

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1986 - 91

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, December 19, 1989.

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 12.25 p.m. o'clock.

PRESENT

His Honour L. A. WEEKES, G.C.M., J.P., (Speaker)
His Honour J. J. PAYNE, (Deputy Speaker)
Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, M.A., B.A., (Econ.),
J.P., (Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and
Economic Affairs)

Hon. H. deB. FORDE, Q.C., M.A., LL.B.

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

Hon. P. M. GREAVES, Q.C., B.A., (Deputy Prime
Minister, Minister" of International Transport, Tele-
communications and Immigration and Leader of the House)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.P.(Edin.),
(Leader of the Opposition)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mrs. M. BARKER-WELCH, (Parliamentary Secre-
tary, Ministry of Education and Culture)

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

Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE, J.P., (Chairman of
Committees)

Mr. E. BOURNE

Hon. W. W. HALL, G.C.M., H.B.M. (Minister of
Tourism and Sports)

Mr. C. A. NEBLETT, B.A., (Parliamentary Secretary,
Ministry of the Civil Service)

Mr. C. LeR. TROTMAN, M.A.

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

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER

Mr. R. P. BYER, LL.B.

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

Prayers were led by Fr. Ivan Ilarewood. Mr.

SPEAKER: The House is in session.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of Tuesday, 12th
December, 1989.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I move that the
Minutes of the proceedings of this Honourable House for
the meeting held on the 12th December, 1989 be taken as
read and be confirmed.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR THE SPEAKER

Mr. SPEAKER: I am to announce that I am in receipt
of the Accounts and Statements for the month of October
1989 as prepared by the Accountant General.

PAPERS

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I am
commanded to lay two Papers, Sir:

The 20th Annual Report of the Barbados
Development Bank for the year 1988-89; and

The Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for the Insurance Corporation of Barbados for the year 1988..

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I am moving the suspension of Standing Orders Nos. 6, 16, 18, 20, 42(5), 43 and 44 for the remainder of the day's sitting.

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

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

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

Order No. 2 - THE BARBADOS PORT AUTHORITY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1989

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, a review of the Port Authority Act indicates that some amendments are necessary to this Act. One, to clarify the position relating to the burden of proof in respect to the loss of goods; also to make provision for an apportionment of the proceeds of the sale of goods at the Port Authority by auction, apportionment between the Customs and the Port Authority itself; as well as to make provision for the regulation and control and conduct of water sports activities.

With regard to the first point I just made, Sir, from time to time claims have been made on the Port for loss of goods, but it is not always clear that the goods have been delivered to the Port. Section 27 of the Port Authority Act reads: "In any proceedings brought against the Authority, it shall not be necessary for the person claiming damages or compensation to prove how the loss, misdelivery, detention or damage to the goods occurred."

This seems to have caused some confusion as those persons charged with the responsibility of administering this Act think that the provision is unclear. It is therefore intended by this Bill to make an amendment to indicate that it shall be any person who is making a claim on the Port Authority for loss of goods to prove that the goods had been in the possession of the Port Authority, and it also makes it abundantly clear that such person does not have to prove if there had been any losses, how the loss occurred but merely that the goods were in the possession of the Authority. Once the goods had been in the possession of the Authority, and that can be so proved, then a claim for compensation if the goods have been lost or misdelivered can be substantiated. That is the first point.

The second point is one of some long standing. From time to time there have been unclaimed goods brought into Barbados, or goods come into Barbados and are not claimed, and it becomes necessary to sell those goods. There is a conflict between the Customs Act and the Port Authority Act as regards the proceeds of the sale of these goods. For example, the Customs Act requires that all of the monies owing to the Customs should be satisfied from the proceeds of the sale, so very often when these goods are sold the amount of money realised as a result of that sale is not sufficient even to recover the cost of monies owing to the Customs. So in a case like that all the monies would have to be paid over to the Customs and no monies would have been left over to defray the cost of warehousing those goods, which is the responsibility of the Port Authority. 12.35p.m.

So the Port Authority would have to sustain a complete loss whereas the Customs would have, at least in part, or probably in whole the monies owing to them paid. Now respective Comptrollers of Customs have found some difficulty; and it was thought at one time that some *modus vivendi* had been arrived at permitting the proceeds of the sale of the goods to be apportioned in a certain way, but again, Sir, when one Comptroller of Customs succeeds another that too is queried. We have now come, Sir, to an arrangement with the Customs Department that the proceeds will be apportioned, and I want to state how they are going to be apportioned because the Act does not provide for that, and when the Act is passed then there will have to be an Order setting out the apportionment. So let me state up front what the apportionment is. The apportionment, Sir, is 60 per cent to the Port Authority and 40 per cent to the Customs. That is the apportionment that has been agreed upon between the Port Authority and the Customs. As soon as this Act is passed and comes into effect, the necessary Order will be made. Let me state here right now, Sir, that that is in fact how the apportionment is done at this moment, 60 per cent to the Port Authority and 40 per cent to the Customs, and that has been in effect now for quite some time.

Finally, Sir, I stated that the purpose of this Bill is to provide for the regulation, control and conduct of water sport activity in Barbados. That has been a sore point not only with hoteliers; it has been a sore point with those persons who use and enjoy the beaches in Barbados. I have heard the Minister of Tourism say at one time that he had been almost overrun, and he used the word "killed", by one of these pleasure craft plying the foreshore of Barbados.

Now, Sir, I think we have got to protect persons who enjoy the beach. I am one of those people, Sir, who enjoy the beach. I have seen from time to time the kind of dangers to which bathers and other persons using the beach can be exposed, and I believe that we have got to protect them. In 1964 the Government at that time made regulations which it was hoped would have covered the use of these craft. We

are not so sure up to now that it does not, but we are making it absolutely sure that the regulation that we are going to put in place will.

Now the Port Authority, the Ministry of Tourism and the Board of Tourism and so on have done extensive investigation of this particular problem in order to arrive at some form of solution to this problem. The solution that they have arrived at is the kind of solution that I have myself seen in operation outside of Barbados. I understand it operates in St. Lucia; I have not seen it there. I happen to have been attending a conference in Nice in France earlier this year and I have seen it in operation there, and it is simple. That is, that areas are buoyed off and areas are proscribed to those pleasure craft. In other words, they are not permitted to enter within those areas, but they can use other areas that are buoyed off for their own enjoyment.

It is intended, Sir, first of all to select various areas or stations, if you like, where these pleasure craft will be based and when the pleasure craft intend to put to sea, they must use channels set out for that purpose so that they can go outwards towards the ocean using those channels and those channels only. There will be buoys, Sir, used as markers, put in place within which those pleasure craft will operate in order to get out from their stations towards the ocean, and that will be so for everybody who use them, both the owners as well as those persons who have contracted to have an hour, half an hour, two hours or whatever of enjoyment on those pleasure craft.

The pleasure craft will proceed outwards, Sir, for a distance of 200 metres which will be marked by buoys, and at that point then the pleasure craft can have free use of the waters in the ocean beyond the 200 metre mark. We do not believe that people in numbers go beyond that point. Occasionally one can find an individual swimmer, an individual snorkeller and so on probably going beyond the 200 metres, but not many persons will be found beyond that distance.

The regulation that this replaces had indicated a limit of 100 metres, but this has now been doubled. Let me state here now, Sir, that the Bill itself does not provide the details that I have now indicated to the House. The Bill sets out the broad framework for the making of the regulations. Those regulations are in the final stages of drafting and I have been assured by the Chief Parliamentary Counsel that they should be ready for making by the beginning of January, 1990.

Now the regulations, when made, will be subject to a negative Resolution, so in fact we do not have to come back to the House again in order to prove the regulations that have been made. We merely make the regulations, lay them and any Member at all as is well known can make a motion not to approve those regulations if they so want. We believe, Sir, that this will address that very serious social

problem that we have in our midst. It is the kind of provision that I can easily recommend to this House.

I therefore move that this Bill be read a second time.

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

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I have about three rather brief comments to make on this Bill. The section dealing with the liability of the Authority is all well and good to determine at what point the Authority would be liable in the event of loss of goods, but there is another matter that arises out of that, and that is the fairly extensive loss of property that takes place in the Harbour in Bridgetown, and I would very much like to see some kind of more efficient policing of property that comes into the Harbour.

I remember years ago I brought a car in, a rather nice Jaguar - in 1972 - and overnight the radio, tape deck and just about everything on the dashboard had disappeared. This is a constant complaint, so if a serious effort is going to be made not only to define the point at which the Authority assumes legal responsibility for goods in the Harbour, I think that a more determined effort has to be made to reduce the straightforward stealing of goods when they come into the Harbour. It may be a worldwide phenomenon; I have no doubt that that is the case, but I think that it becomes a major cost to the society as a whole, and every step should be taken to reduce the incidence of the stealing of goods when they are delivered to the Authority. With the kind of security that appears on the surface when you look at the operations when you are going into the Harbour, one sometimes wonders how it is that people can get into the Harbour and come out with large items undetected. It remains a mystery to me, Sir, but it is quite clear that there is some kind of underground economy which operates in that area of stealing, and I think it is important that that matter be addressed. 12.45 p.m.

It is not getting any better. It has got worse over the years with the increased volume of traffic and the only thing that seems to me to have alleviated somewhat has been the increased use of containers for the importation of goods. It is important that steps be taken in that regard.

The Minister was quite right when he spoke of the constant dispute over the allocation of the proceeds of goods sold in the Harbour between the Customs and the

Authority and I am glad to see that at long last this matter is being settled by corrective legislation. I think it would reduce a lot of bad blood between the Authority and the

Customs Department as to who should get what as a consequence of those sales.

However, Sir, there is another matter relating to the sales as well. From time to time there is concern expressed as to who gets access to the goods that are being sold. I heard these complaints when I was in Opposition. I heard those complaints when I was Minister. I believe that the mechanism for auction may have to be looked at, the extent to which a wider public can be apprised of the items available for sale, the extent to which persons who may be privy to what is going up for auction may have their influence reduced so that the wider public can participate or have access to those goods that are being auctioned.

I think that this is very important because, as all of us know, there have been complaints of varying types in relation to that auctioning process that goes on in the Harbour. I do not know how you can get around it but it seems to me that maybe wider advertising and wider awareness of the public at large that those goods are for sale might result in a better price being obtained for the items.

Often one hears complaints of items being sold at auction at a rather low price and many persons have indicated that if they knew that the auction was going to take place they would have been quite happy to pay a much higher price for it. I believe you all know what I am talking about and I think that if those auctions are advertised more widely and the public is made more aware of the goodies that can be obtained from those auctions then there might be wider public participation rather than the narrow circle operation which obtains at present.

It has been said, for example, that you can almost run a business simply by buying at auction out of the Harbour and reselling again so I think it is important that other people should have access to that kind of facility.

At long last, Sir, there seems to be some action to protect the users of the beach - both local persons and our visitors to these shores. People have been begging the Government for at least, two years, that I know about to do something about regulating the use of these dangerous craft%

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I am just saying what I know about.

Indeed, I think only recently, persons have been adverting to this particular problem in Barbados even in this Honourable Chamber when it was not a substantive matter before the House and I hope that the Regulations promised will come into force on January 1 of next year.

I think I quote the Minister correctly when he said that the Regulations will be subject to negative resolution and that they should be ready by the first of next year which means that at the next sitting of Parliament, which I would

not wish to anticipate, Sir, one would expect that the regulations would be laid.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: On a point of elucidation, Sir.

I just want to make it clear that that is my hope as well. I cannot be as definite as the Honourable Member would want me to be. I was merely repeating, what I was told by the Chief Parliamentary Counsel. I said that they were in the final stages of drafting in the Attorney General's Office and the Chief Parliamentary Counsel tells me that they should be ready by the beginning of January. I am hoping so too. I just want to be clear on that so I do not want to be held that I informed the House they would be ready by the 1st of January.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Sir, I was only trying to assist the Minister in giving an assurance to all the hoteliers, all the visitors, and all the users of the beaches in Barbados that at the beginning of the year those regulations will be in place and that the beaches and the sea would be safer for bathers.

But, apart from establishing specific lanes where these craft may ply, I hope that the Minister realises that there are a lot of other problems related.

I have indicated earlier that one should look upon the sea in the same way as you look upon land in terms of the regulation of vehicular traffic. I have no difficulty with this. I think that this Bill addresses the question of regulation in terms of the channels that may be used at sea.

But Sir, at the international level, several other issues have been raised (1) the question of the licensing of these vehicles, (2) the question of the training of people in the use of the vehicles, (3) the question of at least providing a short period of training, if it is only for half an hour or so, for those would-be users of the vehicles and (4) the regulation of the speed with which the vehicles can travel across the water.

There are two issues here. It is not only a matter of protecting the bathers, but it is also a question of protecting the users of those craft and, as you know, several people have had serious injuries, breaking their necks and all kinds of things reported around the world, so I think that the whole regulatory framework has to be looked at.

What we are dealing with here is giving the Minister the authority to make regulations in terms of the usage of the water space but apart from that, there are other categories of a regulatory framework that certainly need to be looked at. 12.55 p.m.

Now that has to be done, Sir, with some degree of sensitivity because of the large number of people who seek to make an investment in this area who are contributing to

the tourism effort in Barbados. We do not wish to disadvantage those involved in the exercise now or prevent the small man from getting an opportunity to participate in this. So that there has to be considerable sensitivity as to how you set about establishing that additional regulatory framework.

So whilst we can be thankful for small mercies at the moment that at least the areas in the sea will be defined where the craft can be used, it is important to realize that in the interest of overall safety that there is a need to look at another regulatory framework, probably a licensing mechanism and training mechanism, Sir.

But I want to make it clear, I am not suggesting that the Government should unleash a further regime of taxation on those people making a living on the beaches through the licensing process. First of all, there should be a very reasonable fee charged and not more than what is required to administer the operation. Not one cent more than what is required to administer the operation. Not one cent more. I want to repeat that my suggestion for a regulatory framework under licence is not intended for the Government to introduce punitive taxation on the people who are using those vehicles in order to make a living and to help others to make a living. It is in the interest of all of them.

And so, Sir, with those few very brief comments, I will conclude.

Thank you very much.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. James North.

Mr. J. J. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, in making a very short contribution to this Bill which seeks to amend the Barbados * Port Authority Act to *inter alia* make provision for the apportionment of the gross revenue accruing to the Authority in respect of the proceeds of sale of unclaimed goods, I should like to direct my remarks particularly in relation to the speed boats which are going to be affected by the Amendments. I should like to say first of all that I am happy to see that the Government has approached the matter by regulating the operation of these speedboats, rather than banning them as was suggested by many persons. I feel that to ban those speedboats really would be an extreme and perhaps, Mr. Speaker, too serious a step to take bearing in mind the number of persons who are involved in gainful employment and perhaps the total contribution that those speedboats make to the tourism effort in Barbados.

We do not have the Regulations before us and it would not be appropriate to comment on what is contained, or what is likely to be contained, in the Regulations. But I think that the approach to regulation and the Regulations is

a matter which should make those persons who are must affected by the speed boats happy. The Minister in giving his opening remarks gave some indication as to the kind of matters that would be dealt with. He indicated that they will have channels where they can enter and leave the shore out to a mark, I think he said, of some 200 metres. This is a matter which was raised in many quarters.

I know that the Barbados Hotel Association raised the matter and on a very frequent basis there would be in newspapers articles written by many persons calling for legislation on this matter. I think that we have now reached a stage where we can say that very shortly, some time within the next month or two, those Regulations will be put in place.

But I think, though, that one of the aspects of this matter which should be looked at as a prerequisite, as one of the previous speakers stated, is the question of training. We sometimes get reports of collisions at sea, not only with bathers but there have been instances where two boats collided. I believe that a period of training should be essential to give those persons operating the boats some idea of what is required.

We have to recognize that operating a speed boat on the shores can be a very dangerous matter, particularly if the persons who are involved do not know the rules involved and are not particularly skilled in operating these boats. I believe that there should be some mandatory training for persons who will operate these boats perhaps not in the same way that persons who will operate vehicles on the roads will be required to undergo some stringent regulations, but I think that they should go through some tests to ensure that they understand the basic requirements of functioning in the water and responding to emergencies that would arise.

This training can even go further to deal with matters relating to approaching tourists. I know that one of the concerns expressed by persons on this matter relates to the fact that many of these persons do not approach tourists in a proper manner. I believe that the training can encompass all those areas to ensure that this aspect of our tourism comes across as a package and not as a nuisance to the industry. I think that if people can feel that the speedboats are contributing to the tourist industry rather than creating a nuisance on the beaches it would go a long way in attracting even more tourists to this country. So that is one aspect of the matter which I believe can be dealt with in some particular regard.

I think on the whole, Mr. Speaker, the Bill has COITK at an appropriate time. One previous speaker thought that it was long in coming. But I always feel that when we are going to introduce legislation of this kind which would affect the livelihood of people and which will have such an impact on the community that we cannot say that we take

too much time in deliberating on it. I think that matters of this kind call for careful thought.

I believe that the authorities consulted with a variety of interests involved. I know that the Speedboat Association was involved in consultation at some stage. I am of the view that if all these matters are taken into consideration, this legislation will have the impact which is intended.

I therefore give this Bill my support.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for the City.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I like the other two Honourable Members who just sat, will be pretty brief because it is my opinion that this is not a contentious Bill. There is nothing contentious about it. It is certainly something that has been looked forward to by many of us for a long time.

You certainly would recall that earlier this year I had asked the Honourable Minister of Tourism to look at the possibility of doing just what we are here to do today and that is to regulate the operation of these motorized craft, whether they be speedboats, mosquitoes, jet skis or whatever they call them,

I must also, agree with the Honourable Member who just took his seat that when we go to extremes in dealing with matters that affect the livelihood, the bread and butter of other people, we have to be careful in how it is done. And so, like him, I agree that banning the craft would have been a very precipitous step and certainly one that may not have done as much help as it may have done harm. So that the whole question of regulation is the right step, in my opinion. The way that the Honourable Minister outlined that he would seek to regulate these boats seems reasonable and should be reasonable for all concerned whether you are a hotel operator or a pleasure craft operator.

I do feel that this whole question of training and licences, any by licences I mean, I do not know what other speakers mean, but I mean licences in terms of operator licence similar to what one would have when one has to operate a motor vehicle on the street, known as a driver's licence. 1.05p.m.

I do feel that it would be a little presumptuous of any of us to determine to what extent the training should be and to what extent one would have to be familiar with the operation of these craft before one can get a licence. I think that the authority whose job it is to determine who should get these licences, if properly selected, would be an authority that would know to what extent the training should be done.

This brings up another point which I am not sure if the Minister alluded to, but once you put the whole thing in place one has to look at the policing of it. Who is to stop an operator from not using the channels that are clearly demarcated? If we are going to stop them from doing that, as is normal and as is happening in other areas in this society where people are lawlessly doing things that are against regulation and against the law, who is to stop them? Who says that certain persons, unscrupulous operators of these craft, will not behave in the same way as some other ** people in the society are behaving and just decide not to bother with the regulations? We did not hear clearly how it is intended to ensure, once this is put in place, that people are going to stick to the regulations. That is an area you may want to look at.

I do not think it would be enough to say, as I have heard the Minister of Tourism say, that you will have Harbour Police boats patrolling to make sure that these ** people do as they are told. I do not think that alone will do it, I think you may have to look at a proper authority. Therefore on your point about creating some form of revenue I agree with the Honourable Leader of the Opposition that we do not bring any heavy taxation on these small operators, and I am sure the Honourable Member for St. James North will agree with me that we do not want to burden them with taxes, but there may need to be some fee of sorts to assist in paying for the necessary policing that I will follow.

Mr. Speaker, there are a couple of other points that seem to be in line with what we are debating here, I am a little concerned about the whole question of the patrolling of our shores, harbours, because as I read the Act it seems like almost everywhere in Barbados, where there is a beach it is a harbour, if not everywhere, because the Act seems to say that all around Barbados is one big harbour. I am not a lawyer, but I read it to mean that the territorial sea of Barbados is a harbour.

If that is so, Sir, I, like other people in this community, am a little concerned about the work that is being done by the Coast Guard in terms of patrolling these shores, in terms of ensuring that the things we speak of, the whole question of illicit drug dealing and racketeering and so on is dealt with. One tends to wonder how we are doing it when in fact you have right now two Coast Guard boats tied up for the lack of engines. They have been there for a long time. My colleague tells me they never worked. I do not know, but I know that they have been tied up for a long time now.

On the question of the amount of funds that is spent in the Coast Guard arm of the Defence Force *vis-a-vis* the Infantry, one tends to wonder the kind of cost that went into the refurbishment of Paragon *vis-a-vis* the Coast Guard. One would like to hear from Government what is the

Government's position on the whole question of the Coast Guard and literally putting our money where our mouth is.

I have heard Honourable Members on that side continually speak of the Coast Guard doing the job of patrolling the shores and more assistance being given to the Coast Guard, and when one looks at it critically one sees that in fact a large portion of the money that is spent in the Defence Force goes to the land side, as I call it, the Infantry, and a much smaller percentage goes to the Coast Guard. My own opinion is that the Coast Guard, certainly for purposes as I outlined before, is the more important part.

There is only one other point I would like to make, Sir, and that has to do with the handling of containerised cargo. I know it is a very ticklish issue and it is not one that I pretend to understand in terms of which container should be unstuffed, how many should be unstuffed, when they should be unstuffed in the Port or when they should be unstuffed at a person's door, but there are a couple of areas that one needs to examine if one is not to affect other areas where we are trying to assist in the productive sector of Barbados. For instance, if it is determined that a percentage of containers should be unstuffed in the Port, one certainly should look at the fact that some of these containers may well be just raw materials for manufacturers. If one has to wait on the unstuffing of these containers on a regular basis, again the question then pops up about the whole handling of the cargo.

One of the reasons you bring things in a container is to make sure that they come to you in an undamaged state. If one has to deal with containers being continually unstuffed and not properly handled, what happens is that a lot of goods are damaged as a result.

