use that to cast aspersions on this party and create confusion, we would not only be surprised, but we would be disappointed, because that is what you do best. How in the name of God do you expect the Government now to be telling the - what do you call the organisation? - the Professional Accountants that they must not invite the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central to speak to them? Do you wish the Government now to be telling the associations and organisations who they must invite?

(Aside: Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Like they told the Caribbean Youth - what do they call it?)

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I will get into that, Sir. You give me a chance with him.

You wish us, the Democratic Labour Party Government, to tell all the organisations that they are to beware of the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, and if they do invite him, you wish us to give him the speech. Look at the honourable Members on this back seat. Do you think that they are the jokers that used to sit in the Barbados Labour Party? They are all free, and will continue to be free, to speak their minds.

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: They are all capable of being Prime Ministers, each one of them, all 24 over here, especially when you are discussing the Barbados Labour Party.

The Barbados Labour Party has a peculiar concept of what ought to be, because Tom Adams had all of you, with the exception of the Member for St. Thomas,....

Asides.

Laughter.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: No, I like to give Jack his jacket. He told me some things about Tom Adams and I promised not to repeat them, so I am not getting into that.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Sir: I did tell him that Tom Adams was the brightest person that I had met as a student, and that is true, Sir.

Laughter.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I will pray for the assistance of the Minister of Tourism to assist you in remembering what else you said.

The point, Sir, is that Tom Adams had all of them over there that they had to come and form fours and get permission to speak.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: No, you especially! The Leader of the Opposition especially was incapable of making a coherent statement if Tom Adams was in the country. But I am not going to go into that.

The honourable Member for St. Michael South Central is free to utter his views on the economy in this country, and if he uttered views that varied from the policies of the party, he and the party will discuss them. But he has not said anything that is inconsistent with the views of the party. Up to now, as far as I have heard, the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central has done nothing but to defend the policies which he outlined as Minister of Finance, as he should do. What he has said is that the policies which he implemented have been successful. Do you expect him to say they were not successful?

(Aside: Hon. H. deB. FORDE: What do you say?)

Hon. B. M. TAITT: That they have been successful.

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Do you think I am you? Do you think I am going to get up in here and open my mouth and do not say what I think? His policies have been successful in so far as they achieved what they set out to achieve. The honourable Member has said so on the floor of the House and everybody in Barbados knows that. What he did was what the party agreed on in so far as we would give the people back some money, we would remove them from the yoke of the Barbados Labour Party that had carried taxation in this country to its highest level. The taxation was relieved. We in the Democratic Labour Party ran on a Manifesto which said we would give back the people who worked for \$15 000 or less, and it was implemented. We in the Democratic Labour Party said that we would reduce the price of gasoline, and we did. We in the Democratic Labour Party said that we would reduce the price of water, and we did. What we did was to reduce the cost of living for a substantial number of the people of this country. Do you wish us to resile from that because the Minister of Finance has resigned? The former Minister of Finance resigned on a matter of principle, and he and the Prime Minister have spoken to! the country, and it is not necessary for anybody to go through that. But I will not sit on a front bench and allow you to give the impression that you cowl us into not discussing a matter because the former Minister of Finance goes and makes a position on interest rates.

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I do not mind what he is doing behind my back. I know what you are doing in front of my face and I am dealing with you in front of my face. I have never been in the habit of dealing with people behind my back. That is not my thing.

Laughter.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I am a face person, so do not talk about what he is doing behind my back. I am not interested in that. I am dealing with what I see and what you know.

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

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, it is very important that the people of Barbados understand that the Democratic Labour Party is a vibrant organisation. I recall that when I ran against the late Prime Minister, the suggestion was made that somehow that is a form of disloyalty. The fact is that this is a vibrant political party, unlike the honourable Member, the Leader of the Opposition, who, with the young people of this country, the Caribbean Youth Council, has sought to bury them under a plethora of ignorance. He is in here saying one thing - they are involved in something else. But that is consistent with the Leader of the Opposition, who, when he goes to the Dominican Republic in his capacity as representative of the Barbados Labour Party for Socialist International, takes one position, and when he comes in here as Leader of the Opposition takes the opposite position.

The Democratic Labour Party can stand on its record. You cannot come in here trying to give the impression that we are not telling the truth when we say you put this country where it was - you, the Barbados Labour Party, all three of the honourable Members over there and the rest who are no longer with us - put the Democratic Labour Party into a position where we have to fight an uphill battle to bring this country back to a semblance of what is decent and honourable, both economically and morally.

The people in this country feel free again, and are able to criticise the Government. If Tom Adams was the Prime Minister, do you think that the newspapers could dare to write about the Prime Minister as they write about the present Prime Minister? You would have ripped out their throats. The civil servants could not behave as they behave now, where they are free to utter their views without fear. Under the Barbados Labour Party, the former Attorney-General, who is now the Leader of the Opposition, turned away in shame when he saw some of the things that the Barbados Labour Party was doing. 6.20 p.m.

(*Aside:* Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Not shame!)

Hon. B. M. TAITT: That is why you left.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: You left!

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The honourable Member cannot really land now, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is the conclusion of the honourable Member.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I never left the Barbados Labour Party, Sir.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: He left the Cabinet, Sir.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of order, Sir: Again, I never left the Cabinet

Hon. B. M. TAITT: He was fired from the Cabinet, Sir.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of order again, Sir: I have never been fired.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, he was a Cabinet Minister and then, abruptly, he was not. He neither left, nor was he fired.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Sir, the honourable Member persists in misrepresenting the truth. I was never fired from the Cabinet. My time, like any Minister's came to an end with the dissolution of Parliament, and I went back into the Cabinet for a short time.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: He was not invited to come back.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of order, Sir: I went back into the Cabinet. The honourable Member again is not telling the truth.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: You know about cross-examination. If he went back into the Cabinet and he was not in the Cabinet while there was still the Cabinet, what happened, Sir? He either left or he got fired. He said he did not leave.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Oh, you resigned?

I know my time is coming to an end.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Has come.

Laughter.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The point is.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Just wrap it up.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Yes, I want to wrap it up, because, Sir, what he said when he became leader is that they should infiltrate the groups, and he is doing it by putting out little bits and pieces of information which, taken cumulatively, is designed to do a particular job. We wish them, if they must attack the Democratic Labour Party, to attack the Democratic Labour Party fairly, honestly and sincerely and produce the facts. The record will show, and the Minister, I am sure, will demonstrate, that one of the areas in which the Barbados Labour Party cannot morally raise issues is in the area of tourism.

I rest my case on that, Sir.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, I welcome the intervention by the Honourable Prime Minister into this debate, if only from the very firm way in which he has put the honourable Member for St. Michael West (Hon. B. M. Taitt) in his place as regards the inaccuracy of certain statements he had made. The honourable Member for St. Michael West had intervened in the debate earlier to try to establish that the Barbados Labour Party had put a time limit on the extension and the provision of concessions for the refurbishment of hotels, and that now has been laid to rest by the statement of the Prime Minister.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir!

(*Aside:* He made'a mess of you, Branford!)

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: The Prime Minister explained that he extended it. Sit down, man!

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Can I get a point of order?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Yes, of course, you can go ahead on a point of order.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir: I do not appreciate the honourable Member saying that the Prime Minister said something different from what we said. The Prime Minister said that it had come to an end and it was extended by the Democratic Labour Party. You put a time limit on it and we extended it. Do not get up and try to mislead the House.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, the Prime Minister was very careful to state precisely what had been

said before, that under the Barbados Labour Party, we continued even after that period for which it was due to expire to give concessions to the hotel industry for refurbishment.

The honourable Member for St. Michael West used some terms and made some allegations that are so loose that, before I come back on to other substantive matters, I ought to correct them. The notion, for example, that the Barbados Labour Party "economically murdered" the small hoteliers of Barbados is something that one has to react to. The fact is that the Barbados Labour Party made a small hotel industry possible in this country. And if you want evidence - because he speaks without reference to evidence - I will look at the matter in relation to credit extended through the Barbados Development Bank with regards to volume of credit and the number of beds created in that sector of the economy, all of which escalated between 1976 and 1986.