There is also another side to that story, and I believe that the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central will be aware of this, but I am not sure how you are going to handle it- the same question of unstuffing containers. When you get a 40 foot container, which is a very long container, and it has boxes of a cubic foot each in it you are looking at about 2200 boxes. If you have to put a crew in there to unstuff that, by 11.00 or 12.00 o'clock it is virtually like an oven and the conditions under which the crew works are unbearable. You can check with anyone who works in the Port and you can see I am right. I, myself, went in there.

Aside.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: To use the words of the Prime Minister, I know that it is a fairly complex matter when you are dealing with the Port and the unstuffing of containers, but I am just saying it is something you may want to look at in dealing with this whole matter.

In closing, Sir, I believe there is one other matter with regard to the whole question of handling of containers.

Some years ago it was discovered by the authorities that there were some unscrupulous manufacturers in Barbados who would bring in raw materials in containers at the end of the containers, and in the guts of the container finished goods are packed. One of the particular cases had to do with a garment manufacturer and in that case the garments which came in were ready-made garments and were on the negative list. 1.15p.m.

The decision was then taken that to be able to thwart this kind of activity to do a 100 per cent check of this particular manufacturer's containers. I don't know if this continues because the person is still in the business. I wanted to make it clear that there is no easy answer to the problem, but while I was making a case for manufacturing concerns and people who are in the producing sector for whom time is important- because if you have all of the cloth and all of the buttons and you don't have the thread, you cannot make a garment, and people are laid off- so time is important in that regard- I did not want it to go abroad that I had any difficulty with Customs doing this 100 per cent on these kinds of unscrupulous people. Let us get it clear, Sir, that while I will defend manufacturers, I will not defend those who intend to try to breach every regulation that is put in place and who intend to operate in an unscrupulous manner. I would suggest that if this practice is not in place still, that the Honourable Minister responsible for Customs may want to look at it again. Up to this point I will say no more on this matter, but I suggest that the Honourable Minister take a close look at it again because it may be happening again and it may be more widespread than we would like to think. I thank you, Sir.

Mr. E. BOURNE: Mr. Speaker, just a short intervention on the control of water sport activity. I heard the Honourable Minister talking about channels and buoying off certain areas, but I would like to know from him what would be the operating speeds of these vehicles. I would like to hear from the Honourable Minister what will be the penalties for breaking these laws, because, Sir, there is another Resolution which might come before us today which is setting out some fairly reasonable penalties, and I would hope that the penalties for breaking the law would be just as stiff.

Now I would like to say something about water pollution from these machines. We talk a lot about pollution of the beaches, we talk about the depletion of our marine life, namely, the sea eggs, but it would appear to me that the people on the other side who talk about this pollution never ever bother to think that these machines cause great pollution of the water. Nothing could be more damaging than oil spills to the marine life, and there is never an engine made which will not at some time, in fact quite early in its life, start to pollute. I would like to know from the Minister what are his plans for controlling the water pollution by these machines.

Now as regards speeding, I think there is a law which states that a boat cannot enter the carenage over a certain speed, and I do not see why these machines will not be made to enter the channel or leave the channel at a specified speed. I leave the speed limit up to the good judgment of the Minister or the people who are responsible.

With those words, Sir, I think that I will give my support to the Bill.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, the Barbados Labour Party Opposition has no problems with this Bill as drafted, but I had expected that the Minister would have updated the House on the development in the current negotiations concerning the rationalisation of activities at the Port. When he spoke in the Budget earlier this year, he informed the House that agreement had been reached on various areas between the Port Authority and the Barbados Workers' Union. He said that agreement had been reached about the severance of workers which he estimated would cost some \$4 million at the time. I can't recall if in the statement he made he gave us the number of persons who would have been severed, but the principle was that the oldest workers would be the ones who would be leaving first. He also said that arrangements had been made for the pay structure for registered employees and that those who would be retained would continue at no lesser a wage than they had been obtaining before. He listed among the outstanding matters to be determined the number of containers to be handled per hour, and he also informed us then in the House that training would begin for the use of the gantry crane on May 16 this year and the training period would have been completed within six weeks.

Sir, this has been since the Budget debate in April and since that time I have heard no official update on the position, but it is obvious that the parties are still in negotiations and I am not asking the Minister in any way to disclose to this House negotiations which may still be secret or private or at a critical stage. He must be aware of the tremendous interest which the country has in ensuring two things: one, that the Port facilities are used in the most efficient manner in order to maximise the facilities and at the same time to increase the revenue, and secondly to ensure that the workers obtain a fair deal in the industrial relations which must exist between themselves and the Port Authority. Whilst I concede that with regard to the latter they have the strong support and constant representation of the Barbados Workers' Union behind them, yet I think we are entitled to get some update on the state of the negotiations.

Now I have begun from that point, Sir, because I think it is important that we should not miss an opportunity to underscore the fact that we continue to have problems at our Port. Looking at the figures that have been available to me, it would seem that the revenues of the Port have increased during the last nine or ten years by almost 100 per

cent. On the other side, it seems to me as well that expenses have increased in the same way. What appears to have happened is that the Port has been generating increased revenue without getting a corresponding increase in traffic, and in fact the tonnage handled at the Port seems not to have grown significantly during the last ten to twelve years of the Port's existence.

Sir, this occurs against a background where Barbados is, today, in a competitive position with other Caribbean ports which have recognised the need to modernise and to become more efficient. I think it is true to say that the tariff, dues and charges and the wages at the Port in Barbados are generally of a higher level than those charged at sister ports - not all, but most of the sister ports - in the Caribbean. If I might quickly look at St. Lucia where I have obtained some of the figures - for instance, pilotage fees, in Barbados our pilotage fees are much higher than theirs, whether we are dealing with tonnage of up to 500 tons - where ours is \$38 per ton and theirs is \$28 - or if we are dealing in the range of 5 000 to let us say about 15 000 tons where ours vary between a low of \$60 and a high of \$120 and theirs is about \$82. And even over the 15 000 ton range, St. Lucia remains cheaper than we are. Likewise in berthing fees. It is only in fact over 20 000 tons that we are competitive with St. Lucia - we are a bit lower. But whether it be berthing fees, pilotage fees, wages, stevedoring, whatever you wish, it appears, Sir, that we do have a higher charge than St. Lucia. 1.25 p.m.

Now, Antigua is a different picture but, certainly, St. Lucia seems to have moved ahead. A couple of days ago Your Honour may have seen an article in the EC News published by The Nation Publishing Company talking about how competitive the St. Lucian Port had become and what had been done both in the physical facilities and other rationalization to make the Port a competitive area. I think that as a result it is true to say that Barbados has not continued to have the competitive edge in relation to the transshipment trade.

Now, Sir, the nature of the trade in our ports has been changing significantly. Containerization has been growing at a fast rate and it is anticipated when you look at world traffic in trade moving through ports that by the 21st century 90% of all traffic handled in ports will be containerised traffic. This has been occurring at a time as well when all steps are being taken to introduce new technology into the manner in which one handles goods both from the point at which the goods are despatched to the point at which the goods are received so that there is this constant modernisation going on at the level of the technologies that are used, both for handling in all senses of that word as well as for despatching.

Likewise, Sir, you will find that steps are being taken at the international level to simplify the documentation which is used in the transfer of goods between destinations

in this world. UNCTAD has played a leading role in this regard and if you follow the proceedings of UNCTAD from time to time in this area and the journals which they put out on these matters you will see that tremendous progress is being made.

The aim is to reduce documentation and to simplify the process of moving goods between countries and really you do not want to have an exercise that there are so many different levels of bureaucrats involved. It is easy, therefore, to rationalize the documentation to simplify it and to reduce the cost.

Likewise, Sir, the method of handling and off-loading both from the boat and alongside the boat and then into the inland transportation. That, too, is being simplified, and, more or less, the persons who are handling cargo both inshore and offshore, are now using many more machines than before. It is in that context that the use of the Gantry Crane becomes of significant importance for helping to reduce costs and helping to simplify the process of making goods quickly available. This would lead to a quick turn around in shifts. Barbados would continue to become much more attractive in this regard.

Shipping lines are deeply conscious of the steps which ports are taking to rationalize their facilities and their procedures and Barbados has come under the constant scrutiny of those cruise liners and other ships which formerly used our port. I wish to know, therefore, how soon can we expect the Gantry Crane to go into use and what has been the cost to the Government up-to-date of having it not being used.

I ask this question alongside the fact that cranes are being used by the private sector persons within the Port but the Port Authority Crane seems not to have been used for what would now be close to almost...

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I am being told by my colleague, the Honourable Member for St. Thomas, that it is certainly over two years now and closer to three. I do not believe that this is satisfactory. We should be able to come to a conclusion on these matters and whatever the bottlenecks are, I think that whether one side or the other must give, we must make sure that the negotiations proceed apace within the guidelines, within the statement that I made of the objectives which we are seeking to achieve.

Likewise the physical facilities of the Port must always be updated. Certainly, just before we demitted office, steps were taken to upgrade these facilities and there had been other plans in train for the further upgrading of the physical facilities of the Bridgetown Port and when I am dealing with upgrading I am also talking about the security of the Port.

You would have noticed, Sir, that in our Manifesto which has already been made a document of this House, I think we were, perhaps, the only political party that had a special section devoted to the security of our ports and in that we included the Airport as well. If I may read from the document we said that events have proved that there is a growing need to provide increased security at all ports which cater for international traffic Barbados is no exception. No matter what emphasis is placed on the development of Barbados as a truly international Port of call, the island's reputation, tourist industry and economy could be ruined overnight by one act of terrorism.

We undertook then that we would have given priority to:

- ¹¹. maximising and tightening security at both ports,
- making more financial and technical resources available for port safety,
- increasing training of all personnel concerned with security at the ports,
- co-operating with friendly countries on intelligence and counter intelligence measures,
- giving full support to international action for the suppression and the eradication of terrorism,
- supporting ICAO and IMCO (which are the two relevant organizations dealing with the air and sea port in their efforts to eliminate terrorists' acts aboard aircraft and ships."

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I am reading from our Manifesto of 1986, a very farsighted document, Sir, adverting to every problem. We had within our passport every possible problem that could occur. The Prime Minister would see it is there. I am not making it up. It is all there. It is all there carefully and clearly set out and charted as to what we saw then as the problem so I am not speaking of anything that is new.

But I am conscious of the fact that at present we have an under-utilisation of storage facilities at the Bridgetown Port and as we become more and more containerized, the nature of the facilities which are needed will change and the chances are that we will have to find ways of using the space which is under-utilized if we are to maintain a rate of return on the investment of the Port that is reasonable.

I believe that at one stage it was envisaged, certainly when we were negotiating with, I think, it was the IADB who provided the funds for the major expansion at the Port, that the rate of return on capital invested would have been

not below a rate of 6% and by and large that rate was achieved during the period but it seems to me that that too can be maximized once we rationalize in a sensible manner. 1.35p.m.

And I want to say, Sir, that rationalization does not mean and must not mean that you disadvantage persons who make their livelihood in the Port as workers, et cetera, over a period of time. So I am making my position absolutely clear. I cater to a large number of Port workers within my constituency and I am deeply conscious of the problems and of the difficulties which exist. I am kept absolutely, thoroughly briefed, Sir. There is no doubt about that. I know what problems exist. When I speak I speak from a knowledge of enquiring and making it my business to be concerned about these matters.

But I would expect that the Minister would take this opportunity to assure us that the negotiations will shortly be concluded. One of the fears some of the men who are nearing 65 have, Sir, I might tell him that, nearing their age of retirement is that they are not allowed to reach the magic age and then lose out in the negotiation. They have that fear, Sir. I am sure the union would not allow this to occur but I just must restate that fear that exists. Also it is a fact that while these particular negotiations are going on there is still the outstanding issue of the expiry of the last Agreement and the need to have a new Agreement in place.

Now, Sir, I want to move to the other aspect of this Bill which is outlined under the new Clause 5 and that is giving the Minister power to :

- (a) "prescribe areas within the harbours at which activities for pleasure, sport or otherwise may be conducted, and
- (b) prohibit the use of speedboats of any type or class within harbours of Barbados."

And whilst I recognize within the Act harbours include the territorial waters of Barbados, I believe that the way in which the Clauses are drafted, we may have to be a little bit wider if we want to do some of the things of which Honourable Members spoke in this House.

I think it is less than a month ago that I spoke in here about the use of jet skis, mosquitoes, the wave runners, the whole lot of them, Sir, and I made our position very clear. We consider that there is no sense in believing that you can only regulate traffic on land or in the air but not at the sea and that you must have a proper legal regime for the use and control of these types of speedboats or however they may be described.

I pointed out at the time to the House, Sir, the existence of legislation dealing with this matter from Hawaii, right across parts of the United States, in Canada,

modern up-to-date legislation. I have collected a lot of the legislation. If the Government has any difficulty finding it, I would give them the references, Sir. But it should not really have taken us all of this time to be able to deal with the problem that has become an overwhelming one for people in this country and which has the potential, if we are not careful of ruining lives and at the same time as well destroying parts of the tourist trade. Those -persons who depend on the very use of speedboats et cetera for their livelihood could find that at the end of the day they are the worse off, if a proper system of regulation is not put in place whilst taking into account their rights to earn a living.

I can say that our Party has no difficulty in supporting reasonable and sensible legislation dealing with this matter because it is important that we should look at the overall long-term national interest; not merely at the interest of limited pressure groups in respect of these matters.

I am much indebted to you, Sir.

Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this Bill which seeks to amend the Barbados Port Authority Act and to commend the Government on paying some attention at the moment to the menacing operation on the pleasure craft on the beaches of this island. The manner in which the Government has sought or is seeking to deal with this problem, I think, gives us some degree of happiness in that we can recognize that all persons concerned will be considered in the operation of these pleasure craft.

The area in which I have some concern, Sir, has to do with what I consider the matter of security at the Bridgetown Port, and more specifically with pilferage and downright stealing in the corridor sheds of the Bridgetown Port. It has very serious ramifications for the consumers of this country in that when merchandise that is brought to the country is stolen from the Port, none of the businessmen I know are going to absorb those losses in their businesses and therefore the remaining merchandise, if any is left, is going to carry the burden of the loss of the merchandise that is stolen. And so the cost of the commodity to the consumer is going to rise.

A section of the Bill which we are now dealing with permits a claim for the loss et cetera, of merchandise that is handled by the Authority. But if the Authority is to compensate for the loss, misdelivery and otherwise, of merchandise it seems to me that the security of the Port must be a very vital factor if the claims are to be minimized on the Port Authority. If their final position in terms of making the kind of profit that they should make is to be realized then security has to be a very serious matter at the Port. And not only the Bridgetown Port but also at the Airport but we are dealing primarily with the Bridgetown Port.

I want to say, Sir, that it appears to me, since I have to be dealing with this area of operation as part of my duty during the course of the day that the stealing at the Port is an organized situation. It seems so to me. I would counsel the Port Authority and the Ministry responsible to have a very serious look at the security at the Port as it relates to the safe management of goods that come to this country in containers. Therefore they should reach here in good order! But as soon as they are taken from the containers and go into the shed, very serious stealing occurs. 1.45p.m.

I just want to say that it is not in the best interest of our country. Certainly if we are doing any kind of transshipment and this kind of thing has to go on, then there are losses at another level that would militate against the chances of the country to continue to be viable in that respect. I am just saying that I would wish to see some improvement in the area of security at the Bridgetown Port.

Thank you, Sir.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Mr. Speaker, in rising to support this Bill I have to advert to the measured tones in which the Member for Christ Church West addressed the issue of the current and ongoing negotiations over rationalisation at the Bridgetown Port. He was far more measured than I have heard reported in the Press when he spoke, I guess, in an area where it does not call for the same kind or quality of debate that is called for in this Chamber, when he addressed the issue of rationalisation as it affects redundancy. I think he was suggesting that he had to hold a particular position in terms of how people would be made redundant from the Bridgetown Port according to political partisan lines, that is, it was a different environment from the one in which we now speak.

There was a warning issued that he would be standing by to see that certain people from certain parties were not treated any less well than others, I guess, from other parties. That is a warning that was issued. I can therefore only assume it was issued to the Barbados Workers' Union and to the Government of the day, and at the same time I am sure he adverts to the fact that the workers are being well represented by the Barbados Workers' Union, and therefore I would assume from that that the warning was issued to the party of the day.

I would like to assure him from the angle at which we see these discussions that it appears to us that the Government of the day has expressed, and in their actions shown, that they are committed seriously to the principles of collective bargaining and non-interference in that process, once they are satisfied that the participants are expert in what they have to do.

Mr. Speaker, I really do not intend to discuss the topic at any length. Suffice it to say that the rationalisation talks

have been going on for many years. In a very real sense, from 1961 when the move was made to the Bridgetown Harbour, there have been continuing rationalisation up to the present time, and if we have any understanding of how ports operate, it is a process that will continue again.

There have been key points, one can say. In 1961 when of course the Barbados Workers' Union was involved in the rationalisation of the day, over 1000 workers were made redundant at that time - a very, very serious matter. I think the numbers at the Port went down to probably about 500. I am not talking about the clerical persons, but generally the dock workers, and we are at a stage where we are looking at those numbers again. Fluctuations in trading practices and the tonnage increased from time to time, and there were periods when the Port requested that more people be employed in the Port. So we are dealing really with a dynamic situation.

One recalls back in the 1970's, about 1974 or 'thereabouts, when a Committee was set up to look at similar things that are being done today, and in those early stages the level of containerisation was not as high as it is now, because I think the first containers came in here in the sixties and really only started to move off rapidly in the 1970's, but clearly the future is towards containerisation and the Bridgetown Port has to become a container terminal port in all of its areas of operation. This can only mean long and hard discussions between the parties involved. I would suggest that those hard discussions have only started recently.

I have been involved in the discussions from about 1985 or thereabouts when the first rationalisation proposals were sent, those in recent times, to the Barbados Workers' Union. At the time we had not been informed by the Government of the day that in fact a decision to introduce a Gantry crane had been made back in 1981 or 1982, so we were sitting down negotiating in good faith about rationalising labour when the Government of the day had made a decision to bring in a Gantry crane but we had not been informed about that. There was a breakdown in negotiations at one time and the next thing we learnt was that the Gantry crane was in place and that we were expected to send people for training to operate the Gantry crane.

I am suggesting that there was no real good faith bargaining between the last administration and the Barbados Workers' Union. I know that is a very serious allegation, but I am prepared to make it.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The Honourable Member is making an allegation that he knows is not well founded, Sir. He is making it now from his partisan political stance and not as a member of the Workers' Union. The point is that the Gantry crane was only ordered on a change of Government. The Honourable Member knows that. In fact,

the Minutes will show that the past Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Errol Barrow, is the person who approved the ordering of the Gantry crane.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Mr. Speaker, the decision to order a Gantry crane was made between 1981 and 1982. That decision was an early decision. The late Prime Minister, Errol Barrow, might have confirmed it, but I stand on the fact that that was an early decision made by the Barbados Labour Party administration. It is an incontrovertible fact, Sir, that the decision to order the Gantry crane was made before the administration changed. There is no question on that, and I therefore reiterate that they were not bargaining in good faith, because while we were talking about rationalisation the key element, that is the introduction of new technology, of that level, was left out of the discussions and therefore we had to start talking on a different principle altogether.

I would like to suggest to this Honourable Chamber, Sir, that there was a concerted attack to inflame the public against the Barbados Workers' Union and the Democratic Labour Party on the question of the Gantry crane and discussions over the Gantry crane. It is part of that irresponsible behaviour which can cause the country to suffer because people want to score cheap, partisan points. The impression was being given that the country was being held to ransom because the Barbados Port Authority and the Barbados Workers' Union could not reach discussion on the Gantry crane and the entire population, all of Barbados, was supposed to suffer serious economic consequences as a result of this; that we would lose trade to everybody else and would never recover our position; and that the financial health of the Barbados Port Authority would be seriously wounded because the Gantry crane was there and it was not operating.

I think the profits for one year came in at about \$16,000 or something like that. That was supposed to be the end of everything. The same Gantry crane is standing there, it has not worked since, and I understand that the Port is reporting profitability in excess of \$2 million or so. Where is the logic of the position? It was cheap, momentary, political talk to give the impression that for some reason or other this agreement could have been reached overnight.

I suggest to you, Sir, that we are all aware that the negotiations we are talking about are extremely complex. We like to give the impression that when these things happen they happen in Barbados only, that Barbados is the only country in the world that ever introduced a container terminal port. This has happened all over the world in the larger countries, on the big docks like Rotterdam, the United States of America, Australia, and nearer at home, in Trinidad and Jamaica. 1.55p.m.

Whenever there has been such a significant change to trying to adopt a container port, it is important that the partners involved sit down long before the decision is made to change and discuss the various parameters of that change, to reach conclusion and then you introduce, because then you do not get the same interruptions. It makes sense because as I said the changes are very far-reaching. There are physical changes, there are changes that relate as the Honourable Member for Christ Church West said to questions of documentation, how you are going to organise or reorganise your whole bureaucracy. There are questions that relate to personnel matters, and I do not know who would lightly take the question of large scale redundancies as a matter that is inconsequential or a matter that is simple, when you are going to be negotiating away the jobs of workers who will not be able to take up another job easily anywhere else in the community, and when you are going to be introducing new conditions for the workers ^ left back that are going to be completely different in many areas to the conditions that they enjoyed before, I would like to be persuaded that that is the sort of thing that can be done overnight without due study and deliberation, and I would like to be persuaded by anyone that a workers' representation organisation or that a Government that is a caring Government would not try to set out the kind of parameters that would allow this to be done in a way that would least affect negatively first of all the entire country and then the persons who are more closely involved with *** the exercise.