In the Central Bank's statistics, it is stated that at the end of 1976 the total amount of loans extended by the Barbados Development Bank to the small hoteliers of Barbados was \$4.1 million. By the end of 1985, it amounted to \$31.5 million, Mr. Chairman. If we were setting out to murder the small hoteliers of Barbados, we chose a very curious way to do it.

In terms of bed capacity, at the end of 1976, there were 4 500 beds in small hotel establishments; by December 1986, 9 795.

Aside.

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Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Page 160 of the Annual Statistical Digest published by the Central Bank.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Which year?

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: January of 1987.

I want to make a general point, Sir. There has been a concerted effort since the early 1950s to build a tourist industry in this country. It has involved many different initiatives on the part of Government at many different levels, including the provision of credit for the construction of hotel capacity, initiatives taken by the former Barbados Labour Party Government to give concessions to the hotel industry to reduce its cost of operations by making investments in energy conservation, and schemes introduced by the Barbados Labour Party Government to enable hoteliers, including small hoteliers, to ease their financial problems through refinancing their debts at the Barbados Development Bank. The Barbados Labour Party Government also assisted the hotel industry by cutting the water rates of the hotel industry, and we also, as the

honourable Member for St. Michael West knows, reduced Consumption Tax on wines and things of that character after a case had been put by the industry of the country. The general point, therefore, Sir, is that to the extent that tourism has always been regarded as a major priority area for employment and foreign exchange generation, Governments have in the past made massive investments in the industry to ensure its viability.

The other point I was making this evening is a basic and simple point, that notwithstanding the assistance, the industry has from time to time shown itself susceptible to recession and other factors which can affect both arrivals and the spending by tourists. Hence the trend as explained by the honourable Member for St. Thomas, that there was a recession in the mid-Seventies and there was a dip in tourist arrivals, and there was also a recession in the early Eighties and there was a dip in tourist arrivals.

The essential point now, Sir, is that 1987 was a bumper year for tourism, not only in Barbados, but for the Caribbean as a whole. So start with that point. Hence, it is not unexpected that there should be a growth in arrivals - and I will give the Government credit for this, Sir - particularly given the efforts by Government to accelerate measures to stimulate activity in the summer season.

But to come back to the basic point, Sir, the industry is extremely susceptible to international recessionary tendencies or expectations. We should, in consequence, not set our discussion this afternoon in the past, but set our discussion in the present and what would look to be the immediate short-term prospects of the Barbados tourist industry. And the issue that the Government has not yet faced is precisely the question as to whether the bumper conditions which presented themselves to Barbados tourism in 1987 will again represent themselves in 1988. The argument that is being put by the Opposition is that, given the trends that have been recorded since December of 1987, there are no grounds for believing that we are going to be in a position to have bumper tourism arrivals in 1988. That is the point. 6.30 p.m.

As regards 1987, even though there was a 12 per cent increase in arrivals, the Minister of Finance knows that the contribution of tourism to foreign exchange generation was far more modest. I think the numbers would say that there was a 10 per cent increase in arrivals, but we might have had a 5 per cent increase in its revenues. In consequence, Sir, we have an issue, and that is the issue that I was trying to put to the House, that you cannot expect the same conditions that led to a bumper year in 1987 to be present in 1988. But at the same time, the Government is hanging a lot of its prospects on the management of the economy as a whole on the realisation of tourism performance that is not

only equivalent to last year, but is, in fact, better than last year.

The immediate question is twofold. What are the policies that Government intends to implement to make sure that the industry rises above the trends that have started to set in? This is why I say that this supplementary is too little and too late. Secondly, what would be the alternative measures that Government would have to introduce in the event that the bumper year that the Government needs is not realised? That is a different debate for a different time, but it is for this reason that one was trying to draw attention to some of the institutional factors and some of the marketing factors which are of contemporary importance in any discussion on the tourist industry.

It is distressing that the Minister should have to tell the House that no money has been spent on advertising of our tourist plant in the United States of America since 1987.

(*Aside:* Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On television). Mr.

O. S. ARTHUR: On television.

Hon. W. W. HALL: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I did not say no money was spent. I said that we did not spend any money on TV advertising. That is what I said.

Certain remarks made at this stage by Hon. W. W. HALL, the honourable Member for St. Michael West Central, were ordered expunged from the record by Mr. CHAIRMAN.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, we have, therefore, presented before us the fact that concerted efforts will have to be made to reverse the impact of the recessionary trends that have even now started to set in in the tourism industry again. But we are making an additional point; we are saying that, institutionally, all is not well in the administration of tourist affairs in this country.

My colleague, the honourable Member for Christ Church West (Hon. H. deB. Forde), drew reference to some of the institutional difficulties, for example, that you are having in making the Board of Tourism effective, and it is a fact. The Board of Tourism is now in a peculiar position where most of its senior staff are either in acting appointments, and this is true whether you are speaking in terms of London, Germany or wherever else, and at a time when you are telling the people of Barbados that tourism holds the key and it has to surpass itself. Can it do this when the institutional structure that must support the industry is weak and highly disorganised? We need to hear the Minister speak with great force as regards what he

intends to do to bring order to the disorder that is now rampant at the level of the Barbados Board of Tourism.

Mr. Chairman, I have sought to use the situation at Heywoods as a microcosm of the institutional problems facing the industry. Two years ago, the overflow from Heywoods was so great that hotels in the immediate vicinity were able to benefit. The Sugar Cane Club was in a position to accommodate the tourists that Heywoods could not cater to, and other hotels on the west coast.

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

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: It is a fact. Mr. Chairman, I will not be thrown off by him.

Last year, the occupancy at Heywoods was less than 53 per cent, and the occupancy in this year is even less.

Asides.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: If you start from zero, what do you expect?

The point I am making, Sir, is that there is an overall sense of complacency in dealing with a very serious matter.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member has another minute to get to 15 minutes.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: The problems, therefore, that one seeks to draw attention to are not only problems that will affect the tourism industry as such but will have implications for the general economy of Barbados. They must be addressed.

I want, before I close, to give the Honourable Prime Minister an assurance. He made a very scathing remark as regards my former relationship as a technician to the drafting of IMF programmes. I will confess, Sir, I do have some experience in negotiating programmes with the International Monetary Fund. If there is a need in the immediate future to call upon that experience, in a bipartisan spirit, I offer it to the Government, Sir, willingly and without cost.

Thank you, Sir.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Sir, I am not going to be very long. I believe that we are going to have to get back to this subject, in any event, when we come to consider the Estimates. I hope that although it comes very late in the Estimates, we will have an opportunity to go into some of the other aspects of the problems confronting the industry.

I want, however, Sir, to make one position clear as to the approach of the Opposition in this House. I need not repeat that there are only three of us in this House only. But when we come in here to debate matters, we do not do so lightly, and we are not doing so, as has been inferred in the speeches of one or two honourable Members, with any intention whatsoever of being unpatriotic. We are as concerned as the Government, as I said in my speech earlier, about anything that would affect the livelihood of Barbadians. So when we speak on these occasions - I know the Government is concerned if any political points are being scored, but that is not the only perimeter for the Opposition - we are concerned that the prime generator of jobs, at the moment, of foreign exchange is, certainly, still suffering from serious problems, as we see it.

Sir, we have concentrated on some of the problems of the hoteliers. But there are other problems that are surfacing that we really would wish to hear about from the Government; if not now, the Minister ought at some time to enlighten us.

When you talk to people in the industry today, you hear about harassment on the beaches.

(Aside: That is nothing new.)

6.40 p.m.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: It is the fact that it is not new that concerns me, the fact that we are not able to deal with it. I do not think the response to it is whether it is new or whether it is old. The point is that you must have in place measures to deal with the problem, and the information I have is that police patrols on the beaches have been reduced. I represent an area that has a large number of hotels and a significant part of the tourist plant, and a large number of my constituents work in the tourist industry, so I would seek to inform myself of the sort of problems which are confronting the industry.

Earlier today in the debate, the honourable Member for St. Thomas asked a question of the Minister, and the Minister of Legal Affairs responded to the effect that the police establishment is now at 1 200. It is much more than it has been at any time. I believe that that amount was put in place by 1986. In addition, the police duties were altered significantly in that they were no longer required to do duty such as immigration, weights and measures, and writ serving among other duties. This may be a long time ago, but I am only saying that although there was a reduction of the overall man hours available to them, they would have had a greater opportunity to provide more policing and pure policing in the tourist sector.