In my own experience, that is exactly what has been happening. The Government has provided the Port Authority, it appears to me, with the guidelines and the negotiating skills that are necessary to help in the completion of this exercise. I recall when with the help of UNCTAD, Professor Thomas - and others came from the University of Wales, experts in maritime economics and so on - and organised a tripartite seminar, all of the social j» partners were put together for a week to examine through case studies the whole question of moving towards container terminal ports, and I think it was an eye opener. At the time I remember recommending to the General Manager of the Port who understands his business and who has been very deeply involved in all these exercises, that the videos that had been produced for that exercise should really have been made public, should have been put on CBC for the entire Barbadian public to witness. I have no problems in crediting persons with skills. This is the ^ Democratic Labour Party position; we don't take the same position as other persons who can only condemn and criticise. There is no difficulty in acknowledging the skills of somebody who is on the other side from you. Sometimes we can call them as foes and still acknowledge that they have skills; there is nothing wrong in calling an adversary a foe, that is normal language terminology, and you can recognise a foe and still recognise that the foe can have skills. I have found that he knows his business from long experience and application. **

I was saying, Sir, that I had at that time advised that perhaps it would be to the benefit of the country to show the videos that were part of that teaching programme, because in fact what they were doing was showing that this was a universal phenomenon, that whenever this kind of change came about it affected the people in similar ways and there were a number of options available. When you were going to be dealing with a labour force of that size you have to decide on things like, are you going to make people redundant or are you going to send them on early retirement, and if you send them on early retirement, what kind of schemes you are going to put into operation.

When you are looking at the new systems to be put in place... you are talking about questions about the volume of movements of containers that will be for a day's pay. It is not that simple. In a port you might be dealing with different methods of payment. We are moving to a revolutionary period in the Bridgetown Port where you are decasualising the Port. Just to explain briefly, most ports operate on a casual system, especially in terms of the stevedores where no stevedore is guaranteed that he will work from Monday to Friday. He does not get what is called a week's pay or anything like that. He belongs to a gang and he gets paid according to how his gang is posted. If his gang is posted twice or three times a week, then he gets that pay. Sometimes he may be posted once, sometimes he might not be posted, sometimes he can't work in the stevedore side and he might have to go in the sheds and get some work and so on, and once you are establishing a system where workers will be guaranteed a week's pay from Monday to Friday this is revolutionary in Barbadian context. Before that came about in Britain, it cost bloodshed, strikes, riots. This was a long time ago in Britain, in the 1950s and 1960s.

We in Barbados have been making a revolutionary change in our docks in a peaceful way, but rather than acknowledging this and being proud of what Barbadians can do, people have been trying to give the impression that something unusual and disruptive has been happening in the Bridgetown Port. Far be it from that, Sir. Barbados must be complimented on the way how they are going through this change. The Democratic Labour Party must be congratulated on the way how they are going through with this change. We don't attribute this praise to any individuals within the Democratic Labour Party whether it be the Minister of Finance who would play his role, or the Minister of Transport and Works. They are part of the Democratic Labour Party team; they are leaders in the Democratic Labour Party team and they play their part as far as this Government is concerned. This is a group effort, this is a Government; this is not a group of individuals.

What I am saying, Sir, is that there is a revolutionary change that is going on where you are decasualising the Port which will form one kind of payment, a week's pay; then you have to talk in terms of incentive pay, because you

are talking about container movements and so on; you are talking about trying to organise an element of productivity, and whatever scheme of remuneration you develop; and then you have to talk in terms of premium payments, what should happen with overtime etcetera. You are moving the port forward again where you are moving into shift systems that might not have existed before, and I think people are not quite aware sometimes of the complexities of what is happening in these negotiations, and it is part of the disinformation basically that is lifting something that is scientific into a political level, and I believe, Sir, that we are gradually moving towards a settlement.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I hope that all Honourable Members recognise that the Honourable Member is putting the Union's case and is in fact attacking the Rt. Honourable Prime Minister and the Honourable Leader of the House in their capacities as Minister of Finance and Minister responsible for the Port for putting out disinformation and being very obstructive in the negotiations, and that is why they have not been completed. That delicate dancing that you are doing there must not confuse the press.

Mr. SPEAKER: I wonder if the Honourable Member could tell me which Standing Order that breaches.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I do not have my Standing Orders to hand.

Mr. SPEAKER: Clearly it is not in the Standing Orders. No point of order; and I am tempted to take even that comment from the records.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Leader of the Opposition of course looks after the health, that is, the physical health of the Port workers, and I don't know if that gives him the qualification, Sir, to speak about the role of the Minister of Finance and the Rt. Honourable Prime Minister and the Minister of Transport and Works. I don't know. Sir, how you can extrapolate from a person's health - but I believe he looks at their bodies - what information has been put before the Port rationalisation talks. 2.05 p.m.

But, Sir, I would certainly dispute and I would take exception to any suggestion that, in fact, there has been ministerial interference of any kind in an obstructive way in these negotiations. There is no evidence to support that whatsoever. In fact, from the kinds of persons the opposite would obtain.

I get the impression that Government wants to see a settlement. It wants to see a settlement soon but it wants a settlement that is just and fair to all parties concerned and I am quite confident that we are very near to a settlement because it appears to me that all parties are at one in their desire to see the Port functioning efficiently and effectively.

I do not agree, for instance, with the Honourable Member for Christ Church West who gave the impression that tonnage has not moved in the last 10 or 12 years. I really do not know what source he could have used to get that kind of information because my own information is that tonnage would have moved almost 100% in that period. This is sound information but I would like to know what source you could get that or could even begin to suppose that in the 10 year period...

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of order if the Honourable Member would give way.

I said, Sir, and I am speaking from my notes, Mr. Speaker, that revenue increased 100% and that there was a similar increase in expenses but if you look at the tonnage figures from about 1978/79 to 1988, there has only been an average overall increase of about 2.5 in that period of time and that is the point I made.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Of tonnage?

Aside.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: If you are tempted to relate tonnage to expenditure and receipts, there might be a point you want to make but if you are looking at raw tonnage increases, you really could not be correct because the tonnage increase is almost about 110%. You might be looking at a different formulation to come up with your 2% in trying to relate the tonnage to those other factors you are mentioning but the impression that the tonnage coming through the Port went up by 2% between 1979 and 1989 just would not be true.

I think you need to look at those figures again because you would have that with the fact that there has been so much purchase of items, consumer spending has increased so much in the period because, quite frankly, our Port is a port that is based on the economy of the country.

We are not a large transshipment port. We are a port that, basically, goods coming to be used in Barbados or to be exported from Barbados pass through so what you would be suggesting is that the last 10 years that for some reason or the other there was stagnation in our rate of exports and imports and that just could not be true. There is no way that you could bring any kinds of information.

I have information to suggest that, in fact, in 1977 about 312 000 tonnes passed through the Port and the projected figure for 1989 is about 610 000. That seems realistic to anybody who has an idea of what is happening in Barbados so I would suggest that you look at your figures again because it might give the impression of stagnation in the last 10 years that would be very unreal in Barbados.

In fact, if you go back to the figures when the Port was first established in 1961, and what the expected growth in tonnage was which led to the construction of the different sheds and so on, you would see that in about five years the growth had outstripped any projections about the tonnage increases in this country and I suspect that is what is going to happen again so that when I said that in fact there are going to be continuing rationalizations I would suggest very strongly to anybody here that we have to look at the Port again, that we have to look seriously down the road.

We need another study. We have been doing a series of studies on the Port because I believe that in terms of growth and the kind of dynamics in import development that we will have to do some serious work at the Port within the next 10 years again, the way how things are moving.

One thing I would like to say in concluding is that I am very concerned about the question of inland container depots and the persistent requests that most of the containers must be delivered for export that they must be carried into these depots. I believe that there are certain dangers involved in that kind of activity. I have alluded to it already because I believe that the security element relating to drugs and so on is very much related to the way how containers are handled and I believe that that is an area that has to be very very carefully studied.

I thoroughly support the objects and intentions of this Bill and I would like to suggest that the entire country can be proud at the way how the changes have been going on in the Bridgetown Port. It has been long but I believe because the issues have been very complex and I am looking forward and, certainly, this party is looking to the early and just conclusion of these negotiations.

Aside.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I would like to reply to a few...

Aside.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: In that case, Sir, if the Honourable Member wants to speak I would move the suspension of this sitting until 3.00 p.m. today.

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

The question that the sitting be suspended until 3.00 p.m. today was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the Sitting accordingly. 2.14p.m.

ON RESUMPTION

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed. Hon.

P. M. GREAVES: The question, Sir.

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

On the motion of Hon. P. M. GREAVES, seconded by Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN, Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee.

Clauses 1 to 5 inclusive were called and were passed.

On the motion of Hon. P. M. GREAVES, seconded by Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the motion of Hon. P. M. GREAVES, seconded by Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN, the Bill was read a third time and was passed.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

On the motion of Hon. P. M. GREAVES, seconded by Hon. B. M. TAITT, Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee of Supply, Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE in the Chair.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1989-90
No. 10

HEAD 12 - PARLIAMENT

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman the amount of money supplied by Parliament for Head 12, Parliament Subhead 1 Parliament and General Administration has proved insufficient and a supplement is required as set out in the Schedule to the Supplementary Estimates 1989-90, No. 10. These are clearly set out, Sir, and would cover such items as Utilities, Supplies and Materials, Maintenance of Property, Operating Expenses and Plant, Equipment and Furniture. These are required for the purposes of Parliament and I would urge this Honourable Committee to give its approbation to the supplementary request.

In respect of Subhead 2, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Operating Expenses a supplement is also required and this is for the visits to attend meetings by the Association, the Barbados Branch. A supplement is required for this particular item.

I beg to move, Sir, that Head 12 stand part.

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

Mr. R. P. BYER: Sir, I just want to find out from the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister about the publication of Debates. Some Question was raised recently in this Honourable House about the fact that Debates have not been published for some time. I just wanted to find out what efforts are being made to regularize the situation and so on.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: The Honourable Member for St. George South has raised this matter. Steps are being taken to have the Debates updated and the staff is working on this particular matter as well as the Government Printery. I believe the machinery is in process so the Debates should start to flow once again.

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

HEAD 14 - MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL
TRANSPORT, TELECOMMUNICATIONS
AND IMMIGRATION

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Subscriptions and Contributions, Sir, Regional Shipping Services, you know, Sir, that we had a situation which required some increase in the amount. This meant that the Vote was too small and we need to supplement it by this small amount, Sir.

I beg to move that this Head do now stand part, Sir.

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

HEAD 15 - CABINET OFFICE

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, the supplement required here is in the sum of \$207 000 to supplement the sum of \$505 360 provided in the Estimates for Head 15, Cabinet Office, Subhead 1, General Administration. This particular sum as the Notes have indicated arise out of the need to meet the residual expenses arising from the celebrations of the 350th Anniversary of Parliament. I suspect that when we come to discuss the Parliament Administration Bill that there will be opportunities for discussing Parliament. I therefore do not propose at this stage to speak or expatiate on this particular Head.

I beg to move that Head 15 stand part 3.15p.m.

I should point out, however, before doing so that Subhead 5 relates to Electoral and Boundaries Commission and the travel supplement being requested is in relation of course to the money needed for the staff of the Electoral and Boundaries Commission. That proved to be inadequate and this supplement is required.

I should point out to this Committee, Sir, that I am in receipt of a Report from the Electoral and Boundaries Commission and according to the legislative provisions that particular Report should be laid before Parliament for its consideration within two months and I intend to do that therefore early in the new year.

I beg to move that this Head stand part.

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

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I am very glad to hear from the Prime Minister that he is in receipt of the Report of the Electoral and Boundaries Commission.

(Aside)

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The Honourable Member for St. Michael West says after me, Sir. I can assure him that I do not know his boundaries. I do not know what are his proposed boundaries, Sir, but I hear that he is very happy with them.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Based on what I saw in the Nation, Sir, I am very happy.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I understand though that that is a false happiness, because I am assured that whoever the Barbados Labour Party candidate is will come first, the NDP second and the Honourable Member next.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: As long as they do it as they have done in the past, that is fine with me, Sir.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Sir, I realise that the Prime Minister will not want at this stage to go into the details of the Report that has not yet been laid, according to the rules of the House. I know that under section 41D, I think, of the Constitution an Order must be made within two calendar months, so I am sure that the Government will comply with that and Parliament would have an opportunity to discuss the ramifications of what arises out of that Report.

It is very important that we should get any of these matters that might divide us relating to elections out of the way and concentrate on the real issues. I believe the Prime Minister may now be in a position to give the House an assurance that elections will be held shortly. I understand he

is keeping his options open. I can assure the Honourable Members on the other side that I have more of my candidates chosen than they have chosen at this stage. They are having some little problems in their own constituencies.

(Asides).

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I was not aware that the Honourable Leader of the Opposition had rejoined the ranks. That is news to me.

(Asides).

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Well, Sir, all the Honourable Members are saying is that it will make my task easier. I believe there is an ongoing process of registration and we could expect that the new register will be out in January. By law the new register should be published by January 31. My concern is that again by law we do not have to determine * any changes in the boundaries, any adjustments in boundaries or seats, until the end of February. If the register is published on the old position, I wonder whether, there are any administrative or other difficulties that will occur if this House approves or disapproves of whatever Order the Prime Minister should lay in due course and whether we can deal with those problems. That is the only concern I wish to express at the moment, Sir.

(Aside.)

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Sir, the Honourable Member has changed his seat. I do not know if he is getting ready to go through the door. He is sitting very far down. I understand he too is quite happy with the redrafting of the boundaries.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I thought the Honourable Member for Christ Church West would have taken this opportunity..

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What is your point?

Hon. B. M. TAITT: We are in Committee, Sir. I see nobody else on his feet. Just five seconds, Sir. I thought the Honourable Member for Christ Church West would have taken the opportunity to assure the country that the Prime Minister, having told this Committee that he has received the Report, that all of the fears which he expressed, that the boundaries were going to be intermeshed with the parish boundaries, and there would be some gerrymandering, I really thought that the Honourable Member would have taken the opportunity to assure the country that as leader of his party

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of order, Sir. I warned against gerrymandering. I never made an allegation that boundaries were being gerrymandered and I hope my warning has been taken, seriously. The Honourable Member

obviously, being a member of Cabinet, will have seen the Report. I would very much like to see it, Sir, but I am relying on the report which I have seen in the newspaper on these matters, but if the Honourable Member would be so good as to let me know outside what is in the Report I will be able to respond.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, I have no difficulty saying to the Honourable Member that nothing has changed since his last conversations on these matters. The Honourable Member knows that we sat on a committee where the parish boundaries were discussed and he is satisfied, as I think the whole country is satisfied, that if it is one thing that occurs in Barbados when the Democratic Labour Party is the Government at least, I think generally speaking we have the rule of law and there are no attempts to hijack governments. There might be the odd hijacking of an Opposition here and there, but no Governments.

Sir, the Honourable Member really has an obligation, because he made some very strong statements leading a number of unsuspecting persons to come to conclusions about the Parish Boundaries Bill. The Honourable Member made strong statements in his capacity as leader of the Barbados Labour Party, which suggested that somehow the Parish Boundaries Act was an attempt to change the electoral boundaries. I am saying that is the impression that was put forth perhaps in ignorance. 3.25 p.m.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of order, the Honourable Member must not put in the record what I did not say. I said I think this was accepted by both sides of the House, that if the Parish Boundaries Act was promulgated before changes in the electoral boundaries, that it would be an implied amendment of the boundaries. That is so obvious.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, I am saying that whether he intended or not, the impression that was sent forth to the population via the popular press was that he had said that we were moving with the Parish Boundaries Act in order to perpetrate some nefarious activity in relation to electoral boundaries, and I think he should give the country, it should come from his lips - there are no lips purer in this regard than his - we should say to the people of this country that we are satisfied that the process should be done. I am not speaking about his lips *per se*.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, on this matter of the Electoral and Boundaries Commission, by an unintended omission by those who drafted the legislation establishing the Commission, circumstances have so developed that Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition has no representation on the Commission. So the problem is, Sir, that we have had no input into any decision making process, we were not part of clandestine meetings, we have seen no reports, Mr. Chairman, but I do understand that the

Prime Minister who is responsible for the Commission was most reluctant to accept the report before March 1990. It is also my further understanding that after some six to seven weeks had passed, after the Commission had indicated to the Prime Minister that they would like to be accorded the courtesy of handing him the report personally that they were unable to do so, and therefore they had to drop it off with the Secretary, and I am very pleased indeed to learn that his Secretary has given it to him; so that as matters have emerged, the report was not handed to ...

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir, even in the yuletide spirit we have to bear in mind the rules as they apply to the administrative system. I think the Honourable Member unintentionally would have cast a slur on a public officer by implication. I am sure he does not intend to suggest that anyone could possibly hand anything to the Prime Minister's or any other Secretary in the public services and that the person intended might not have got it. I am sure he would wish to withdraw any implication of that sort.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Sir, there are no implications, no imputations, no assertions, no snide remarks in that regard. That is a statement of fact, and that statement of fact that the report was handed to the Secretary of the Prime Minister.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: My point was that his statement that "I am glad that she handed it to him" suggests that at some time she might receive some thing and not hand it to him. I don't think you intended that and I just want you to

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: They were not my words. I said I am pleased to learn that the Prime Minister is now in receipt of it, which is something completely different. They were my exact and precise words.

If I may continue, Sir, I have grave concerns over this entire matter. We in the NDP will not be supporting any changes in the constituencies coming at this stage and I say it for this reason. We shall be getting a list on 31st January 1990 according to the present legislation. By the time the extensive changes that I do not know about but that I heard have been made in respect of certain constituencies, including St. Michael South Central, by the time those lists have to be altered, it means that the Electoral Officers will have to go back in the field again and do a very thorough exercise, which means that a list would not be available until somewhere around the end of July, end of August. We all know from experience that when those lists are presented to candidates you really have about six months' work to do yourself in trying to get those lists up to date by transfers, deletions, all sorts of things.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Are you anticipating the contents of the report.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: No, Sir, but I do not like to go on hearsay, but judging from what the Honourable Member for St. Michael West has been saying, it would seem to me that there have been extensive changes in some constituencies.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, I know the Honourable Member very well and I treat everything he says with the greatest reserve. I have said nothing whatsoever about anything in any report except that I saw in the Nation Newspaper the publication of information alleging to be from the Report. And in that information that I saw in that newspaper would in no way give the Honourable Member any grounds for concern. His conversations, perambulations, consultations, prognostications and whatever will have given him much better information than anything I could possibly have said, and I certainly did not say anything of the sort.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, we all know the Honourable Member. That is the way he speaks, not by what he says, but what he does not say, and that is what I am referring to, Sir. Therefore in those circumstances I want Honourable Members who have had experience of the electoral process to look at this carefully. Now in 1981 we had a serious problem in Barbados. There were a lot of accusations of gerrymandering, of the removal of people's names from the list and all sorts of things, and the problem basically was that the administrative infrastructure was not there to cope with adjustments in boundaries and the preparation of lists in a matter of six to nine months before an election, and all sorts of problems arose. The same thing is going to happen again, because even assuming that with the very low level and daily dwindling level of support which the Government has in the country that they can survive until elections are constitutionally due, I would think the lists would still not be ready.

Now assuming that the Prime Minister decides one day to put country before party and call an election before it is constitutionally due in 1991, do you realise, Sir, the kind of chaos you would have with the lists? We are not afraid,[%] we are on sure ground. We understand clearly what is going on in the political life of Barbados, but I think that the worst thing that could happen to Barbados now is for any circumstances to develop where either by acts of commission or omission there could be any suspicion that free and fair elections did not take place. What I am saying is that even if there is not a conscious effort to gerrymander and at this stage I will not make that accusation until I see what the report is, even if there were not a conscious effort to do so. 3.35p.m.

Nevertheless, a series of circumstances developed that could lead to the effective disenfranchisement of significant numbers of people in Barbados, then you will have the same problems all over again which we experienced in the past and those problems are not problems that should be

minimized because it is my firm belief that when you are making changes of this nature, that those changes should be made as early as possible in the life of an administration.

Added to that, and remember this, that I believe that the life of this Commission will come to an end some time around March next year so you will be faced with a report and then faced with a new Commission in place.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: The country goes on but, on the other hand the thinking and the whole process of changeover takes time and time is not on our side. You have to remember that we are now 17 months before an election is due and you are going to create all sorts of administrative problems. I warn you.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: When the report comes to Parliament I will make my recommendations. But I will tell you something, Sir, that there is a reasonable chance that the NDP will gain substantial support over there because this is something that you must not play around with.

The timing seems to me to be all wrong. Now, there is a constitutional provision which says that seats in Barbados should be approximately 10% as near as possible equal or probably 10% off or something like that. I do not know the exact words. If that is the case, I believe that at this time it is better to amend that provision of the Constitution because it will cause less confusion.

I am saying it for this reason that seats in Barbados cannot only be judged in terms of actual numbers. Constituencies are qualitatively different. If you take, for example...

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Very likely. That is negotiable. The point I am trying to make is this. You may have a seat with 10 000. You take a seat like Christ Church West Central that is one of the largest constituencies in Barbados. Because of the composition of that constituency, you will find that to service that constituency would be far less of a burden than say, servicing the City or St. Michael West, or St. Michael South Central or one of those constituencies so it is very important that we really look at that provision.

I do not think myself that we should be taking decisions of this kind at this stage because of that provision which I do not think that sufficient thought had gone into that particular provision.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has two minutes.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: That is a serious matter because I do not want to go into an election again under the circumstances in which we had to hold elections in 1981 because as all of us who contested that election....

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: No matter. I was on that side at the time and I was a member of the Democratic Labour Party and there were lots of accusations of gerrymandering. I never made the accusations myself but I must confess, Sir, I sat on the platform and did not say the opposite but a lot of that confusion arose out of administrative difficulties.

All that apart, the point is that those administrative difficulties will recur again and I hope that this intervention would bring some good sense to bear on this matter.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I agree, Sir, with one or two things that the Leader of the Opposition has said. For instance, I agree that the report of the Electoral and Boundaries Commission should be made available to the Prime Minister as soon as possible.

It is my submission, Sir, that now is the soonest possible time, that now that it has been laid, that that was the earliest possible time that they could have laid it for the above reasons so, therefore, it has now been done at the earliest possible time except, perhaps, having been made, it was only for a week or two when it was not possible to arrange for a meeting with the Prime Minister to have it delivered.