I am concerned as a Barbadian now, not as a politician, when I realise that there has been a ten per cent

increase in crime against visitors on the road, and a higher percentage increase on hotel property. When I raise these issues, I am not raising them to be alarmist in any way, I am raising them out of concern that we must find a solution to that problem; if not, it is going to damage the industry.

The other aspect that really concerns me is that we still have not grappled with the problem of policing the sea in an effective manner as to make a regulated system for those who use the sea for pleasure. Whenever you see the speed boats, jet skis, mosquitoes or whatever you call them, we have a continuing problem there as well. Two Saturdays ago, I was visiting in my constituency, listening to the problems that my constituents have confronting them, and a large number of persons to whom I spoke, at all levels in the society, adverted to this problem, particularly on the Hastings coastline, which I represent, along Worthing and that area, and Barbadians are concerned that we do not seem to be able, for whatever reason it may be, to put in place a mechanism for controlling the whole of our beaches. We do it on the roads, there is a system regulating traffic on the road. We do not have to take any stand now against who are using what, it is a question that we need this form of institutional framework to deal with the problem.

The other problem that we have, certainly in my area and other areas, is the lack of speed in putting in additional lighting in some areas. I am told that in the area of Sunset Crest and certainly in parts of Christ Church West, we need additional lighting. I know this has a cost.

The Honourable Minister is now one of my constituents from time to time, and when he goes to the beach early on mornings, he will see how dark parts of the areas that he goes in happen to be. I have the experience in the Brown's Gap area of actually going to an apartment hotel in response to a call, to see that there were no adequate facilities and people had been attacked at the time. It took a long time, and this is before the change of Government, for me to convince the Ministry of Transport and Works and Light and Power that it was necessary to put additional lighting there.

That problem continues and persists in most of the other areas. I believe that there is not a lot of cost, and we can deal with that problem.

Sir, we have a problem that has occurred again in the south coast, and in my area I can speak of it. Kiosks were established for people to ply their trade. We were getting some form of regulation where those persons were being licensed - and they were given monopolies in some sense - but we still have people who come in without licences, so those people who are complying with the law and selling from the kiosks, which have been provided from public

funds, find themselves no longer being able to compete because the other people are coming. What is wrong that we cannot police these sort of things? Sir, I must appeal to Barbadians to be disciplined in this respect in relation to how we conduct ourselves in an industry that is vital to this country for any of us to want to see it go down. Some honourable Members like the Member for St. Peter and myself represent constituencies that are affected very strongly by the tourist industry.

The Minister of Health made the point of sensitising the public. I am not satisfied in my own mind that the public awareness programme during the past year has had enough input in it. We have to continue that effort. It was going, but it has been decreased. Whether it is a lack of funds, I do not know, but I have listened very carefully, even to the CIS programmes - most of them I listen to - to see what the Government is saying and what the Government is doing - to analyse the Government, of course, which is one of my duties - and I notice that there has been a decrease in the accent on public awareness, whether it be in the schools, among taxi drivers, or the people in the street.

The honourable Member for Christ Church East Central (Mr. R. L. Morris) adverted to the tremendous increase in cruise ships, and I believe that we must give praise where praise is due. I know that nothing the Labour Party has done will ever be characterised by the Democratic Labour Party as worthwhile to this country. I have not heard the sort of magnanimity in debate which has come from this side, even today. When honourable Members speak on this side, they recognise some things that are done by the DLP that are of value; not everything. You do not ever hear it given to the Barbados Labour Party, and I want to place on record the tremendous contribution made by the Barbados Labour Party in recognising the value of promoting a cruise ship industry as part of the tourism portfolio and product of Barbados, and particularly to place on record the tremendous work in that respect by Leroy SisnetL

We express our concern that, since 1986, the Government has not been represented at any level, whether ministerial or official, at the major cruise line conferences. That is my information. Nobody has gone to sea trade, since December, I believe since the last speech made by Mr. Bernard St. John, who was then the Honourable Prime Minister. I am told we have not had any presence there, and I would be glad to be convinced that my information is not correct. 6.50 p.m.

We have to strive to make Barbados a very important base for a greater share of the air/sea cruise business. We are now up against the competition from St. Lucia, which

has just spent some money in this area. We have to face the fact that despite our port having a very high standard of efficiency, we do also have a very high cost factor in the port. At some stage - I know the honourable Member for Christ Church East Central is listening to me very carefully - I have a large contingent of longshoremen in my constituency, so I am conscious too, of what they say - we have to rationalise our procedures, and we have to find mechanisms for reducing the cost factor, otherwise we will continue to lose transshipment business, including cruise line business, if we are not careful, and in the long run that will hurt us in industry more than anything else can do.

Finally, Sir, I believe there is a strong case for additional beach facilities not only for tourists, but for local persons as well, because in the final analysis, we cannot build the tourism plant properly in this country unless it rests on full acceptability by the public of Barbados as a whole.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Is my time up, Sir?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The debate will conclude at five past seven. I would like to give the Honourable Minister enough time to wind up.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I just want to finish.

I continue to be very concerned about the fact that there are still non-nationals creeping into the ancillary industries in which Barbadians have the ability to perform well. I ask the Minister to investigate the information reaching me that there are now mini-mokes, owned by Englishmen, operating without the proper licenses on the west coast. I hope that proper investigation will go into that to prevent them from competing in these ancillary areas with Barbadians who have the capability of managing this aspect of our tourism plant.

(Aside: Aaron Truss started that.)

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: That is not true! That is not true!

Hon. W. W. HALL: Mr. Chairman, I thought that this would be a non-contentious issue, not that it was nebulous or anything like that, because I came simply for a supplementary to the tune of \$2.8 million and explained in great detail why we needed it. But, quite naturally, the Opposition has grabbed the opportunity to rage far and wide. And all I can say, Sir, is that I have been listening with rapt attention, not that I learnt anything.

After ten years in Government the Barbados Labour Party's Administration was just planning for everything. All I used to hear about was plans. But I recognise that the trap

has been set, well set I recognise that they want me to lose my cool and say things that I probably will regret. But that has never been in my make-up. I suppose they recognise that I have been in more conflicts and perhaps serious situation, as far as one's ability to roll with the punches is concerned, more than the entire Opposition put together, I think.

In replying to some of the charges made, I will take cognizance of the fact that we only have about ten or fifteen minutes. I shall try to get through as much as soon as possible.

Sir, the Member for St. Peter (Mr. O. S. Arthur) said that we had the worst tourism winter season in years. I do not know, Sir, if he recognises that throughout the Caribbean, you will find that there has been a softening in the market. I have just returned from Jamaica, Sir, and everybody is complaining. The Bahamas, Bermuda, wherever you go, this is the norm. It is not something that happened only in Barbados, but instead of talking about the summer season, as the Member for St. Thomas (Mr. D. A. C. Simmons) did, he proceeded again with doom and gloom. The Democratic Labour Party was supposed to collapse in a year's time. ;

Aside.

Hon. W. W. HALL: Not you, the Member for St. Peter. He knows what he said.

Asides.

Hon. W. W. HALL: Doom and gloom - the Member for St. Peter. At the beginning of the year, we would last another four months, and now, Sir, he is talking about the worst tourist season in years!

I am sure, Sir, he is not aware of what happened in Barbados. I was the Shadow Minister for Tourism between 1981 and 1986. Read Hansard and you will see my contributions. I need not repeat them. I am aware of the decline. Up to 1985, there was 3 per cent decline. In 1986 there was a 3.5 per cent increase, and it will continue to increase.

Sir, it seems to me that the Opposition believes that all they have to do is upset people. I recall that when I was made Minister of Tourism, the ex-Minister of Agriculture said that they had given Tourism to a junior Minister. Joan Benjamin said they gave Tourism to a cricketer. I did not ask the last Prime Minister to be a Minister, and I do not ask the present Prime Minister to be a Minister. If he sees in me the qualities that are required in a good Minister, then I can only say, thanks to him for his good judgement. That is all I can say.