Let me say this, Sir. We have a problem. There is no point skirting around it. We do have a problem and that problem relates to 'that formula and that formula gives us a problem. Let us face it.

I do not believe and this is where I am agreeing with the Leader of the Opposition as well - his example may not be the one that I would agree with but I agree that other things should be taken into consideration other than population and in Canada it happens.

For instance, I think the terrain in St. Andrew should be taken into account. I do not think that the constituency of St. Andrew should be the same in numbers necessarily by law as the constituency of St. Michael North. I do not believe that, Sir, because I believe that there are peculiar difficulties that are associated with the constituency of St. Andrew and, therefore, I believe that the formula is wrong.

What is more, I believe that the formula is also too narrow and I believe that the formula should be amended in any number of ways, not only in terms of a percentage either way up or down, in other words over the mean mark that is over the average or below the average as the case may be; but I think other considerations have to be put into

that formula as well and I go further. You may not agree with it but that is my belief. I believe that the terrain has to be a consideration. That is my belief. 3.45 p.m.

And I further believe, Sir, that the percentage is too small. I do not agree with what was done before. And I said it time and time again and I will continue to say it. I do not believe that what was done in 1980 or whenever it was done represents the best policies that we have.

Because that is what I believe and I can see that that formula has pushed the Boundaries Commission, as I am reading in the *Nation* newspaper, as is the case. Because it is my belief, Sir, that because of that formula, if the Commission had not gone, as I understand they have gone - I understand so from the *Nation* newspaper - up there for the extra seat then nobody would be able to recognize his constituency. You would have to be so chopped up and cut up that perhaps you would only end up with $\frac{1}{5}$ of the constituency if any at all. It is my belief that that formula needs to be looked at again and it needs to be changed in order that we could preserve the integrity of a person's constituency. I do not believe a person's constituency should necessarily be moved, be chopped up and changed and altered unrecognizably. Unless we look at that formula again, if it does not happen now, it will happen at some time in the future. That, Sir, is a submission, it is a point which I hold and hold to very strongly. I believe it is a point that we will have to examine.

The other point made by the Leader of the Opposition also relates to the composition of the Commission. The Commission provides for representation by the Opposition. He happens not to have it because of the peculiar circumstances in which the Official Opposition is now constituted. But the Constitution provides for that. It also provides for representation by the Government. But here now the Democratic Labour Party forms the Government and only still has 2 seats on a 5 member Commission.

Aside.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: That is what?

Aside.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: That the Government ends up with a majority? But when the Barbados Labour Party was in power, they had the majority. They had the majority when it was done.

There is a further point, Sir, that you also have to look at, that if a Member of the Government side retires, resigns, drops dead, or something else, it is filled by the Opposition. Words to that effect.

Now, Sir, there is something hopelessly wrong in the composition of this Commission. That is my belief. But having said all that, I believe that the Commission and I do not know otherwise of them, I believe they are honourable men, the Principal of the Cave Hill Campus of the University of the West Indies, I believe, Sir, is a very honourable person representing the Democratic Labour Party appointed by the Opposition then and I believe the Opposition then was led by the late Right Honourable Errol Barrow. The other person representing the then Opposition was Mr. Asquith Phillips, Q.C. whom I also believe to be a proper person. I do not know who the other people are. I can only talk about ourselves. Except the Chairman. I happen to know who the Chairman is, Mr. Kenrick Jordan, a former Chief Labour Officer and Permanent Secretary. As to the others, I do not know who they are, Sir. But be that as it may, Sir, I believe that the Commission, as constituted, as I know it to be constituted, the one that I know about would have done an honourable job. I do not believe they would set out in any way whatsoever to interfere with the electoral process or in any way to try to bring any negative influences on any particular seat held by any particular Member. I do not believe it, Sir. I honestly do not believe it.

I believe that the Report that we will have to see in due course because it has got to be laid, the Order has got to be laid along with the Report within 2 months of delivery. Thereafter the Order will have to be debated,

Aside.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I do not know who they are. How am I supposed to know who they are? I did not appoint them. They may have been Gazetted but I do not have to remember them. People forget. I do not know who they are. If you want to say who they are, you can say who yours are, I can say who the ones on this side were because I happened to know at the time when they were appointed. The others were appointed by the then Prime Minister, Mr. Tom Adams and I do not know who they are.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Can we have a little order, please?

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I do not know why the Honourable Member for St. Thomas should get so angry because I do not know who they are. If I do not know who they are, I do not know who they are. You can get up and tell the Chairman who they are.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Sir. I really did not think that at Christmas I would have to tell the Deputy Prime Minister that I believe he is lying. Foolishness! We discussed them out there in a Select Committee, the Members, the powers, the boundary changes. He practised with one at the Bar. What kind of tongue in the cheek nonsense am I hearing in here today, Sir?

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I do not know who they are, Mr. Chairman. All he has to do is say who they are and I will remember. If I cannot remember who they are, I do not remember who they are! It is as simple as that. Mr. Chairman, I do not have to remember. Mr. Chairman, the matter is very simple. I do not have to remember who they are on our side nor on their side. I do not have to remember who they are period! If I happen to remember who they are on our side, I do not have to know who the others are. If he is ashamed to say who the ones on his side are, let him hide behind the statements he made. Get up and say who the others are. I have no problem with that, Sir.

So that part aside, Sir, I believe that the Boundaries Commission's term of office comes to an end very shortly as I understand it. We have got to follow the Constitutional provisions as set out in the Constitution. In other words, I believe that the Boundaries Commission has got to act within the terms of reference and their terms of reference are all laid down within the Constitution itself. They cannot move out of those terms of reference, as laid down by the Constitution. And therefore within that, I believe they have done an admirable job. This is my belief.

But let us not stand here and now start casting stones at the Commission. I do not believe that we should do this. I believe that they acted in a very proper way.

Aside.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I did not say anybody did it. I said let us not do it. But I do not believe that we have the most perfect of systems and I still think that from time to time they have got to look at those systems. I still maintain that the Constitutional provisions guiding that should be looked at a second time.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, when we come to speak about matters of elections and electoral boundaries and electoral commissions, we have a tendency to speak in a personal capacity. I do not purport at the moment to be speaking on behalf of my Party on this for fear that what I say might not....

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Look, neither one of the four of you has ever been in a position to advise me on elections. Do not start now. If I want to get rid of any part of my constituency! You will find that all parts of my constituency vote the same way. So getting rid of any part does not make any difference.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Not you. I beg your pardon. Three out of four of you over there.

Mr. Chairman, I want to take a point. I agree with the Honourable Member, the Deputy Prime Minister that the Commission should be looked at from time to time. But I believe that we have to be careful that we do not fall prey to fallacious arguments based on the process of time. In the first instance, the question of members is a principle in law that has been accepted by every electoral system everywhere. It has been accepted by the United States Supreme Court, it has been accepted in Great Britain, it has been accepted in Russia, it is accepted everywhere that the only fair way that you can determine one man, one vote is by numbers. You can argue all the other things but you cannot discount the numbers and say you are going to put away the numbers. You cannot throw away the numbers. What the formula set out to do - there are a number of things I disagreed with about the system that was set out, but I cannot in all conscience say that I disagree with the formula merely on the basis of... What it says in essence is this, it says that at all times the constituency should be equal and that to take account of the movement of persons and time, it will go 10% in either direction. You cannot quarrel with that as a principle. What it does is the same things that happen in all countries. In the United States, the United States Congress changes every year. 3.55p.m.

There are people who lose their constituencies completely. The Honourable Member for St. George North will confirm that Shirley Chisholm, a personal friend of ours, had a constituency in Brooklyn and by the time they came to re-examine it according to law she lost her constituency because two had to be merged and one had to disappear. That time will come in Barbados if it comes to that in terms of the numbers.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Yours and mine are temporary. We are commoners temporal, so we must not become so attached that we start giving constituencies names akin to our own. That is the beginning of unwisdom. We must be very careful. We have to deal with the principle. When you are dealing with legal matters you cannot approbate and reprobate at the same time, you cannot have a principle that will apply sometimes, so that I will take on anybody on that.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I am arguing with me, because mine is the only mind that I understand well enough to argue with on these matters. I do not expect you to understand my mind on these matters, it would be unfair to you. I have no quarrel with that, so if I have a philosophical argument with myself on the floor of the House, with your permission, that is all right with me, Sir.

The point I am making is that when you are discussing these matters you have to take them in a certain form. You have to argue against principle when you disagree with the principle and you have to argue against other aspects when you disagree with those aspects, but you cannot have the two mixed up. The principle of numbers is accepted universally, and I accept it. That is why we had rotten boroughs, the history of Great Britain, the system that we come from. It is true that in the United Kingdom there are some areas that have larger constituencies, because, of another principle, and that principle was reached in the United States when they discussed the Senate, when they decided that all States regardless of size should have two Senators, or at least one Senator. That was the principle of compromise.

If we have a system here where we have one set of elected representatives, it seems to me that if we are talking about no taxation without representation, the people in Christ Church must not have greater weight than the people in St. Michael West or vice versa. You cannot argue with that principle.

On the question of the membership of the Commission, Barbados was particularly far-reaching in the very strange and unique decision in many respects to have the Electoral and Boundaries Commission appointed the way it did. I remember when you used to have conductors on the buses that went to Bush Hall, you used to say what you lose in the roundabout you will gain in the swings.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The Ivy. They were Mr. Tudor's buses. It was Bush Hall. He used to say in the morning, "you take the ups and give me the downs", and in the evening "you take the downs and give me the ups." The Honourable Member is the only person in here with that kind of expertise. He knows about that. But seriously, that was based on another principle, that the thing is going to swing.

This is the first time in the Caribbean, as I recall it, where the Leader of the Opposition was getting the opportunity to without more appoint two members and the Leader of the Government three members. For the Honourable Member to rise and say that they had no representation, that is true, but the law does not speak to representation, it speaks to appointment. If he had been the Leader of the Opposition at the time, he would have made an input in the appointment. Now, we had a peculiar situation where he became Leader of the Opposition in the strangest circumstances. They were not illegal, but the same principle he is raising now ought to have been, or could have been, raised to wonder whether, in spite of the technicality of the law, he should have been Leader of the Opposition. It was not raised, therefore it is not an issue and I am not now raising it. I will raise it outside, but I do not

wish to raise it in here because it is not an issue we are discussing.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On the platform I raise all kinds of issues. If you call it foolishness, it means that you are there to hear it. It means that you come to listen, and if I can bring you with foolishness, imagine what I can do with the rest.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: He is a man of integrity, you know. He says he came because he thought he could hide behind the crowd. You have never hidden behind anybody, you are always up front. Why didn't you hide behind the crowd in Brooklyn?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the point I am making is that the two members of the Opposition, the members of the Electoral and Boundaries Commission are entrenched in the Constitution because the framers of that legislation envisioned that the Electoral and Boundaries Commission would in fact be above and beyond the law in a strange, if you may accept the phrase "above and beyond the law", they were beyond interference, and they are entrenched. In fact, they were so well entrenched that we had to sit down in a Sub-Committee of this Parliament and diffuse some of the power which had been given to them, but the indication was that they would become above and beyond interference by the Parliament and the politicians.

I have a fundamental disagreement with a lot of people who believe that Commissions are inherently pure, because Commissions are peopled by men and women just like Members of Parliament are men and women, but I accept the facade which says if you appoint a Commission even though a politician might appoint them, somehow that Commission might be apart from potential contamination. Commissions are not, by the fact of being Commissions* purged of contamination, and I can speak to a number of things in that regard throughout the Caribbean. I am not now speaking about that.

I am saying, Sir, that the intention was that this Commission, as the other Commission like it, should be entrenched and therefore be immunised. It attempted to do this by giving the Government of the day the opportunity to appoint the majority, but the system that we operate, the so called Westminster system on which we are modelled, envisions that the ebb and flow of political activity will have one group in the majority one time and the same group in the minority next time. They do not make any provision for the little "tack-a-too" that you did. That is the real hiccough that could not have been envisaged. Do you believe anybody could have envisaged what happened?

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: The Honourable Member is accusing us of being some kind of hiccough because of a "tack-a-too"⁵¹ or something like that, but I sincerely hope that the Honourable Leader of the minority Opposition will rise in due course and try to diffuse what you are trying to convey to the public out there, that there is a conspiracy against the NDP in relation to these boundary changes.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is no point of order.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, apart from the "tack-a-too" he also has the capacity for convoluted thinking. It is clear. The only thing that is clear about what he just said is that he is unclear about what we are saying. The fact is that no one could have envisaged the situation in which out of a clear blue sky the leadership of the Opposition changed, but even so it does no harm or violence to the principle, because in three months, as we have heard, the Commission will have to be reappointed, and the Honourable Member will not have a say in who forms part of the Commission. 4.05 p.m.

The Honourable Members over here through the Prime Minister will appoint the majority and the Leader of the Opposition will recommend the two that form the minority and it will be as simple as that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has two minutes to conclude.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: In those two minutes, the point is that the issue he raised which arose out of I think a small unforeseen error that occurred in the drafting of the legislation which gave the Commission too much time before it had to submit its first report, the result is that it has had a three year period within which it legitimately took its time to prepare its report. The point raised by the Leader of the Opposition is valid in that there will be a fairly short time within which an additional enumeration may have to be done, but the Commission has the determination as to whether an enumeration is necessary. I submit that if in fact the constituencies had been properly enumerated, and if they had been segmented and there had been segmentation, then there should be no difficulty...

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I am now convinced that the Honourable Member has actually seen that report.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I have never said that I did not see the report. You got up and said you have never seen it. Get up and swear on your children's life that you have never seen it.

The Honourable Member is not going to put me off in these two minutes you have given me, Sir. I ask your indulgence because it is an important point. The fact is that if the enumeration has been properly done, there will be no

need for the kind of massive enumeration which the Leader of the Opposition is trying to give this House and thereby the public that as a result there is going to be mass confusion, because the little segment that may have been moved off the city and put on to somewhere else would have been enumerated, and the result would be in the computer. The result does not go in the enumerator's head, so that the total result of the country, the 200 000 who were examined, are still there, so it is a question of what they call topping off, if necessary. I do not therefore buy the argument put forward that there will be massive confusion. The Leader of the Opposition will create confusion if we are not careful by calling for this constitution amendment. He now wants to set off a number of people talking about constitution and have the likes of Ian Bishop -1 can call his name, Sir - writing, saying that he hears that there are people in the Democratic Labour Party who want to change the Constitution, and that will start a new issue.

I want to say that nobody in the Democratic Labour Party has been discussing any change in any Constitution because we feel that in the present circumstances the results of the work of the Democratic Labour Party will be manifested in the voting results. We will win because the people will have confidence in the work of the Democratic Labour Party. Thank you, Sir.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I was very careful when I spoke on this matter not to go into any details on any of the substantive issues that would arise. It is not that we do not have our own views over here on some matters, but I want first of all to say that the Leader of the Opposition says I must get up and say there is no conspiracy between myself and the Government. I don't know that I have to get up and say any such thing, Sir, because earlier in this House I heard that there were now 24 to 3 of us, so I would really have to ask him whether the coalition has begun before both sides have lost.

Sir, I am really concerned about a few points and I want to make them quite clear although I think before he sat down the Deputy Prime Minister clarified these. I believe that this Commission has acted with all of the priority that one would expect from five men of honour, and I am a bit disappointed myself that the Honourable Member could only mention the names of three and could not recall the names of the other two. The Commission was appointed on 1st April 1985. The Chairman of the Commission was Mr. Kenrick Jordan, J. P., a former Permanent Secretary, who happens to live in my constituency, a very close friend of the Honourable Member for St. John, a very close friend I think of the Deputy Leader as well. The Deputy Chairman of the Commission is Sir Keith Hunte, once again a very very close friend of the Prime Minister and although not as close I consider him to be a close friend of mine, a man whom I have known for many years and have always shown the greatest respect for. The third member that I recall is Mr. Asquith Phillips, Q.C., whose knowledge of

electoral matters in my view is as deep as any that I have heard in here if not deeper than many that I have heard in here. The fourth member is Mr. Philip Serrao, a well respected member of the legal profession and who is well known to all Members, and the fifth person is Mr. Merton Hewitt, who was a former Postmaster General, and who again is a well respected member. I don't see any of us in this House manipulating them one way or another to act contrary to their duties under the law, so I am not going to get into these. I just want to say that the members are known.

I want to deal with three or four arguments that have been put up. I want to deal, firstly, with the argument concerning how the Commission was appointed. As the Honourable Member for St. Michael West said, Barbados in some respects was chartering new ground, not that we have the only constitutionally protected Electoral and Boundaries Commission. I think some of the OECS countries make such provisions in their law and there are other countries that make similar constitutional provision. But the Electoral and Boundaries Commission came out of the Cox Report and the recommendation and the formation and the constitution of the body was strongly recommended by that report and particularly I believe the research work in respect of it was done by Professor Carnegie. The precedents that have been used are there. So at the time it was envisaged that both of the then political parties would have a say in the appointment in all five members. For instance the three members suggested by the then Barbados Labour Party Government was after consultation with the then Rt. Honourable Member for St. John, the Rt. Honourable Errol Barrow at the time, and the two members put up by the then Opposition, the Democratic Labour Party, was after consultation with us, so that the five persons had some form of approval between the two political parties that existed, and in fact where the constitution makes provision for consultation on appointments, that is how it should be I have spoken and criticised the fact that we don't seem to be able to talk on some areas of this country's affairs that ought to be isolated as much as humanly possible from partisan politics. In matters pertaining to the appointment of certain judicial commissions, civil service commissions, commissions of this nature, the electoral and boundaries, if you wish to get a proper form of Government, in my experience as a Constitutional lawyer and someone who has studied constitutions, the aim is always to get dialogue going. In fact in the United Kingdom, whose constitution we look at, it has reached the stage that when there is an objection, the Prime Minister takes it so much into account that he or she sometimes withdraws that candidate; not always, but if there is a serious objection, and there are candid in exchanging information on this.

Unfortunately our conventions are growing up that we write each other letters and we don't seem to find the time to talk on these matters, and we are really not going to get a

proper and advanced and mature system of democracy until such time as that could happen in the country and leaders feel strong enough within their parties and within the country to do that. That is my view. 4.15p.m.

Now, that is my position so that when that Commission was appointed, it was not a question of excluding the NDP. The NDP did not exist. They were a part of the DLP so there was no exclusion of anyone and because the Commission has a five year period then a fluxion of time takes care of that.

Now I agree that the point made by the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister that you have a position where if a member died, the way in which the legislation was worded and there was a change of Government, it looked as though one person would be appointing the other or if they resigned and I do not believe that any of us who dealt with the legislation dealt with that point so it is a hiatus and if we must deal with it we have to deal with it.

Certainly, none of us conceived at the time that we would be back into the three political party situation and Mr. Chairman, if anybody could speak about that, I should be the one speaking very strongly on the issue because the results of the last election of this House would show that in this House I should not have been having to ask as to whether I speak first or last or as much as the official Leader of the Opposition but that is how it is.

I have seen Mr. Speaker ruled in this House that whoever speaks first must either speak and say they are speaking on behalf of the Leader of the Opposition or you are an ordinary member in the House. We are in the position in the House that the people's official Opposition now has no room or no facilities available to it. It is true that the Leader of the Opposition got up and said that if we wanted to use it we would use it but that does not make political sense. He would not have expected me to accept it because my political party would never accept that so that is the position.

I have said in here that, perhaps, you have sometimes to look to see how things develop in a country. There are circumstances you do not provide for and at the appropriate time and in the appropriate manner and with the appropriate sense of propriety you make those changes if they are required and the situation justifies them and they are in the long term interest of the country.

I want to reply to this point and I agree with the Honourable Member for St. Michael West. We speak in the same voice here. People must begin to read in order to argue on these matters. You cannot argue just emotion. There is a lot of literature that is available on the Electoral and Boundaries Commission on the question of representation, how it goes, and the principle is well

recognized that if you are in equality of votes you try as much as is humanly possible to maintain equality of votes.

It makes a nonsense of the principle of equal representation if 5 000 people can have the same weight in representation as 10 000 or 9 000 people as has occurred now and that is why you have a small margin either side of the average.

In fact, Sir, I have recently come across cases in Canada and in the United States where it has been held unconstitutional for an Electoral and Boundaries Commission to continue to have a position where there are more over or under the formula called for so that one has to recognize that.

Obviously, I am not in a position at the moment, until I have seen the report and have it made available to us, to get up in this House and give the Labour Party's position on each of those formulas whichever they are. I would not be in that position until the appropriate time to speak appropriately on those matters. But in my view, I have to say that once you stick to the principles, I have no difficulty with that.

Now, adjustments of boundaries take place all the time. If, perhaps, there is a defect in the system it is that if you read now the United Kingdom Representation of the People's Act it provides for a Boundaries Commission to have hearings. What they say is that when it is proposed to make changes and adjustments that there is usually a public hearing.

Now, that procedure has been absent from the manner in which our Commission has functioned and at the appropriate time we have to examine that to see whether or not the public who are affected by the changes will not be able to make some representation and, perhaps, if that takes place, it would remove a lot of the suspicion and the talk that you hear because, in my view, this should not be a clandestine exercise.

It affects people that we are representing. It not only affects those of us who are representing people and subject to that, Sir, I would think that we have to be very careful as to how in here we represent that Commission and how it should function.

Sir, given the new political changes that have happened in Barbados in the last couple of years I certainly would like to have a say in the appointment of the next Commission. I certainly would like to be consulted on it but I am not begging for it, Sir.

If the law says that we have not at the moment got a say, we accept that because I know the political pendulum. The Labour Party has had more swings in the political pendulum than either of the two other parties.

As the Honourable Member says with Mr. Tudor we are in the ups and in another time we are in the downs and I always say and I say it to my colleagues, whenever you legislate, whenever you put measures, remember when you are in Government prepare to be in Opposition and when you are in Opposition prepare to be in Government. That is all I will say, Sir.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Just one brief point I wanted to make, Sir. I would not like it to be thought that there was any suggestion on my part that the quality of numbers should not be one of the considerations. My exact words were that they cannot be the sole consideration.

It is also erroneous to even attempt to bring the United Kingdom as an example. It is probably the worst one you can bring because I do not think that there is any Western democratic country which has as wide a variation in the numbers of people in constituencies as in the United Kingdom.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: You said the United States but you also said the United Kingdom so that there are a number of factors that should be taken into account. However, I would still like to stand my ground on the particular point that if there are problems in the Constitution as it stands now which can create problems either in terms of its composition of the Commission or the function of the Commission or any other problems, then I think the point is to deal with that up front and I agree with the Honourable Leader of the House on that particular issue but there is no point continuing to function in a situation where you have defective legislation. That is my point.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I just want to make a short contribution on this Head.

I was a member of the Select Committee that had to do with the redistribution of power as between the Electoral and Boundaries Commission and Parliament and in the new year; presumably, we will get to debate those matters more fully so I am not going to go into all of the matters that were then before the Select Committee.

What I want to say, Sir, is that the establishment of the Electoral and Boundaries Commission was the result of the power, the rights and obligations of that Commission as enshrined in the Constitution and the result of an examination of a number of systems and similar mechanisms worldwide and that this is the final distillation of all the experience from all over the world that we were able to come up with at the time in 1985. 4.25 p.m.

It is something new that we are trying in Barbados and it will have teething problems and various gaps in the

legislation will be shown up from time to time, and it will behove the Government and indeed us as parliamentarians, to close those loopholes and the gaps whenever we see them and we think that they are worthy of closure.

The Commission has had a long time on the most recent Reports that we have read about and I would say, Mr. Chairman, that I am usually first with the news and the information. But this time, the truck did not pass by me, Sir.

Laughter.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: No. The truck did not pass by me. So I really am not seised of what is in the Prime Minister's custody or Cabinet. I am not too sure what is being proposed. I do not mind because it has to come in here and be debated and we will determine whether we accept it or not. So from my point of view there is a lot of time and I do not think anybody needs to lose any sleep over it.

Where I take issue with the Government, though, is the attitude of the Deputy Prime Minister. He really disappointed me today, Sir.

Laughter.

Certain remarks made by the Honourable Member for St. Thomas were ordered by Mr. CHAIRMAN to be expunged from the Record.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister knows the full composition of that Commission, Sir.

I do not think that in regard to the Commission, and, indeed, as the Leader of the Labour Party has said, in regard to any of these Commissions that we ought to allow our political biases and partisanship to, perhaps, send the wrong signals to the community that in some way or other there is a suspicion that the political biases or interests of Members of the Commission will predominate in regard to their public functions in the execution of their duties as Members of the Commission.

I believe that we try, in the appointment of Members of the Commission to choose persons who in a small society must have political interest in elections but persons in whom we believe that notwithstanding their political bent, they are of such magnanimity and integrity that they are able to allow their personal or their political interests to be submerged so that their public responsibility takes precedence and prominence.

I think we have to be careful how even by giving an impression of not knowing the composition of Members or indeed not remembering at the time the full composition of the Commission, we can be giving to the public or indeed

the Commissioners themselves who will see it reported in Hansard in the year 1999, because we have not had a Hansard since last year. I do not figure they are coming again. But they will see it reported, Sir, and wonder what did I do that the Deputy Prime Minister could not remember that I was a Member of the Commission, notwithstanding that my name was published in the newspaper only last week when the article appeared. But the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister said when he made his speech that he was going by what he read in the NATION newspaper last week. So he only read certain parts of it. That compounds the unreliability of his assertions from that chair earlier, Sir.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, we must all remember....

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: On a point of elucidation, Mr. Chairman,....

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am not giving way, Sir.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Do you not want to hear what I have to say?

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I believe that is a point of order, Sir.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I do not have to be on order, I can be on elucidation.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Two Honourable Members are on their feet.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: You do not have to give way.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, am I not behaving in a parliamentary manner, Sir? If I were behaving in an unparliamentary manner....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would surely have ruled you. Mr.

D. A. C. SIMMONS: You would deal with me. Mr.

CHAIRMAN: Oh certainly.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Well please ask the loquacious Minister of Health to keep his mouth quiet for a minute, Sir, so that the Chair,....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You are considering that I am hearing the interruptions.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, are you deaf in the right ear? I am hearing him.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Sometimes, right or left.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am hearing him loudly and clearly.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let us press on.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member mentioned the Minister of Health. The Minister of Health was just simply expressing some consternation that an Honourable Member of such long standing and hitherto gracious attitude could suddenly become ungracious as not to give way. That is all I was doing.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, the signal that I wish to send is that in a limited society like ours, very many of those to whom the public look up indeed have skeletons in cupboards and are known. And do not let us start pulling down, otherwise everything will fall down, Sir.

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

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Everything will really fall down. And I do not want to get into this business of having....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Two Honourable Members are on their feet.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Order?

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I am on a point of elucidation. I am on no point of order.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Go along.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I am on no point of order. I want to make it clear. I am on a point of elucidation.

Now, Sir, I want to make it absolutely clear that I stated in my speech that I believe that the gentlemen that constituted the Commission would have done an admirable and I used that word, an admirable job. So I do not understand what kinds of signals could be sent out from what I said that would detract from the work done by the Commission. I used the word admirable. I do not know what other superlative the Honourable Member wants me to use. I said I believe they do an admirable job, and I am repeating it, Sir, so that I would not be misunderstood as I appear to have been misunderstood. Hence the need for elucidation.

I am stating, Sir, and I want to repeat, I am saying that I believe that those gentlemen on the Commission would

have done an admkable job. There can be no room there for misunderstanding, unless someone wants to misunderstand it or misrepresent it as the case may be.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: They have done an admkable job but as far as the Minister of - What is he? - International Transport is concerned....

Laughter.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I was trying to get the full title, Sir. He is International Transport and Civil Aviation.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You see, Sir? As far as he is concerned the contribution made by those Members was so admirable but yet, they were unworthy of being committed to his memory over a 5 year period.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I would not have that, Sir. On a point of order, Sir.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: That is what to me, he said, Sir.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member is on a point of order.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: On a point of order, Sir. I have said nothing to the Honourable Member, neither in this House or outside of this House that would make him believe that I must remember who the Members of the Commission were or in fact who they are. Because in fact, they still are so constituted. So therefore, Sir, the Honourable Member is misleading this Chamber when he said that I must know who these people are. I do not know who they were.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I think that has been very clearly said and I do not think we need to go over that any longer.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I think it is a very small point, frankly.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, I am not going to dwell on it. It could be a small point. 4.35 p.m.

In the larger milieu of political life in this country where contributions by the Barbados Labour Party and people who have worked on its behalf and on behalf of the country of Barbados as a whole, where those contributions are sought to be rubbed out of history, it is a big point with me. I have witnessed an attitude of revisionism and the distortion of history in this country in the last three and a

half years that I never dreamt I would have been alive to see.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I will give examples at an appropriate time. I have 15 minutes today.

The second point I want to make about this Commission, Sir, is that we are saying that the Report has come rather late, denying Government time adequately to deal with this before it has to come before the House. I ask the Deputy Prime Minister to remember and to find out from his party's own members on that Commission who were the persons who were constantly unavailable for meetings of this Commission; whose absences often frustrated the holding of meetings; whose absences and dilatoriness resulted in the only most recent delivery of that Report to the Prime Minister.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I know! That is one I know. Who has been often sick? Who has been often out of the Island?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has one minute to conclude.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: As a result of which meetings could not be quorate and the work of the Commission was delayed. All I wish to say is that you must check. I will check for whenever the debate comes up in here that those persons who were on the Commission nominated by the Barbados Labour Party were the most regular attenders at the meetings. That is all I say.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I really do not think there is anything in this debate to reply to. I really cannot speak on the question of forgetfulness, or amnesia, or get worked up over those issues. That is a matter of individual determination, unless you wish to go for medical or psychiatric help or something like that, so I do not propose to go into that particular area.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Sir. In relation to the matters between myself and the Deputy Prime Minister, is the Prime Minister saying that the Deputy Prime Minister needs medical or psychiatric help? Is he saying that, Sir? If so, he must make a positive statement.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: The member seems to want to tell me now what kinds of statements to make. Mr. Chairman, this has been a very remarkable discussion. I cannot call it a debate because debate suggests grappling

with an issue and the cut and thrust of argument and counter argument, but I would say discussion.

I would never have thought that I would hear coming from the lips of the Leader of the Opposition complaints that as Leader of the Opposition he is not represented or his party is not represented on the Electoral and Boundaries Commission. It is a very remarkable position to take, Sir, and it is really a question when we speak about putting country before party, that is a superb example of someone putting party before country. By a deliberate act of choice he left this side of the House, dispossessed the Member for Christ Church West, pushed him down the table, removed him from his office as Leader of the Opposition.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order. What he really meant to say was by Hobspn's choice.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Then for the Honourable Member to come on that occasion and again today pleading and begging that he has no office, no chairs and things like that. I told him that I would take care of him, I would look after him, but he would not listen to me.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Prime Minister is speaking with some emphasis that he promised the leader of the Barbados Labour Party office accommodation and so on. He has now had 11 months, and as was said somewhere else, if that promise were pregnant it has certainly miscarried.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Understand it quite clearly. I did not promise him that at all. To be serious, Sir, it is really a remarkable position that on his own volition the Leader of the Opposition persuaded three young persons, or more or less young persons, to leave the back bench over here and go over on that side. 4.45 p.m.

Mr. R. P. BYER: On a point of order, history will show that the Honourable Prime Minister chased us away[^]. He said, "Lord help me to know my friends, I can take care of my enemies" or something like that. Now he is talking about being persuaded. Nobody can persuade me to do anything.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: The Honourable Member for St. George South seems to be speaking more out of sorrow than anger.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Let the record show, Sir, that I am happy with my decision, content, even more content in this season of yuletide.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The record will so show.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir, it is not fair to the Honourable Member for Christ Church East for

the Honourable Member for St. George South to be suggesting that anybody chased the Honourable Member for Christ Church East. We have never chased him anywhere, and we hold out our arms to him everyday and we know it will not be long before he comes back.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Prime Minister will continue.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Sir, I don't think that this is the time really for any bitterness of debate or acerbity of debate. It is not even the time for discussing the report of the Commission. I simply reported to this Honourable Committee that I had received a copy of the report and I am currently studying it and taking all steps to ensure that it comes before Parliament within the time stipulated by the legislation. That will be the time for opinions as to the merits and demerits of the recommendations. It will be then for the House to determine whether they accept the report or not, or what other kinds of arrangements the House would wish to see. But as far as I am aware, there has been no change in the arrangement for publication of the lists of voters, and I would expect that the Commission would be endeavouring to publish the lists according to the law.

I think those are some of the concerns that have been raised. As far as I am concerned it is the work of the Commission and they are carrying out their particular duties. We will bring the necessary legislation within the time indicated and then the House would decide. But I thought I detected from what the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, the Leader of the Opposition, said that he is in favour of a change in the formula for determining the variation in the size of constituencies, and I assume that at the appropriate time he will say so and put forward his views at the appropriate time on this particular matter. I look forward to conformation of the expression of that particular position as soon as possible.

As far, Mr. Chairman, as the composition of the Commission is concerned, the Leader of the Opposition wishes representation on the Commission. Two seats are allocated as far as I can recall to the Opposition, so the Oppositions can get together and agree on how they divide those two seats. It is really a division.

Asides.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: He is my friend and I value friendship as the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central knows very well.

Asides.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Do all three want to come? Make the declaration now.

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



Mr. CHAIRMAN: Do you want to make a declaration?

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am about to make a declaration. Never so long as breath remains in the bodies of the three members of the Barbados Labour Party, and I am speaking for all I am so sure, as Sparrow used to say, I am sure without any doubt that we will never be in that party. We will be friends with them but never participate in the membership of the Democratic Labour Party. What we are talking about, Sir, is that in a couple of months the people of this country will vote massively for the return of the Barbados Labour Party to occupy those seats over there as a Government.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Anyhow, Sir, I think we have really exhausted the content of this matter and I beg to move that Head 15 - Cabinet Office - stand part.

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

HEAD 25 - MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND FISHERIES

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Chairman, consequent on the increase in travelling rates from July 1, 1988, this Ministry has to meet the cost of arrears in payment of the new rates from the existing provision. As well as some expenditure incurred in the 1988-89 financial year has to be met from this year's vote due to the late submission of bills and claims, and the last reason is that the amount provided in the current Estimates are inadequate to meet the high cost of maintenance of property, vehicles and equipment up to the end of the financial year.

As a result, the Ministry is requesting a supplementary of \$300 000 under subhead 1 - General Administration - \$48 861, subhead 2, \$8 500, subhead 3, \$3 000, subhead 4, \$29 000, subhead 5, \$46 500, subhead 6, \$25 000, subhead 7, \$5 760, subhead 9, \$19 950, subhead 11, \$43 500, subhead 12, \$10 000, subhead 13, \$4 000, subhead 15, \$36 000 and subhead 18, \$22 000, most of it, Mr. Speaker, as a result of the increase in the rates of travelling and some bills that had to be paid as a result of late submission of those 1988-89 bills.

I beg to move that Head 25 - Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. E. BOURNE: Mr. Chairman, I want to say a few words on this Head. A couple of weeks ago we were told by the Honourable Minister of Agriculture that he would get back to us about these fancy salaries being paid at the

CARSICOT and before I leave tonight I would like to know what are his findings. 4.55 p.m.

Now, I have noticed that there are lots of money here being spent on agriculture and only a short time recently the Minister was honest enough to say that his advisers are not working. I think...

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: On a point of order.

I believe the Honourable Member for Christ Church East is referring to a speech in which I addressed a seminar organized by CARDI and an organization out of Denmark which was attended by people from Denmark right through the Caribbean and the statement that I made on that occasion to the professionals was that they, as professionals throughout the region, owe it to their country to advise their people in the best way. I went on to say that if they did not do that as professionals throughout the region that they would find that their conscience would not rest easy. I did not refer to any of my advisers. I said it to advisers throughout the region.

Mr. E. BOURNE: Mr. Chairman, that was not the newspaper report and the Honourable Minister did not refute what was reported in the newspaper.

Anyway, Sir, before I really get into the meat of this debate, I would like to remind him that at Sayes Court Agricultural Station I have noticed a new road is being built on the Goodland side of Sayes Court and that they have not made any provision for drainage.

There are two wells in the pond which takes the drainage water off and this new road has blocked the old drainage up and I would hope that the Minister would have a personal look before we get into any hot water a few months down the road on that.

Now, the fishing season has just begun and I have been hearing that the negotiations with Trinidad will be finalized. I would like to know from the Minister if there is any progress made, if this final decision will be forthcoming this season and whether we will be at the short end of the stick again.

Now, I remember being called by the Honourable Attorney General when we were debating agriculture a few months ago, a man without any heart, a man who believes in brute justice but I am saying here and now that if we cannot get a suitable arrangement I will be bringing my argument to bear on the Ministry in full force.

Now, regarding crop research and extension, I feel that it is time we should be heavily in agricultural exports. Over the years we have been hearing a lot about exports in aromatic grass, exports in exotic fruit and I have looked all

around the country and I have looked so hard, Sir, my sight is beginning to fail and I still cannot see any of these crops being planted, not even an attempt of these crops being planted.

Guava, for instance, we could make a mint in guava exports. We could export golden apples to North America. I want to know really if the Minister after these debates when he gets home if he thinks about these things or he just goes home and says, "Well, those seven guys on the other side have wasted a lot of time but I am going to get a good night's rest" and that is the end of it until the debate comes up again.

It is really disheartening to know that we come in here week after week, discuss agriculture, pull the Minister all over the coals and yet nothing is being done. It is time that we do something. We cannot rely on tourism alone. Sugar is failing, or has failed, now that we would make a dollar on sugar, and if there is an outbreak of any kind of epidemic here, dengue fever or yellow fever or something like it, through the eddoes we will go. We will find ourselves now in a worse position than Guyana and I want to impress on the Minister of Agriculture that he has to get up and get. He has to get his staff out there working and working very hard.

Now, here we talk about cotton. We are going to make a mint of money on cotton but from what I am seeing there is not much to be had at the moment from the cotton industry because we begin by paying fantastic salaries to employees of the CARSICOT Company long before we reap one ball of cotton and I think that it is a shame that this should be happening to us in Barbados.

Now, land and water use. We are trying with the Agricultural Extension Scheme. I have made recommendations some time ago that there should be a reduction in water rates to the small farmers and up to now nothing has been done so much so that the small farmers in my area are planning to give up. This is unreasonable and unfair, Mr. Minister. You had enough time to look into this matter.

I am suggesting to you, Sir, that if the use of the electric pumps are causing the cost of water to escalate, we should use wind power. It was used many years ago in Barbados. Throw away the pumps and use wind power. St. Philip used to be the okra, guinea corn and nut-bearing area in Barbados.

I remember as a youngster seeing trucks coming from St. Philip loaded with okras to Christ Church for the vendors. Today we cannot even get a peanut. We cannot get any jug-jug for Christmas which is around the corner...

Aside.

Mr. E. BOURNE: Jug-jug out of wholewheat flour? That would taste bad enough. That would not be the real thing. 5.05 p.m.

We cannot get any jug jug for Christmas which is around the corner. We cannot even get green peas. We cannot get pigeon peas. Sir, this is a disgrace.

As regards markets, Sir,....

Aside.

Mr. E. BOURNE: I will deal with livestock, Sir. Do you know, Sir, that many of us would not be having pork for Christmas? Our livestock industry is almost dead. There is no pork for Christmas. The pig industry is almost dead. One in every two butchers in the country is complaining that there is a shortage of pigs. They cannot supply their customers with pork.

Now, as regards markets, I am tired complaining about the sad state of affairs at Oistin so much so there was even a killing a couple of weeks ago at Oistin. I am not blaming him for that I am not blaming him for the killing. What I am saying is that when I was complaining about the security at Oistin and something was done about the security perhaps this might have been avoided. I was not there when the killing took place. I heard about *it* about 1.00 o'clock the night..

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Chairman, just on a point of order, on this one. I would produce evidence, where we have reported continuously to the police. We even named that gentleman. I remember we had his name on a list that we sent to the police and told the police, these are the people that have been giving us trouble, please assist us. We tried everything up there.

We wrote them. That man's name is on a list we sent to the police asking the police please assist us with keeping the market. I would make this a document of the House.

Mr. E. BOURNE: I am not blaming the Minister. I am suggesting that we should have better security at Oistin. This is the complaint I am getting. Along with that, there are still complaining about the repairs to the jetty. In fact, it is costing me money now.

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

Mr. E. BOURNE: Two minutes already? Mr.

CHAIRMAN: Yes.

Mr. E. BOURNE: I have not even started. You see the Honourable Attorney-General comes in to call me a man who believes in bush justice.

You know, Sir, I would very much like you to have something done meaningfully with the jetty at Oistin. It has just cost me almost \$4 000.

Aside.

Mr. E. BOURNE: The Tendering is still very bad, Sir.

Aside.

Mr. E. BOURNE: Yes. It cost me almost \$4 000

Aside.

Mr. E. BOURNE: Well a kind of repair but it is not good. It is not good enough. With any rough weather you are still in the same position, Sir. It is no exaggeration. A very shoddy job. At least you tried. You promised me that you would try and you did try.

Aside.

Mr. E. BOURNE: No. Not yet. I cannot credit him yet. I will give him 25 marks out of 100 for that, Sir. He tried.

Now, Sir, there is the market at Bay Street and ever so often I am being asked about what will happen to the market and what will happen to the fishing boats which beach at Bay Street. I should like you to tell me in plain English what are your proposals for Bay Street so that I could let these people at Bay Street sleep peacefully at night.

Aside.

Mr. E. BOURNE: No, I am usually at Bay Street on weekends. These people are getting restless because the Shallow Draught will be closed to the people in lower Bridgetown and they are wondering whether Bay Street will be closed off to them. I think I would have a suggestion, Sir. The old market can be made into some changing room or cubicle because I notice that many people use Browne's beach for bathing purposes. I think this will be something they will appreciate.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, once we start with a Debate on spending money in agriculture, one always tends to watch....

Aside.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: The Honourable Member for St. John can listen because I recognize the couple of half

dead cherry trees he has and hopefully if he fertilizes them well and wets them often, I will buy some of the cherries from you. Do not worry about that. Do not let us get into that. We are dealing with a broader thing here. We are not dealing with the little cherry tree at you, nor the soursop tree. I am trying to explain all of this now. Give me a break.

Mr. Chairman, the whole question of fruit tree farming, preparing orchards in a manner that we can deal with it where we get into, as the Honourable Prime Minister said *sotto voce* before, where the agro industrialists can start to get into the act. We talk about exotic fruit, and the Minister knows what I am talking about, what really is happening is that it is an *ad hoc* situation.

It is where you have the Honourable Member for St. John with a half dead cherry tree in his yard, a soursop tree in somebody else's yard and we are hoping that, with a difficult logistical situation, we can collect all of these fruit, bring them to one point, process them and either sell the product locally or export it. It is almost an impossible situation. I say almost because it would not be an impossible situation if you are going to ban all the other ones from coming in and then the consumer is forced to pay any price to get fruit. The Ceylon people are working for 10 cents a day. Our people are not going to work for that.

The problem is, and the Minister knows this too, right now there are two companies - the Pine Hill Dairy is one - which import guava pulp. We talk about guavas. Right now in Barbados one of the easiest fruit trees you can grow here, apart from maybe carambola is guavas. It grows wild in the gullies, it grows with no fertilizing, very little water. Of course one appreciates that if you have the right variety with the right fertilizer and the right water, you get maximum yield thereby pushing down the price of the pulp because the first argument that I am going to get is that the people who are importing the pulp from Brazil and wherever else, Puerto Rico and wherever, Mexico are buying it at such and such a price. Far cheaper than you can buy it here. But of course those people have economies of scale. They are growing the right variety. There is a guava in Guyana that is about the size of your fist, Sir. The guavas here

Aside.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: I beg your pardon?