Laughter.

Applause.

Hon. W. W. HALL: I do not know why you were doubting Thomases, Sir, because I have never been known to fail at anything. Point to one particular thing in my life that I have failed at and bring it to me and I will agree.

Sir, I am only saying that tourism was¹ down everywhere, and it is unfair to come in here and give the public the impression that this is the worst thing that has ever happened to tourism anywhere in the world.

He said that the occupancy rate at Heywoods was barely 50 per cent. In fact, in December it was 52 per cent. But it was 71 per cent in January, and I do not think that with an occupancy rate of 71 per cent, there would be large-scale lay-offs.

Sir, the Royal Pavilion, Glitter Bay, despite the fact that they have rooms at US\$1 000 a night, and have been full from December until now, have been, not laying off, firing. What they have been doing is relieving themselves of staff that they did not think were up to standard. That is what hotels do throughout the world. So I do not really think, Sir, that it is true to say that there were any significant layoffs in January at Heywoods.

He said there was institutional chaos. Again, Sir, he is the prophet of doom and gloom. In 1986, Heywoods made \$2 million. I am going to tell you the projected profit this year. But there will be a profit. Yet, there is institutional chaos!

As far as the management staff that left without replacement you are alluding to the fact that Copthorne fired Burnham. Let me tell you this, the Management Agreement signed between Caledonia Hotel Management and the Barbados Labour Party allowed that "Copthorne Hotel Management shall have the sole responsibility for the recruitment, supervision, direction and discharge of the General Manager and Financial Controller of the hotel, who shall at all times be individuals acceptable to the owner," that is, the Government. When I found that the Manager of Heywoods was acting contrary to all the principles that I know, that was the problem that we had with him. But it also said, Sir, for the other staff, that "Copthorne shall have the sole responsibility for recruitment training, supervision, direction and discharge of all employees." So Copthorne fired Burnham, not this Government, despite the fact that I saw that his name was included in the list of 200 or 2000 people that the Barbados Labour Party said the Democratic Labour Party fired.

I want to categorically deny that this Government fired Burnham. And Burnham would have to hang his head in shame if he were to give the impression that the Democratic Labour Party Government fired him. We had nothing whatsoever to do with that. In fact, I did my best, and when I decided to intervene on his behalf, the lawyer for Copthorne, Mr. Jack Dear, wrote BUG saying that we were interfering and they would pull out and sue us. That is what they said they would do. 7.00p.m.

We hear that the staff was let - one man as far as I know on the management Has left

Mr, Q. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on a point of order, Sin The honourable Member is misleading the House. Nobody on this side alluded to a Mr. Burnham. Mr. Burnham was not the Assistant Sales Co-ordinator, he was not the Data Processing Manager, he was not one of the Hostesses, Sir, neither was he the General Manager of the Heywoods Hotel, all of whom have left. Do not think, it is only Burnham.

Hon. W. W. HALL: As the Member will know, the Government does not hire or fire at Heywoods. That is the reason why the contract will come to an end on April 30. If that displeases you, I am sorry.

As far, Sir, as the concessions are concerned, they are still in effect. The smaller properties could not benefit. The reason why the smaller properties could not benefit is because they had poor occupancy rates, and that means that they could not borrow. Since last summer, some of them now have a cash flow, and that will enable them to renovate their properties. Only last week, or two weeks ago, I was there when the management of Sichris, I think it was, opened their Le Jardin Restaurant, and this is what has been happening. Some of the smaller hotels, in order to qualify under the classification of the Tourist Board, are now doing the necessary upgrading. They are doing the things that they could not have done for years.

If one were to go around Barbados and talk to the restaurateurs, if one were to go around and talk to the minimoke and car rental agencies, if they were to go around all over Barbados, they will see that between April and November the people in Barbados had a very good time and as far as I am concerned, I think that we are interested in all the year around tourists and not just winter seasons, as you seem to be alluding to.