Aside.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Yes, there are a few that have been tried here. But what I am saying is apart from the paw paw experiment up there in St. George at Constant Plantation, and the experiment that I was involved in back in the seventies at Haggatt's with the cherry trees, there has been 10 real farming of fruit.

We know that golden apple could find a ready market. Go to Martinique or St. Lucia and in any hotel you stay, your breakfast juice is not orange juice from Florida. It is probably golden apple juice from St. Lucia that somebody else made and brought to the hotel. Of course we are talking about a situation where there are a number of people making small quantities.

Aside.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Golden apple juice, yes. I had golden apple juice in Guadeloupe.

Aside.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: I was there right after you. I took over from you. Remember? You asked me to go and take over when you came back. But that was a long time ago. That was back in 1986. That was at other times.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Does the Record show that I asked you to do something?

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: No. Being very serious. They used a lot of the indigenous fruit. But then again, they farm it. 5.15p.m.

What the Government has to do is to come with a policy. It is all well and good to say, as the Prime Minister said *sotto voce*, that the agro-industrialists must get up and do something about it, but the agro-industrialists can only do something when it is agro.

I agree that we must look at the backward linkages and the forward linkages. There are tourists here who want to drink golden apple juice. There are tourist here who are not insisting on orange juice, but there are hotels here who tell you that they only want orange juice. They are deciding for them, but it is not true, because you go to other Caribbean countries and drink passion fruit juice. Passion fruit juice and guavas are fetching high prices in the United States now because of the exposure to them down here and in the Pacific. People have travelled and have been exposed to them.

Craft, the makers of jams and jellies and other products. For the first time in the last four or five years they are making a guava jelly now and guava are now fetching a premium price in the United States. We cannot get into the act because we do not have any guavas. We have guavas because they are wild all over St. Thomas and St. Andrew, but we have none farmed anywhere.

Aside.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: To the Minister of Health, this is out of your league now. We are talking about fruit and

processing, agro-industry, not in your league, so give me a break. Do not come in and start up right away, listen to what I am saying first so you get the gist of what is going on.

Mr. Chairman, being very serious now, one hoped that when the experiments were being carried out at Haggatts and the Soil Conservation, that was the direction you were moving in. I remember asking why are we pushing so hard to continue to try to grow grapefruits and oranges when every time we try the oranges are very sour, so you can only make lemonade with them, and the grapefruits are very bitter. This is a fact. We have been unsuccessful in growing citrus and we keep persisting in putting more and more money in experimenting with citrus.

Aside.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: The reason for the bad tasting citrus at the home of the Minister of Health is a lack of fertilisation. I know the little tree he has in the yard which he is talking about. You cannot get anything from the tree if you do not fertilise it. *

Mr. Chairman, we need to get very serious about this. Are you going to continue putting money into all these experiments? To what end? To the end that the Pine Hill Dairy will come and tell us they are still going to bring in ^ the cherry juice from Brazil? And we are going to hear somewhere along the line that maybe soon we will be able to grow enough cherries in Barbados to produce the juice. That is nonsense! Ask the Honourable Minister if he knows, or let his advisers who have been giving him wrong advice tell us, if they know, how many varieties of cherries there are at Haggatts and what varieties they are. What kind of yield you can get in terms of juice or pulp? They do not know.

The cherries that are grown for juicing in Brazil and are grown in Puerto Rico are huge things. You would not even recognise them as the same cherry. The Minister knows what I am talking about. It is a hybrid cherry. There was a man here called Michilini who was experimenting with some of them and I believe you would find some of the same cherries in St. James. The argument is too that the level of Vitamin C in those cherries is less, because they are very high in water.

We have, on the one hand, a much better cherry in terms of the Vitamin C content, but in terms of yield, in terms of pulp, in terms of juice, in terms of poundage of pulp per acre it is going to be low, so how are we going to compete with Brazil? When is the Pine Hill Dairy going to start using the local pulp?

Let me say something else too. I laud anybody who is trying to get this agricultural processing plant off the ground, but I will say now that there are going to be ^

tremendous problems with that plant. Unless Government is going to subsidise it heavily, unless they do the kinds of things they are saying, I tell them now they cannot get it done at the cost they are saying they are going to do it at.

Aside.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: What private sector people? The man who is running the plant is not employed by any private sector people. I do not know anything about the plant. I am private sector and I was not offered any part of it.

Aside.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Shares gone on the market? After it is *a fait accompli*? After you tell me you are going to make a tomato ketchup that is going to be as pure as any other and compete with the cheap ketchup you are allowing in from Trinidad and Jamaica? How are you going to do that?

Aside.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Stop it? Why are you going to stop it now? I am saying it is a fact that there is cheap ketchup coming in, that you cannot stop it and that you cannot have a plant that can make it cheaper than them, because you have a lot of things against you. There are a lot of things you promised to do with this plant. You say it is going to be a private sector plant. I am waiting to see that day. You have made a lot of promises like that before. Do not let it be another BMC poultry processing plant, because you are just throwing money away again. Maybe you had better take another look at it. Do not believe that anybody who knows better is going to believe that you are going to get pulp cheaper than it is in Brazil to sell to the Pine Hill Dairy. On the one hand the pulp is going to be more expensive and the Pine Hill Dairy will be forced to buy it at whatever price, or on the other hand the plant will be run at a loss or you will have to subsidise it.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I just want a few questions answered by the Minister. When we were here in July on the no-confidence motion against the Minister of Agriculture, he did try to impress us that Government intended to develop the cotton industry. Today is not the time for us to argue once again the advantages and disadvantages of diversification from sugar into cotton, or around sugar into cotton. Suffice it to say Government has determined that it is going with encouraging the growth and production of cotton.

When the Prime Minister was recently in Japan - I do not think he has told the country yet, so I am telling the country for him - he had occasion to see some of the

machinery that they were hoping to use in the cotton ginnery. I believe Mr. Amersey was in Japan at the same time.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: We know that Mr. Al Knight and the Secretary and everybody went off on a kind of familiarisation tour, otherwise known as a junket, but I am not too concerned with those matters now, I have ventilated those matters publicly. What I am more concerned about...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am finding a little difficulty following your speech because of the interruptions across the Floor. Let us have few interruptions, please.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, I am not going to get into the salary structure and the allowances, I want to narrow my intervention on this matter to the question of the acreage under production and all the consequences thereof. 5.25 p.m.

Now I understood that Government had determined to use several acres of the ADC lands from St. Philip to St. Lucy by way of a pilot project and setting an example so that the private farmers would see that the thing could go and would take the lead and run with this cotton production over the next few years. I believe it was 1 500 acres that Government had hoped to have in cotton production.

I would like the Minister to tell us how many acres are actually under cotton production, how many acres of Government owned lands or ADC owned lands, and what is the state of that crop, because I have driven around. Only a few weeks ago coming from the airport I saw some fairly reasonable looking cotton plants, I would even agree with the Honourable Member for St. John and say beautiful cotton plants, the ground properly cultivated and clean of weeds east of the airport and a little bit west of the airport. But the more one drove west the more one encountered grass, weeds and bush. I had occasion also to be in St. Philip recently in the area of Dodds Plantation just on either side of the Summervale main road, I went back near my former domicile, - I don't mind if they say near my natural habitat - certainly an area with which I had great familiarity for twelve years, not as an inmate as others who have adorned the Houses of Parliament. I was profoundly shocked to see the state of the lands near Summervale main road on either side of that road. In fact on the left hand side of the road as you were going to District "C", grass had taken over to such an extent that with a little rolling you could have played an excellent football game. On the other side of the road, there were cotton plants about eight inches tall, wonderfully surrounded by grass of about 6 feet tall, and it seemed to me that the example which Government wanted to set through its own agency in the cultivation of cotton and the husbandry of cotton was

failing. I would not say it was an outright failure, but it told me a story that there had been little coordination or agricultural planning within the ADC or the Ministry of Agriculture, whichever agency is responsible for this cotton project. I cannot believe from my own empirical observation that Government can achieve anywhere near the quantity of cotton that they would have expected when the decision was taken to put these several lands under cotton production, and I would like a clear and unequivocal statement from the Minister about the failure of the cotton crop, if there is a failure, but certainly what circumstances have given rise to the rather shoddy and haphazard growth of cotton in these pilot projects. I am not talking about the Belle at all, Sir. I believe the Belle was also earmarked for some cotton development. The Prime Minister was bloating some months ago when he went and saw it ploughed up. He thought something was happening. Grass was only waiting for the rain to come, but even the canes as you go towards the round-about by Hothersal Turning, the wild canes and wild grass have taken over and those lands are looking unsightly.

I wish to make the point very seriously, Sir, that we know the value of agriculture to the economy. I don't have to labour the point. We are feeling it right now with the drop in foreign reserves, and we have recognised and the Government certainly has recognised that whereas sugar as an agricultural product used to earn us foreign exchange, it is no longer earning us foreign exchange to the same extent and we have to come with Resolutions like we have this afternoon to borrow money to get foreign exchange to top up the foreign reserves or to keep them in equilibrium. I am not for one moment going to downplay the contribution which agriculture has to make to the economy. But what I wish the Government to be aware of is that in its agricultural planning it just take into account that there are linkages between agriculture, tourism and the environment. I have said in here recently and I got Members on that side to agree with me that the management of the environment is going to be the most significant aspect of Governments' activities throughout the world in the next decade and into the 21st century.

Now we are an Island which depends almost exclusively on tourism receipts for the earning of foreign exchange. Time was when Barbados was characterised as a garden of the West Indies, you could see it in an aircraft, properly laid out, but we have got to the stage, I am not saying we have approached the stage, we have reached the stage where disorder in agricultural management has taken over, and the countryside has become less aesthetically pleasing than hitherto. Now I wish to say that it is my view that one of the attractions of Barbados to tourists has been its physical lay-out, development and organisation, and I think we do ourselves a disservice if we do not ensure that the countryside of Barbados is aesthetically pleasing in such a way as will be attractive to tourists and encourage their return to Barbados from time to time. If we have a

countryside that is overgrown, not properly laid out, as it were, dishevelled and unkempt, I think the time will come when tourists will say to themselves that Barbados is shabby, no longer attractive. I certainly note that the proliferation of bush and grasses in lands which could otherwise be productive provide a fertile breeding ground for mosquitoes and similar insects which make themselves a nuisance to us as well as to the tourists. As my friend, the Honourable Member for the City is saying, they constitute a dangerous health hazard.

Sir I am speaking about this with a certain degree of emotionalism even though I am not perhaps behaving in an emotional way. I genuinely feel that we must not let the green of Barbados and the countryside slip into a state of chaos. We are seeing at the human level what a failure to act positively in relation to young people and their behavioural patterns can do. 5.35p.m. "

We are seeing that those trends are now proving to be matters of concern for the Government, nine months too late but, still, Government is going to do something, they say, about it.

I am imploring the Government, and particularly the Minister of Agriculture to address the question of the proper management of the countryside of Barbados as a ** matter of urgency with the planners in his Ministry and the Town Planning Department or whoever the people are that are involved because - you may pooh-pooh it now -otherwise I think you will have negative spin-off for Barbados in terms of our tourism effort in the years to come.

I am much obliged to you, Sir.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Sir, I want to make some remarks in this matter. At the end of the year when we take the supplementaries into account and there is another one we have to vote in relation to agriculture this evening, we would have spent, counting the \$3 million that the Prime Minister has given as an injection in agriculture, in the region of \$22 million. This evening alone we will be voting another \$629 857.

The Budget we approved was \$18 034 864 and then there was another \$3 million, as I said, that the Prime Minister gave as an injection to recover some of the ground that we lost in agriculture.

Aside.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Yes. That covers the capital and the current vote.

At the end of the day I cannot say honestly that we will have anything to show having spent almost \$22 million

in a year, in addition to what we will invest in CARSICOT and CARSISPIN and all the other related companies that have anything to do with cotton. We will spend a considerable amount of money in the Agriculture, Food and Fisheries Ministry and there would be nothing to show.

Now, Sir, the National Democratic Party has decided, as a policy initiative, that agriculture would be the centrepiece of any economic revival plan. That is important in view of the present difficulties that we are having with the economy. We are spending a considerable amount of money importing food and you heard the Honourable Member for the City speak eloquently about matters having to do with agro-industrial research and so on.

Sir, when we debated the No-confidence Motion against the Minister of Agriculture a couple of months ago, I raised some questions that had to do with Soil Conservation which were not responded to. I suppose the Minister had more pressing allegations to respond to and he did not think that Soil Conservation was particularly important.

Now, we are losing a considerable amount of top soil. The estimates on the loss have been revised from time to time. Soil lost has resulted because of erosion. Most of this soil loss has occurred, I would say, in the Scotland District area.

We know we have problems in that area and decisions have been taken in the Ministry of Transport and Works and in the Ministry of Agriculture with a view to alleviating the conditions under which people have to live in the Scotland District.

Sir, I would like the Minister to give me some information about what is happening in Soil Conservation to avoid a further soil loss to shore up the Scotland District area, what actual plans are being formulated in the Ministry in this regard? I dealt with things at the time of that debate having to do with machinery and personnel. What is the situation in the Soil Conservation Department in terms of the personnel relationships? What is the administrative structure like? How is that structure operating given the present conditions, stresses and strains?

I know that as I go through the Scotland District I see pieces of machinery dotting that district, Government-owned machinery rusting out. These are things that I raised in that debate and things that have not been responded to up to this day. I consider them to be of considerable importance and I would very much like to hear from the Minister. This might be the last day that we have for the year sitting and I would like to hear him on these matters.

Now, a couple of months ago I raised a Parliamentary Question on the importation of pork and pork products into Barbados and this question is still to be answered. Now, one

of the quarrels I have with Parliamentary Questions is that we do not get prompt replies to them. Sometimes events overtake the questions asked.

I know in England that I think it is part of their Standing Orders of the House of Commons that Parliamentary Questions are answered within a very short time - maybe the Clerk can help me with this - but it might very well be in the region of two to four weeks, I think it is, but a very short time. Now, we do not have this in Barbados at all. It is not part of our system here and I would like, when we come to debate the Commission of Parliament, to raise this question again because I think it is important that Parliamentary Questions be answered promptly, surely more promptly than they are answered at the moment.

Now this question having to do with the importation of pork and pork products was a very serious question because it was asked in this Session before and a vital part of the information that was sought on that occasion was not given so I asked the question again so that when the question was answered and that information was not given I would be in a position to ask a supplementary question about it.

The question is even becoming more important now given the current situation. Farmers have been complaining about this. It has always been a problem around this time of the year whether we will have adequate supplies of pork for Christmas and so on, and I do not know up to this time why we cannot get the system right, why we cannot regulate it to such a degree that we would not have to worry constantly about what I consider to be very simple matters.

We have to get a lot of things right about our approach to agriculture in Barbados and one of the things that we have to get right is the interlocking relationships between importation of products and, also, the local production of products. We have to get that right.

To my mind, if we get our production systems going right in Barbados, we would be able to see down the road whether or not we would have to import products and we would only have to import products when it is absolutely necessary to do that.

Now, I am very concerned that the question up to this moment has not been answered. It has been on the Order Paper for a very long time now and it had to do with, if I may crave your indulgence, Sir, and I can find it... The question was asked on June 13, 1989 and today is December 19 and it has not been answered up to this moment. 5.45 p.m.

I certainly, when we return here on the next occasion, will be moving an amendment to the Standing Orders to get Parliamentary Questions answered in a certain time. I might

be defeated, Sir, because I do not have the numbers. I would have to canvass and lobby some support on the other side. But it would work both ways. I am not satisfied that the Question has not been answered. There are Questions here from the 15th November, 1988 asked by the Member for St. Thomas. Anyhow, Sir, I do not want to divert. I am just trying to highlight a problem in relation to something. If I had an answer to that Question, Sir, I probably would have been in a better position to make a contribution in this area. The Question has not been answered yet.

Now, Sir, this brings me now to the CARSICOT, CARSISPIN area. The Honourable Member for St. Thomas dealt with this policy initiative on the part of the Minister of Agriculture or the Government where we are now entering into the area of the growing of Sea Island Cotton. When the setting up of the project and the guarantee of the loan was debated, I was very concerned that Government was guaranteeing a loan as a minority shareholder in a project and that that was not the done thing. It was an idea that I as a lawyer had never come across. It was something very new to me where a minority shareholder was giving a guarantee.

Aside.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Yes. A sole guarantee where you have other shareholders and other majority shareholders in the whole thing.

We are getting bits and pieces of information of the goings on at CARSICOT. I read the information and I try to interpret as best as I can what is not there. I think the time has come for the Minister to give us some update on what is happening apart from the fact that cotton has been planted. Certainly I would want to know something about the administrative structure of CARSICOT and also the administrative structure of CARSISPIN. I would like to know something about that. Certainly I would like to know who is the Vice-Chairman of CARSICOT and the Managing Director for CARSISPIN. I want to know what the salaries are like. I would like to know about all of these things.

The Government guarantee - \$5 million guarantee! I am a citizen of Barbados. I want to know about the company. I want to know something about it. If you are going to tell me that I am to go out at the Registrar of Corporate Affairs and search and find out the information, okay, tell me that. But I want to know something that is going on. I know recently that one of the persons who was working at the company was dismissed. I do not know if it was a Secretary or something like that - I will come back again, Sir, because I have not finished yet. I want to know the circumstances surrounding her dismissal. Sorry, I cannot finish in 2 minutes. I am going to sit down and come back, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will just draw to your attention that the debate on this Resolution will conclude at 6.10 p.m.

Mr. R. P. BYER: At 6.10?

Dr. R. C. HAYNES rose.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Two Honourable Members are on their feet

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, do not listen to the Honourable Member for St. Michael West.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I do not need that advice. Two Honourable Members are on their feet.

Does the Honourable Minister want to reply to the enquiries asked? Because if questions were asked, I believe in all courtesy, replies should be given.

Aside.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No, no. It will conclude at 6.10 p.m. Go ahead.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I will conclude at five to six. I agree, Sir, with your ruling that it is right and proper that the Honourable Minister should respond to a few of the questions that were asked. Therefore in 6 minutes, I will ask a few more questions to give him the opportunity to reply as well.

I want to know if he is aware that one of the persons employed at CARSICOT was involved in a foreign exchange scandal and I think he has subsequently left Barbados and is in Belize.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Scandal. Yes. If the Minister of Finance does not know, you better ask him. I want the Minister to let us know whether or not there was not a major plot to subvert the trade rights of Barbados, import cotton into Barbados and export that cotton as Sea Island Cotton thereby interfering with the integrity of the trade mark of the Sea Island Cotton and whether it is a fact that such cotton came into Barbados and that after the intervention of the Prime Minister himself some effort was made by the Customs to get the cotton back out of Barbados?

I want to ask the Minister whether or not it is correct that the salaries being paid to the two chief executives of CARSICOT amount to over \$12 000 a month in one case and over \$10 000 in the other case? I want him to tell us which of the shareholders have so far put equity into that

company and how much each shareholder has put into that company? I also want to know how much of the \$8 million guaranteed by this Parliament, with the NDP abstaining has been drawn down by the company and how much equity capital has been used? I also want to know whether the concept of diversification involves the use of entire plantations for the purpose of cotton growing or whether the concept of diversification involves the rotation of fields within plantations around sugar? I also want to know whether or not losses were incurred by ADC when they ploughed up first crop and second crop canes to plant cotton, whether or not ATX! has been compensated in any way by CARSICOT for that facility? I also want to know whether or not the Minister is aware that the person who was called upon to resign or leave Barbados in respect of that foreign exchange deal was not the person who was the beneficiary of the foreign exchange that was taken out of Barbados? I would like to know who the person is? I would also like to know the amount of money involved?

I would also like to know whether or not the person who is earning over \$12 000 and the one earning \$10 000, if they have even grown a field of nut grass or devil grass in Barbados, not to mention any other form of agriculture? And I would like him to tell us on what justification public funds can be put in a company that is going to operate in that way? I want to ask one final question: How much money, assuming that those two salaries amount to over \$300 000 a year or near there, how much would be the net profit that would be made on the export or the growth of \$3 million dollars worth in cotton.

The point I am trying to make is whether or not the growing and selling of \$3 million in cotton, would be enough to generate a net profit to pay just the salaries of 2 people? 5.55p.m.

I want to know whether a Secretary was paid \$5,000 and over per month, why *it is that she resigned from her post, and what was the kind of illicit transactions that she resigned in order to avoid any involvement in.

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, if I may continue, I want to know one final thing, whether or not the Ministry has been able to involve any private growers of cotton in Barbados in this particular project

Sir, I do not wish to put any pressure on the Minister at this Yuletide season, this I want to avoid, so before I take my seat, although I will not get any jug this Christmas, although I do not see many pea trees around, although I do not see any eddoes around at this time of the year, Sir, nonetheless I think that taking everything into consideration I would like to wish the Minister a very happy Christmas.

Mr. E. BOURNE: I hope that the training programme for fishermen will be conducted in the evenings.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Chairman, thank you very much. I only have 15 minutes and I want to spend the 15 minutes dealing with CARSICOT.

First of all, let me thank the Member for St. Thomas for his contribution. I think it was an able contribution and his concerns are the same as mine. Let me start by saying that my concerns are the same, to see Barbados in good agricultural husbandry. Having said that, let me say one thing. We start with the fact that the resource to bring Barbados into good husbandry is in private hands. Let me start by saying that. The agricultural resource in Barbados lies in private hands and Government can only act as a facilitator and Government policy as the guidance, but we are going to get to it.

Let me deal with CARSICOT early up front. I have been reading what was published on CARSICOT and I have been listening, and I have ordered my Permanent Secretary to provide me with all the information I have requested. I have asked for the audited accounts that are available. They have given me the unaudited statements for the first 15 months of operation, I have asked for the rest.

Let me put it right up front quite clearly. The Government's policy is one to maximise the resource from any part in Barbados, but the Government would not be part and parcel of any operation that is otherwise than integritous, and the Government will take whatever action necessary against any persons involved in anything otherwise. I give you that assurance.

I do not know it for a fact, but as my colleagues will tell you, when I first heard about the salaries of the two persons you are talking about, I spoke to the Head of the Civil Service, whom I directed at the time when my P.S. was leaving to go to the firm, to discuss with him the terms and conditions, since he was on secondment. He is still a Civil Servant. I did not think at that time it was necessary for me to involve myself in any of the discussions about salaries and what he was going over at. It was only when the disclosure was made that I then turned to the Head of the Civil Service and asked him please to inform me if that was so and what was happening, so that I could make a report. It is at that stage I was informed that he was not actively involved, the discussions were between himself and the Chairman, and I turned and asked the Permanent Secretary to get the terms and conditions of their employment. I have not got that in writing yet, but what I have been told is that the terms of the Managing Director of CARSICOT, his total emoluments, including salaries, allowances, travelling, entertainment, is a package of \$10,000 a month or \$120,000 a year. As soon as I get that in writing I will see if I have to instruct the members of the Board to do anything about that.

I understand that the same thing applies to the Managing Director of CARSISPIN. It is not true that the Chairman of the Board has never drawn a cent from CARSICOT. The other person involved, to whom he referred, who had to be dismissed, and I have asked for information on that, is no longer with the company. I have asked for reasons why he was dismissed and when those reasons are available to me, if the Government has to take any action, his work permit will be revoked.

Let me go on to say something else which the people of Barbados have to know. The people of Barbados must know of the concerted effort, and I will call it a plot, by the owners of land in Barbados not to grow a hole of cotton in order to embarrass this Minister and the Government.

Let me put what the facts are. CARSICOT was never intended to be in primary production, primary production was to have been done by the farmers of this country. We started the sea island cotton project when a Japanese came in and offered an inflated price of U.S. \$4.50 per pound for lint. At that time the people were getting \$1.90 per pound for seed cotton. The Japanese unilaterally moved out, offered us only \$2.90 and therefore we could not do it. The Leader of the Opposition has more facts than a lot of you have because he was in Japan and he negotiated on the Government's behalf. He knows that we had agreed to U.S. \$3.05 per pound for the cotton, which is \$6.10, and if it takes three pounds of seed cotton to make a pound of lint, out of which you have to take the ginning cost, how can you pay out of \$6.10 at the end price more than \$1.90 per pound for seed cotton? As a result "of that we did not accept it, and out of numerous enquiries Scothalls of Canada came along and offered us U.S.\$3.25 per pound, which was more than the U.S.\$3.05 per pound, and we went for that.

Because of my experience with the Japanese, I then insisted that we would no longer be only a primary producer but we had to do some value added by getting some processing done here. As a result of the sugar situation in Barbados, the planters in Barbados figured that the way to put this Minister, this Ministry and this Government under excessive pressure to give them whatever they wanted for canes, they got together and they decided that they would not plant a hole of cotton, and the Barbados Government was committed. We were in the situation where we had negotiations going on with the Japanese and right now there is a Japanese technical team in Barbados finalising arrangements. 6.05 p.m.

We expect to sign an agreement on Friday, but they wanted to embarrass this Ministry and this Government that we would be discussing with the Japanese and there would be no cotton growing in Barbados.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The asides are too loud by the Honourable Member for the City.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: As a result the Government of Barbados made a deliberate decision that we would lease CARSICOT to get into primary production. This year, and I am replying to the Honourable Member for St. Thomas, the position was a straight one where the private sector had promised the Ministry after numerous meetings that they would have grown 650 acres of cotton for this crop. At the last moment they withdrew and I would say it was a concerted plan to pressure the Ministry. When they withdrew, at the time CARSICOT had only planned to do 700 acres of cotton this year. Because they withdrew and we had to try to keep our total, CARSICOT planted much later than they should have planted, and as a result the crop that they planted late failed. I am the first to admit that that crop failed because of the situation into which they were forced by a concerted effort of the planter class in this Island. The time is going to come when I will tell the people of Barbados what the facts are. As you said, the crop that went in in time by Spencers is in excellent condition; those that were planted late because we were trying to make up the acreage because of late planting, the weeds caught up with them and we had to plough out some of those fields, but we have learned our lesson and now we are planning well ahead for the crop next year.

As I said, the situation is that there was a deliberate attempt to sabotage us. I believe in the project. It has had some difficulties. The Ministry is going to see that if there are any problems with any personnel at all in the sector, the Ministry and this sector will deal with them, and I would report at the appropriate time, when I have the time, because there is a lot that has to be said about what is going on in this country.

In the five minutes I have, let me deal with pork very quickly.

Asides.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: I have asked for that but I am told that the prime shareholders so far have injected over US\$500 000 in equity into the project. The Barbados Government has not done so yet, Antigua has not done yet, Montserrat has not done yet. It has been asked that the share call be in by 15th January. So far the only person who has injected in the equity is the Scothalls Company Limited, over US\$500 000.

On the point of the Government guaranteeing, it is important for me to state that of the guarantee by the Government, the company has only drawn down \$2 million out of that. The rest is available to any agro-industry in Barbados under the Canadian Scheme, so it is not fair to say that the Barbados Government has guaranteed a \$10 million loan to CARSICOT. That is not true. They are only entitled to withdraw \$2 million and the other \$8 million is available to any agro-industry in Barbados. There are thousands of

other questions that I am willing to answer, but time does not permit.

I will deal very quickly with the pork situation. The pork situation is such that you have to understand there is a four year cycle in pig production. You will find if you follow production that there is a cycle; you get a glut every four years, and I will go through this for you. I met only this week with the management of BAS and I have given the assurance and I once again issue to them to protect up to 75 per cent of the fresh pork market for them and they have not met the quota yet. This year they were only able to supply 46 per cent of the contract and it is because last year at Christmas, in order to maximise their input, they took out young gilts that should have been left for breeding; so early in the year they did not have any breeding stock, but we expect that in September of next year we will be back up to scratch and we will be able to produce whatever there is.

I have more concern than I believe most of you about the agricultural situation in Barbados but we have to understand that it is not as simple as it meets the eye. There has been a very deep-seated well orchestrated plan in this country to force this Government into giving the sugar interests whatever they call for, and if you don't the effort will be frustrated in the other sectors.

The question that Head 25 - Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 27 - METEOROLOGY

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 27 - Meteorology, stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 34 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE

Hon. C. V. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 34 - Ministry of Education and Culture, stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 36 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 36 - Ministry of Health - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Your Honour do now report the passing of one Resolution in Committee of Supply.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. P. M. GREAVES seconded by Hon. M. A. KING, the Resolution was read a first and second time and agreed to. 6.15p.m.

ORDER NO. 3: PARLIAMENT (ADMINISTRATION) BILL, 1989

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Parliament is at the centre of our democracy and our Parliament exists in order to pass laws for the good government, order and progress of our country and to provide the framework within which monies that are provided from the Consolidated Fund are spent for the purposes so appropriated. Parliament would, therefore, in that way carry out its function of scrutinizing expenditure.

But in order to carry out those very important functions, it is necessary for Parliament and members to be provided with the necessary support services so that the very important role and the functions which are allocated to it may be carried out with efficiency and expertise.

Parliaments, generally speaking, Sir, have been very tardy in looking at their own services and generally have been very tardy in introducing reforms which would up-date and enhance the capability of Parliament as an institution to carry out its functions.

Indeed, Sir, sometimes I believe that Parliaments spend more time looking at other institutions within a country and seeking to promote the social, economic and cultural advancement of the people of the country which the Parliament serves, than improving its own capacities and capabilities for doing the job which it has been set to do.

I think it is a very remarkable happenstance that in this year in which our Parliament is celebrating its 350th Anniversary of the coming into being of Parliament itself that as members of Parliament we would have an opportunity to examine the services which are provided for Parliament and the members thereof and seek to carry out a major up-date and revision of the way in which those services may be delivered and so we have before us today, Sir, a Bill entitled the Parliament (Administration) Act, 1989. The Objects and Reasons of this Bill are to revise the law relating to the administration of Parliament and to establish a Management Commission of Parliament.

It is expected, Sir, that subject to the passing of this piece of legislation, that this measure for the establishment of a Management Commission of Parliament will secure a more efficient administration and management of Parliament itself.

Basically, Sir, what this piece of legislation seeks to do is to give Parliament itself more certain, and, certainly, greater control over its own affairs over the services to be rendered to Parliament and it will, hopefully, look also at matters relating to accommodation although responsibility for that may be shared with other bodies.

The Bill, provides for a management and administrative framework through the establishment of a Management Commission which will be a statutory body and it will be the first time that for Parliament itself there would be a statutory body established in respect of the management and administration of Parliament.

The composition of that particular Management Commission is set out in the piece of legislation that we are considering. But, basically, the Commission will have responsibility for the appointment, promotion, discipline and related matters as they affect the staff of Parliament.

It will have responsibility in relation to services such as the Library Services, services relating to the Debates of Parliament, the services provided by the staff which produces the record of Parliament, services relating to the administration of Parliament and it will generally have powers of any statutory body which falls under the umbrella of the Interpretation Act, I believe, Section 21.

The Management Commission will be able to sue in its own name and to be sued. 6.25 p.m.

It will be able to employ staff. And generally, Sir, those powers that are available or which the Interpretation Act through Clause 21 permits statutory bodies to do, this Management Commission will be able to do.

The Commission would be responsible not only for appointment, discipline and promotion matters, but it will also have responsibilities in relation to the pay and conditions and related negotiations affecting the staff of Parliament.

The Commission also will receive from its staff an estimate of revenue and expenditure for a given year prior to such estimate being submitted to the Minister of Finance for inclusion in the general Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the country as a whole.

So I think we can see, Sir, that this particular piece of legislation is of the enabling kind. It creates a framework within which Parliament will be able to have a greater say in the management of its own affairs. Parliament itself will be taking the occasion to update its own capabilities so that it will be able, hopefully, to improve the kind of outputs that it produces on behalf of the people of the country.

I am commending this Bill to all Honourable Members. I do not think that there would be any disagreement with the principle of this piece of legislation. It repeals other pieces of legislation which were previously on the Statute Book and that includes the Parliament Debates and Establishment Act which made provision for the appointment for certain members of staff to Parliament including Reportorial staff and there are transition provisions which would ensure, depending on the wishes of the staff, for this particular purpose. I believe, Sir, there is everything to recommend this piece of legislation.

I am not claiming that it is a perfect piece of legislation. I believe there may be ways and means whereby it may be improved but I believe, Sir, that working with this piece of legislation, we can always come back at a future date, if any areas indicate the need for amendment, as experience shows itself, and seek to improve the legislation.

I would wish to point out that the Bill was circulated originally. I believe the original Bill was withdrawn for the purpose of giving a clean Bill with suggested or proposed Amendments. That clean Bill was circulated in cyclostyled fashion to Members and all Members present on that occasion received a copy. Subsequent to that, it is my understanding, Sir, that a printed copy was circulated but that printed copy itself had in some errors. The printed copy not the one that was circulated at the Meeting last week.

Aside.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Yes. I understand that.

Aside.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDDFORD: That is right. I will be proposing certain Amendments to the circulated bill in Committee and these relate particularly to the Third Schedule and the Amendments to that Third Schedule I believe should be in the hands of Honourable Members. I believe they have been circulated.

There are also some Amendments to be made to Clause 17 of the Bill and also to the Fourth Schedule, Part II. I think that the Attorney-General will deal with those questions of the Amendments.

But I would merely wish to state, Sir, once again that this is a most important piece of legislation and I believe that when we come to look at the history of Parliament in Barbados, this will be seen as one of the significant developments whereby Parliament is taking a fuller measure of control over its own services and the quality of services that may be available to Members.

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

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I second the motion moved by the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister and reserve my right to speak on this Bill.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are supporting this Bill of course. A Committee had looked at it so what has come here now is reflective of the decisions of the Committee which studied the first draft of the Bill.

What we are doing is in fact legalizing or putting in the form of a Bill a number of functions that were perhaps left to loose operation or administrative convenience. To that extent, it makes a significant departure from the past. 6.35 p.m.

By and large, Sir, I have no quarrel with it as such, but I want to take the opportunity to refer to a couple of matters which come under the authority and purview of Parliament and necessarily this Commission.

The first is the question of Hansard. It is disgraceful, it is indeed a scandal that Hansard has not been available to Members of Parliament and the general public since last year. We have had no proper or valid excuse for its absence from anyone on the Government benches, and most of all the Prime Minister who is Minister with responsibility for parliamentary affairs. A great disservice is being rendered to the public and to Members of Parliament.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You see, the Attorney General has been in such a petulant mood for the past couple of weeks, writing letters to the Press, attacking little Sergeants, females who cannot defend themselves and who are only expressing themselves, according to him and the Minister of Health at the meeting over there in the Square a few weeks ago. They said all this thing about lawlessness - it is not lawlessness, it is people who are now expressing their new found freedom - and when the Police expressed themselves in pursuance

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is totally irrelevant. What he is speaking about has absolutely nothing to do with the Bill before this Honourable House. I move that what he said be struck from the record, Sir.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: He provoked that, Sir, and whatever I said was absolutely true. Relevance on one side, but truth on the other, but let us leave that, Sir.

No one can complain that because I am a member of the Debates Committee of the House that I have responsibility for the publication of Hansard. Let the record reflect that the Debates Committee is called when the Speaker as Chairman determines that it should be called, and I am only one of ten. Since the Attorney General has provoked me into discussing the Debates Committee, let me also say....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Attorney General has not yet spoken. I understood he reserved his right to speak.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You may not have heard him, Sir, I heard him. I am only responding to what I heard, Sir, not what you may not have heard. It is also scandalous that the committee system has broken down. Let me just go through them, Sir. The Library Committee, under your chairmanship, Sir, or rather, your name appears first.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: In the absence of the Speaker.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I see here Library Committee. The following Honourable Members are members of this Joint Select Committee: His Honour J. J. Payne - I am reading from the thing, Sir - that means Joseph Josiah, I firmly believe that to be you, Sir. That Library Committee has not functioned. I exonerate you from any of my strictures because there are no brackets after your name with the insertion "Chairman" within the brackets as appear in relation to other Committees, so presumably that Committee is headless. It has never met because there is no one who is a Convener, but when I come to the Committee of Privileges

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: And indeed I may be minded to ask you where the Library is.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Do you mean the Public Library, Sir? The Committee of Privileges. I do not believe that that one has met in this Session. There are a number of matters that have been referred to it, but it has never met. The Committee of Public Accounts, that has been under the chairmanship of the respective Leaders of the Opposition, but let me explain that that has met certainly once, possibly twice, under the chairmanship of the Honourable Member for Christ Church West.

The problem with the Committee of Public Accounts has been that the former Chairman of that Committee, the late Mr. Barrow, never made any report and we do not know what has happened, so there has been no continuity and that posed a severe problem last time when we met with the Auditor General and a number of persons from that Department. What we understood was that Mr. Barrow had been writing the report, but he had either not finished it or he had lost it, but suffice it to say even for the year he was Prime Minister we were never able to have the report from his time.

My advice to the present Leader of the Opposition is quite simple, Sir. Let us pull the curtain and draw a veil down. Forget the past. Start fresh, because we cannot get any report from Mr. Barrow. That is a certainty.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: What I mean, Sir, is that we say we have no report for the time that he was Chairman of the Committee. Let us pick up from the last report - 1982, 1983 or whatever - and move on, so I am calling on the Leader of the Opposition to convene a meeting of this Public Accounts Committee as soon as possible, Sir.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order. Just to keep the record straight. The Honourable Member has called on me to get a meeting of the Public Accounts Committee going. My problem has been in fact that the infrastructure of the staff of Parliament, as you know, has been heavily caught up this year in a whole lot of other things. I had no pressing matter to bring before the Committee and I felt it only fair to wait until the beginning of next year, so there is no difficulty, providing the members of the Government will come and form a quorum.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before the Honourable Member continues, I think there are too many interruptions of the member's speech. Probably if you can keep your voices down a bit....

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, my call for an urgent convening of the Committee was not to be seen as a criticism of the Leader of the Opposition. I understand all the problems. What I am saying is let us get something going in the New Year and let us decide that we

will just abandon those years for which Mr. Barrow did not provide the report and start fresh. 6.45 p.m.

We can do it among ourselves and decide what year we are starting from and examine the accounts.

Sir, the Standing Orders Committee has never met, so that just from that brief survey of the Committee system, I think it is pretty evident that we have been very inactive and the Committee system has not really worked. It works well in Jamaica, it works well even in Trinidad where a lot of things don't work, and I know that we have the capacity to make the system of Committees work well in Barbados, and we must address ourselves to some of these areas of neglect in the last three and a half years.

Mr. Speaker, I really wish to hear about Hansard and the failure of its publication in the last year, because as I say, that is critical to a proper understanding and a proper monitoring and a proper following of what is happening in politics in Barbados.

Now Sir, I also wish to say that if the establishment of this Commission would ensure that perhaps we can now develop a strategy and a procedure in relation to CPA meetings, then I think it would be well worthwhile. I think Honourable Members know that I had a little difficulty with being a member of the delegation in October to a CPA conference, and my non-attendance had to do with what I conceive to have been a failure to follow certain procedures and norms. I had attended a few CPA meetings before, Sir, as recently as last year in Australia and in Mauritius in 1976 and I sympathise with the Honourable Minister of Health because it was his first CPA. He had just come from overseas and he had to do that without any proper, as he informed me and I believed him, coordination and background. Now I think that we can establish a simple procedure. In the first place it is my view, I may be wrong, that when Members are selected to be part of a delegation from Barbados to a CPA conference, they are representing Barbados, not any individual party, and we should seek not to wash our party linen in public all over the world. That is the first point I wish clearly established. I said that is my understanding and I have operated that way in the past. Members on the Government side who were with me in Australia last year would know that we took certain positions and put them irrespective of party as national positions representing Barbados, and I think we need to all understand that and get it across to our party people who are going to be members of delegations that you must not be partisan on these matters, you put your national position.

Secondly, I think we have to establish that whenever we are attending these international conferences, the delegation must be properly briefed, and by briefing I mean that, having regard to the topics on the agenda, research papers and background papers and material must be

provided for the delegation through the agencies of Government, if necessary through the University doing papers for us at the University, so that we can go armed with proper briefs. We must not see it only as an opportunity to see another country and another country's systems, but we must see it as an opportunity to represent Barbados to the best of our ability and having regard to the traditions for which Barbados has been known. I am not going to any international conference even on the simplest legal matter that I can talk from my head unless I am properly prepared to represent my country, and we have to devise a system where well in advance of attending the conference, the members of the delegation have proper background and working papers. Now we can do it. We see it in the other delegations which come to conferences, we see how well the Canadians are prepared, the Americans, the New Zealanders, the Africans, whoever, and we can do it, but it needs a system to be developed and followed.

Thirdly, I believe that the delegation should get together as a group to determine the topic for discussion, those which interest Barbados, discuss the points of view that we have to make and let the delegates who are going to speak go forward with a prepared position that represents Barbados. Last year in Australia we met and we decided what topics we were going to speak on, what line we would take and we went out and put that line. As I say, it was unfortunate that in the 350th year we were unable to operate with such cohesion, but I have thrown out those suggestions for the future organisation and operation of our delegations.

I had one unpleasant experience in Australia last year, and I never spoke of it before, but Hansard will have to carry it. I was a member of a Barbados delegation; we had two Despatch Boxes to present to the President of the Australian Senate. I was never invited to be a member of the delegation the morning they went to present the Despatch Boxes. I was a Member of the Opposition. I did not make any fuss about it because I tell my colleagues in the Barbados Labour Party that my time will come. I will suffer all the indignities and indiscretions and the bad treatment, but I will not forget it, because if I am representing Barbados, I expect to be a part of the team, and I took a very dim view of my exclusion.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am talking about the presentation of the Despatch Boxes to Sibraa. I was not invited the morning you all went presenting the Despatch Boxes. I heard about it later on. I don't know if it was intentional or not, but it did happen. You all have the photographs. I have not made a lot of fuss about it, because the Minister might say it could not have been intentional, it might have been an oversight. All I am saying is that it is in the larger point that I made that we must operate as a team.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I accept that it may have been an oversight. I think we have to be sensitive about these things. I like to see in these situations that we operate as a team and in the best tradition of Parliament. Last year in Australia the Malaysians were having a little war among themselves. Now I don't think that that went down well with many of us, certainly not with me, and I know that we have a little too much "couth" to behave like that. 6.55 p.m.

The Honourable Leader of the Barbados Labour Party will be speaking in relation to several matters under this Bill but, in particular, he is going to deal with it but I want to get my "lick" in too.

Having regard to the change of leadership of the Opposition in March this year, members of the staff of the former Leader of the Opposition were perforce terminated and in the Select Committee, we tried to make provision to ensure that some compensation would attend those of the personal staff who had been dismissed, particularly the Executive Assistant and the Maid.

We have provided in Part II of page 19 of the Bill that a gratuity at 20% of the total salary be paid to the Executive Assistant and Secretary of the Leader of the Opposition on the completion of at least 2 years' service, where the service terminated because the Leader of the Opposition ceased to hold that office and we really urge Government to look favourably on ensuring the recompense of those who had been terminated because of the change in the composition of the Opposition.

There would have been tremendous and, indeed, traumatic loss of salary which has impacted negatively, to my certain knowledge, in respect of the former incumbents and we are really making a plea for some attention to be paid as a matter of urgency. They cannot sue for.....

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS : The former Personal Assistant to the Leader of the Opposition.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: None of the staff has got any termination benefits since they were terminated in March. I think we are making provision under Clause 6...