Sir, cruise ship passengers were up about 54.8 per cent last year. Some 260 292 passengers came as opposed to 168 105 in 1986, and 414 ships came into the harbour in 1987 as opposed to 292, an increase of 41.8 per cent

The honourable Member referred to seats out of, the U.K. British Airways, in addition to putting on 19 extra flights a few weeks ago, increasing their capacity by 81 per cent in the winter and 121 per cent in the summer, not only put on a Concorde service, but we had the wonderful spectacle of seeing two Concorde at Sir Grantley Adams Airport at the same time on a Saturday afternoon. That is a fact. What does that mean?

Asides.

Hon. W. W. HALL: You came down on one. I hope you paid the \$ 12 000 or whatever that you have to pay.

Barbados now qualifies as one of the few destinations in the western hemisphere where the Concorde flies regularly from. One place is Miami and I think the other one is New York and Washington.

Despite what anybody may say, despite the fact that British Airways will tell you that they have been looking for increased air seats, the tour operators in London will still tell you that seats are not available. One wonders why, when you have British Airways telling you that they have an increase of 81 per cent for their winter programme and you go to the airport, you still see airplanes arriving and there are many seats available. So, Sir, I do not think that it can be a mere case of just looking at the situation on the surface - it is deep-rooted.

We in the Ministry of Tourism have done everything possible to ensure that we have increased seats coming out not only from England and Europe but certainly from the United States of America. I recall vividly having discussions with many airlines. Wardair decided they will bring down smaller planes, which will give them greater flexibility. During the Crop Over season they will be able to make a lot more flights, because they never flew here in the summer. We also talked to British Airways and we talked to Air Canada. Thompson forced Air Canada to reduce prices. Indeed, coming out of Montreal nowadays it is just a matter of \$50 more than coming out of Toronto. What is more, Sir, there are over 200 seats more every week on Air Canada. These are the things that we have been trying to do.

Between 1982 and 1985, I do not recall one hotel being built in Barbados. Look at the situation today.

Asides.

Hon. W. W. HALL: Tell me. I do not recall any, that is what I said. Now you find that there is activity, and people are making sure that they are not only building hotels but they are improving the rooms that they have.

As far as the policy is concerned, we are looking at all-round tourism. We are looking to educating not only the masses when you talk about an awareness programme, but we are looking at bringing tourism to schools, and in conjunction with the Ministry of Education, and indeed CTRC, we will bring tourism to schools. We will also put out, within another week, a sports and cultural calendar which will go to all the destinations where we have tourist offices and to all our markets, which will give the tourists opportunity to know exactly what goes on in Barbados.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member should wind up.

Hon. W. W. HALL: We are thinking of tourism not only from the point of view of tourist arrivals, but, Sir, we are thinking in terms, as I said earlier, of having a year-round tourism.

The question that Head 43 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1987-88

No. 45 - \$857 285

HEAD 25 - MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND FISHERIES - \$857 285

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Chairman, I beg that Head 25 in the sum of \$857 285 stand part.

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

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

On the motion of Hon. P. M. GREAVES, seconded by Hon. B. M. TAITT, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of three money Resolutions in Committee of Supply, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly. 7.10p.m.

On separate motions of Hon. P. M. GREAVES, seconded by Hon. B. M. TAITT, the Resolutions were read a first and second time and agreed to.

QUESTION TIME

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I move, Sir, that Question Time be now taken.

Mr. SPEAKER: Question Time. Question No. 73.

QUESTION RE STREET LIGHTS IN DISTRICTS IN ST. THOMAS

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Question No. 73. To ask the Minister of Transport, Works and Telecommunications: Will the Minister take steps to have street lights installed in the following districts in St. Thomas as follows:- 1. Grand View to Christie Village (4) 2. Bucks/Mango Pond (4) 3. Hopewell (3) 4. Canefield (2) 5. Hangman's Hill/Blyth Hill (4) 6. Lewis Village (3) and 7. Dukes (4)?

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: The reply to Question No. 73 is as follows:

"The Ministry will endeavour to have a number of street lights installed in these districts as part of its street lighting programme."

Mr. SPEAKER: That is the end of Question Time.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I want to move the adjournment of the House to February 23, 1988 at 12 o'clock noon.

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

The question that the House stand adjourned until Tuesday, February 23, 1988 at 12 noon was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly. 7.14p.m.

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