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: No. We cannot sue and it was not a Statutory Board. They cannot sue the Crown. They were paid by the Crown.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: It may be a little farfetched for them to bring an action for inducing breach of contract and sue the Leader of the Opposition for that.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: That is no constitutional matter.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I take it that you are still addressing the Chair.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: In Clause 6 of the Fourth Schedule it says this:

"A gratuity at the rate of 20% of the total salary earned shall be payable to the Executive Assistant and Secretary of the Leader of the Opposition on the completion of at least 2 years' service, where the service terminated because the Leader of the Opposition ceased to hold that office."

So I think it is clear that they are caught and my friend the Honourable Member for St. Peter is joining...

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sorry. I will read it again. Under Part II of the Fourth Schedule, paragraph 6 it says:

"A gratuity at the rate of 20% of the total salary earned shall be payable to the Executive Assistant and Secretary of the Leader of the Opposition on the completion of at least 2 years' service where the service terminated because the Leader of the opposition ceased to hold that office."

Paragraph 8 says:

"Any person employed on the personal staff of the Leader of the Opposition immediately before the[^] commencement of this Act shall be treated for all purposes as if the appointment had been made as provided by this Act from the date of the appointment."

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The only problem is that this Act takes effect on a date to be fixed by proclamation, if I am not mistaken.

Aside.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are two Honourable members addressing the Chair? I am hearing two voices.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am on my feet, Sir. You should only hear me.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please address the Chair.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Ask the Minister of Health to keep quiet, Sir.

His wont is to be effusive at all times.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: It is my fault, Sir. From my Chair I was trying to help him out, struggling as he was with the principle, and now he is accusing me of being effusive. He is perfectly right. I promise him that the next time he gets into difficulty I shall keep my mouth shut.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I have not been in any difficulty, Sir. I was only drawing a problem that requires some humane response on the part of the Government to the Government's attention.

Finally, Sir, in relation to the physical conditions perhaps the Leader of the House would be able to tell us how soon :t is envisaged that we would get a little space downstairs, just a little room where the minority opposition could resort.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think those are all the comments I wish to make in relation to this Bill. As I said I had a hand in the final draft of this Bill so there is nothing more for me to say.

Dr.'R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I do not propose to make any major intervention on this matter because I believe that most of the points have been canvassed already but there is one arm of Parliament which I do not think is being addressed and which I consider, perhaps, to be more important than anything.

I have always held the view that to be a reasonably successful parliamentarian, there are three steps that have to be taken.

First of all, the acquisition of information. You have to get that information. The second step is to be able to digest the information which is made available to you and the third step is to be able to reproduce it in a manner that is effective in Parliament. These are the three steps that are necessary.

Now, there is very little you can do with the second step. That is the process of digestion. You cannot help many members if they arrive in Parliament in a state where they cannot digest the information available to them. There is nothing we can do and there is very little that can be done in terms of helping them to reproduce the information. But a lot can be done to make information available, readily available to Parliamentarians. Sir, I have spent many years

in Opposition, a short period in Government and one of the big problems that you have is that so much of your time has to be spent on the gathering of basic information for the purpose of effective debating. I think this is quite wrong. I think we need to have a library or some kind of information base that functions. 7.05 p.m.

In other words, Sir, if you want to find out what the Honourable Member for Christ Church West Central had to say about the police 4 years ago, it ought to be possible to make a call to Parliament and say, I want to find out exactly what the Honourable Member said about the Police Force in the last year or so. There is no one you can call and do that. About the only thing you can probably get is a publication. Ask for a publication, if it is available at Parliament. Now it is that kind of service that you need.

You have to rely on people leaving information in cars for you. People sending information through the post and this kind of thing. You have to rely on those sources when in fact all the information should be coming here out of Parliament. It just comes floating through the air. All kinds of things like that, but I am being very serious now, Sir. It is very important that we pay attention to this.

It is not enough to say you have a Librarian, it is not enough to say you have a library with books, periodicals and what not that very few people read. What is important is to try to establish that information base and to have it so structured that it can be of use to Members, otherwise what is the point of having these facilities? It makes it very difficult particularly for the young Parliamentarians when they come in here. They have to be at a lost for some time.

For many of us who have been around for a little while; a debate starts and something triggers something in your memory and you can pick up and go along. It can become very difficult indeed for people who do not have that background. I should like to see, Sir, that some thought be given to that kind of organization of an information base here in Parliament which can be useful to Members.

I have heard a lot of talk over the years about a library, a lot of talk about a librarian and I should like to submit that if you have the most elaborate library and you have the best librarian, unless that thing is organized in a functional way that relates to the activities of Members and the kind of informational requirements of Members, then you have a problem.

Sir, I run a medical office. I have an information base there. If someone calls me during he working hours when my Secretary is in my office, I can put through a call and there is certain basic information that is immediately available to me which would permit me to take a decision. Many of us here would have law offices. If you got the same call, you can call your office, you can call the

Secretary and there is certain basic information that can be made available to you.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Precisely. You can call your office and get information.

Your parliamentary life is another part of your activity. Who are you going to call to get any information of any relevance to what you are going to debate? It is a big problem. If, Sir, I wanted to establish a precedent as to whether an Attorney-General has ever in the past addressed police officers and attacked them in his speeches, where am I going to find a precedent? Who is going help me, Sir? These things are important. So that, whilst we have all these things available to us, I have no problem with that. But I should like to see that kind of base set up here in Parliament.

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I do not know. There are 2 levels of debate. One could talk for hours on the Floor of the House....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, please.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES:.....by simply looking at things in a fairly superficial way and probably responding to comments made and picking up on comments made by others. You can stay well within the Rules of the House and you can participate in a Debate at that level.

But there is also another level that requires basic and intensive research so that when you come here that you are really adding meat to a debate. And that is what I am talking about. That is the kind of debate that I enjoy. The one that is based on research where you have got all your facts and then when you come here, your problem is to marshal those facts, digest them and reproduce them. I would really like to see Parliament make a great leap forward in that direction. It is going to require more mental effort to do it than actual financial resources. But it is something that has to be done if Parliament is going to be more effective.

For example, Sir, there is no one who had better ideas on agriculture than the Honourable Member for St. Philip North. If we could get his speeches on agriculture in Opposition, Sir, it might be very useful now to him. You know there is an ancient Historian called Tacitus, one of his most famous statements has been *capax imperil nisi imperasset* he would have been a great Emperor if he had never been one.

Now, Sir, I really do not mean to attack the Honourable Minister of Agriculture. I am not really

attacking him. I am wishing him a Happy Christmas. I really want him to have a Happy Christmas and I am not going after him.

But, Sir, I am trying to make the point that if he could recall his speeches, in fact if many of us could recall our speeches in many areas, it would be of great assistance, of considerable assistance, either in helping us to perform as Ministers or avoiding pitfalls in subsequent speeches, or to perform as Leader of the Opposition.

I hope that I have made the point. I think that this tends to formalize the administrative structure of Parliament. I would consider this to be the next most important step that needs to be taken in relation to Parliament.

I find myself today not only in agreement with the principle of the Bill but as I say, in this festive season, you can freely say that you are in agreement with the principle of the Bill because we do not wish any unnecessary contention at this time of the year. But if there has to be contention, Sir, this would be understood always in the spirit of peace and goodwill to all mankind.

Thank you.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Christ Church West.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Bill before us is probably inspired, to a large measure, by a similar Bill which passed the United Kingdom Parliament in 1978. 7.15p.m.

That Bill for the administration of the House of Commons was passed after the Arthur Bottomley Committee reported in the Session of 1974-75 on the need to restructure Parliament to give it the proper legal status. To a large extent our Bill therefore borrows from the United Kingdom Bill and uses some of the provisions contained in existing legislation, the Parliament Debates and Establishment Act.

For those of us who follow these matters, it is not a bit surprising that we have almost, to a large extent, slavishly followed the ideas in the United Kingdom Bill. We have departed in some respects in relation to Constituency Assistant, but in the basic format and the provisions we have adopted the United Kingdom provisions. That is not to say that those provisions are bad or unworthy of us.

There are other precedents in other parts of the Commonwealth that we could have perhaps looked at. In my experience I find these days that the Canadians and the Australians have been providing very useful precedents, which in many respects are probably more germane to the

problems that are confronting a country such as ours. I would have hoped that this Bill probably would have gone to a Select Committee of both Houses of Parliament which would have given us an opportunity to look at improving it to a large measure.

Earlier today in a debate, Sir, I made the point that there are some areas of our public and civic affairs which should be approached on a non-partisan basis. I strongly believe that the administration of Parliament is one such area and that we should make every effort wherever possible to ensure that we provide adequately for the proper functioning of Parliament to avoid some of the pitfalls that I have witnessed occurring in this Parliament within the 18 years that I have had the privilege and the honour to serve.

If I may refer again to the Barbados Labour Party's Manifesto of 1986, and particularly to the heading of Parliament, the sentiment which the Prime Minister expressed is one that was mirrored as well by us in our Manifesto, that Parliament is crucial to the preservation of our democratic system. Both parties agree on that and that we have therefore to take measures to recognise its role as the supreme law making body in this country. This Bill is a step along that direction.

I believe that we have from time to time been taking *ad hoc* steps. For instance, the role of the Leader of the Opposition came to be fully recognised in our Constitution and provisions for that office to function were first made under the then Right Honourable Member for St. John's Government. There was an improvement on that under the then Right Honourable Member for St. Thomas and there is now a further improvement.

If there is one criticism I can make of these measures, it is that they are haphazard and tentative. Parliamentarians seem afraid to say to the country that if the country must be properly governed there are certain minimum number of measures and steps which must be taken and which have a cost. I have previously said in this House that I would like to see the questions of parliamentarians' salaries and pensions put beyond the partisan level. It does not make sense in this day and age for me to argue, even on behalf of my own party if the party mandated me so to argue, that a Minister must not be properly paid. When I examine the level of salaries available to people performing less onerous offices I realise that at the level of Assistant Bank Managers and further down they are better paid than Ministers^f Government are. That is the first point I want to make.

When it comes to pensions, I know that there is a varying view as to what age a person should be pensionable, but I think one has to take into account the problems confronting parliamentarians, and I regret to say that I have seen some ex-parliamentarians who have given tremendous service, who at the end of the day have a hard time living. They are not all like myself or you, Sir, who

might have professions and they can come in and fall back on those professions, but I have seen Members of Parliament who when they lose their office have to go out again and they have no profession to follow and you find that they are again hard placed and at the whims and fancies of people, some of whom would deride them, laugh at them and set them up to scorn and derision.

I think one has to get it into the psyche of Barbados that we have passed the stage where only the Sealys, the Piles and the Bowrings and that sort of person could come, and serve in the House, because when they looked back they had their estates behind them, they had their businesses behind them. They arranged contracts in such a way that they never suffered and they could go back to directorships, something that does not happen in here to a large number of our people.

This is nothing new that I have said. I have always taken this stand in this Parliament from day one. I believe that you will find if there is one thing the Prime Minister and myself have been consistent on, even sometimes not keeping fully in step with our parties' position, it was this particular point, because I believe it is important to preserve democracy, that we should reach the stage where people understand that the cost of running Parliament, not at exorbitant or beyond fantastic limits or means of everybody, there is a cost that must be met, and I do not believe that that should at this stage of our democracy in our 350th year cause a division between us.

That is one of the reasons why I support constituencies having Assistants, and why I believe that there should be some supplement given to Members of Parliament to run their constituency offices. You will not find me making that any issue at all.

There may come a time, and I think the political parties have to get down and educate the public about this, where certain costs of elections must be publicly funded. It will save the political parties the ignominy of hearing people say that we are in the pockets or the pay of A, B or C. I would strongly recommend that we look at the provisions in Quebec, Canada and elsewhere which show quite clearly that if you get a certain percentage of the votes a certain percentage of your election expenses becomes a charge on the public weal. I hope we can get to that stage in this country that the political parties are not fighting about that. I believe the people will understand it if it is properly put forward to them.

Now, Sir, Honourable Members have spoken ,

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I agree with the Honourable Member for St. Michael West that the returns of what you spend in an election should be realistic. When we look at

them sometimes we must ask ourselves a few questions that I will not put into the debate now. I have been in Parliament for 18 years and I have never been challenged at election court, but I would want to say this. Some of the manoeuvres that one enters into to appear to keep within the law, if they were challenged I could not guarantee my friend, the Honourable the Attorney General, that they would withstand the scrutiny of the Privy Council. There are certain problems there.

Other Members have spoken about providing facilities for Members of Parliament. Research facilities should be available to us. I was speaking to the Honourable Member for St. John outside in the corridors of the House making the point that there are not these facilities, and although I am 18 years now in this House, I find that sometimes we come here to discuss a measure and you are running around trying to find background material in order to make a useful contribution to the debate. 7.25 p.m.

There are times that you yourself have to do the research, walk into the libraries to do it. Now I go to Canada, the Province of Ontario, any of the Provinces, the United Kingdom and those facilities are there as a matter of course to assist a group of Members of Parliament that they can do the people's business in a much better way. We are not doing it for our own self aggrandisement; it is that the debates would be worthwhile and we hope out of that that you would get better Government. The same goes, Sir, for the Committee system. The reason why the Committee system here is not functioning is not because any of us don't want to serve on the Committee, it is because the money available to the Committees, the staff available to Parliament is limited. The Committee itself has not got research facilities. That is an area of weakness and I believe that we are 350 years on and that as political parties we must discipline ourselves and say that these are areas that we will approach in a bipartisan mood and spirit.

The other thing I want to talk about is the role of the backbenchers. The backbencher can only be more effective if his role is enhanced and he is given an opportunity to function in this way, and similarly the Honourable Leader of the Opposition spoke about being able to accept readily information that would allow him to know what is going on at a particular time and where to do research, whether it is about the privileges of Parliament or otherwise. That is another area.

I am happy to say, Sir, that our manifesto in 1986 addressed these problems and I just refresh my memory, and you will notice that under the head - it is already a document of this House - we made the point that with bipartisan approval we will restructure, modernise and strengthen the Committee system. We made a point of saying we would establish a bipartisan Committee to consider ways in which the role of the private Members can

be enhanced, and we made a point of saying that with bipartisan support we would make improvements in the legislative process and procedures of the Assembly and update the laws and rules on Parliamentary privileges.

I wish to underscore that, Sir, because I read one of our leading Clerics abroad in New York a week or two ago saying that the two main political parties have got at each other, that they are so polarised and what not, and I do not believe that that type of statement is properly researched, because they will find - I have to make this point - that there are areas of public life in which that polarisation that he speaks about does not exist and that there happens to be an agreement on certain basic fundamentals as to how Barbados should be governed. I really must make that point very strongly in the debate, because I hate to see these statements being made, particularly made abroad, and going unchallenged when really if he had done his research he would find that that statement is wide of the mark.

Now, Sir, on this Bill there are a couple of points which arise. My friend, the Honourable Member for St. Thomas has already raised the position of my staff when I was Leader of the Opposition and I have had various conversations with the Honourable Prime Minister and the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister, Sir, and I am satisfied that arrangements will be made to treat the staff in no less favourable a position than this Bill is providing, I take their word on this matter, and I do not intend to go any further on the matter.

The only point that I wish to ask the Committee to seriously consider, if we want to do it, is under Clause 5 of the Bill. The Commission can delegate any of its functions to the Chairman who is Mr. Speaker, and it can also delegate to the Clerk any functions concerning the staff of Parliament. Now, Sir, the functions of the Commission include the appointment, discipline and control of the staff of Parliament, and I am a little bit concerned when it comes to discipline that we should be in a position of delegating that power right down the line. I also feel, Sir, that perhaps this is an area in which there should be some minimum rules of natural justice applying as apply to offices, and I would have thought that if we had the opportunity, I don't know whether it can be done here at the time, it takes a little time to redraft, but perhaps even if we go to a second reading before the matter clears the Senate - I doubt whether it would clear the Senate this week - that the Honourable Attorney General would look to see how we could restructure those provisions to give some protection to the staff.

There is usually in the civil service at the moment a procedure which gives a person who is an office holder an opportunity if they are charged for a charge to be given to them and for them to be heard on the charge to some extent, and you will probably find the rules under the Police Service Commission not as elaborate, but even at the level

in the Police Force right down, they too are given some provision to be heard, and I think Parliament should extend similar provisions. The Attorney General says it will apply under the Administrative Justice Act. Once he is absolutely certain about that, but I am not that sure that it will go that way. The other point I must say is that I agree he has preserved the role of the trade unions in respect of the employment of staff, representations to be made by them, but I am concerned about that delegation power which goes as far down as it goes here in relation to members of the staff of Parliament, and that would include Deputy Clerks. I would exclude discipline. I think that discipline is a matter in which Mr. Speaker should have some initial power to probably suspend, but I think the overall question of the discipline of members of staff should go to the Commission as a whole.

I have been in this House and seen the House having to vote on disciplining a Clerk of Parliament. I suppose some of us went along with it, but it has always bothered me in my mind that the matter should be dealt with where the Clerk's performance becomes a matter of debate and could become very partisan. I think this is a matter that should be dealt with in a different manner, Sir.

I don't intend to delay the House. I gave an undertaking only for fifteen minutes, but I will get another opportunity some time to expand a bit on my thoughts concerning how we should administer Parliament.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until 8.15 p.m. this evening.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly. 7.35p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed. The Honourable Member for St. John.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I just wish to be brief in raising one or two matters relating to this particular Bill which I give support to in relation to the establishment of the Management Commission of Parliament.

I want to say that I agree with some of the points that were raised in the discussion by various speakers and I wish to highlight one or two of the considerations that I think are critical. Although this strictly was not a debate about the

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, there were some points raised by the Honourable Member for St. Thomas which I think were important.

Now, Sir, the majority of us do belong to such an association and it gives us the opportunity to learn about how other Parliaments function and how other parliamentarians in other parts of the world consider their rulings in relation to Parliament and the first conference I went to I think was in Bermuda and, as you would know, Sir, I expressed the concern then and you allayed my fears yourself about what I considered to be the somewhat-haphazard way in which the parliamentarians are prepared for such conferences.

Now, I am not sure whether parliamentarians going to those conferences go as delegates of their particular countries and therefore have to come to any common position on anything but I still say, Sir, that to some extent, I think that, perhaps, we could achieve a lot more if we had some kind of collaboration prior to going and if we, as parliamentarians, treated it as an opportunity to, perhaps, come to positions on one or two issues which affect us.

I think that the Clerks of Parliament, at least, in that case and on several of the other visits that I have been to - I have only been to two - had a very formative role in assisting in helping the parliamentarians who attended to be prepared for the event and that is something that should be commended and it, perhaps, highlights the significance of the role of the Clerk of Parliament in the context of the Barbadian Parliament in the sense that they represent continuity but they also have to have a wide knowledge and experience about how Parliament functions and how the agencies that function around Parliament relate to individual parliamentarians.

One of the concerns that was, therefore, raised was the question of the non-partisan nature of debates on exercises like that and that is a very important consideration.

I myself was very disturbed during the CPA Conference that was held here when it was brought to the attention of the Barbadian public that one of the delegates to that particular Conference had taken a particularly partisan position on the question of illegal drugs and practically chided the Barbados Government for, as it was said then, doing nothing about the situation relating to drugs in Barbados. Now, not only did it appall me, but I think that one of the delegates actually went on television the same night and indicated that he was gravely concerned about that.

Now, I do not know what the basis of the comments was but what I do know is that as parliamentarians, perhaps, some of us do not have as fine an appreciation of how organisations like the CPA should function and I feel that, perhaps, there might be an opportunity for the older

Members of Parliament who have experience in these things to pass on their knowledge of what I would call the fitness of things at such Conferences to the younger and newer parliamentarians and I really feel that it was a tremendous disservice to Barbados to have witnessed that kind of criticism, particularly, when a conference is being hosted here in Barbados and I think in a sense it did a disservice to the Parliament that we serve and it is something that should, perhaps....

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Well, it would have. I was really concerned. I read a letter in the newspaper about it subsequently but it really touched a raw nerve to hear a Barbadian parliamentarian at a conference take a position that was purely partisan and it simply was not what one would call the fitness of things or it was not critique.

It was illogical and then, as I said, to hear another 'parliamentarian who obviously had strong partisan views himself speak about how he feels those views should be suppressed, personal views and even strict partisan views in the context of a Parliamentary Conference, it demonstrated, perhaps, the effect that that approach had on the delegates at that particular Conference so I feel that, perhaps, we should have some concept before we go on how the CPA functions and what the duties of parliamentarians are regarding the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

Now, Sir, the other point that I want to raise relates to the question of the research capabilities of the present arrangements.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: No. The Honourable Member for the City knows because he is the person who put it into my mind. I had forgotten it but I heard him telling the Honourable Member for St. George South that the Honourable Member for St. Thomas was talking about that parliamentarian. I then recalled the particular instance but it would not have come to my head just like that.

I did not think he would have trapped himself in that way but he is the one who reminded me because I believe he was equally as concerned. I think that when he was speaking about it that he was speaking out of a concern that, perhaps, the person did not know better, and that is not a criticism, it is just that the person did not know better I think that persons should understand the nature of conferences like these.

Anyway, Sir, I had gone on to another point which relates to the research capabilities of Parliament and again this is one of the areas of grave concern. I agree with most of the points that have been made by persons who feel that not only the library but the staff to assist in research should

be provided and I think that the Management Commission should, perhaps, look at that particular issue very early up in its deliberations because it is very difficult, particularly, for back benchers.

It is very often true that members of the front bench have access to information that we do not have access to. A lot of this information might very well be here. A lot of the members of the front benches have already been in Parliament and they have ideas of debates that have taken place before but persons on the back bench seem to be at a distinct disadvantage in relation to the library and the facilities that Parliament offer and every time, for example, that I want a previous debate, I have to rely on the knowledge of the Clerk as to where that debate can be found and that, to me, is a totally unsatisfactory situation.

The other aspect of the Management Committee's work which is not mentioned in the Bill, but which I think is important, relates to information on Parliament and what I should call public awareness about Parliament and I believe that as it presently stands, I do not know who arranges the visits to Parliament by special interest groups or by schools, and that kind of thing, but I believe that the Management Commission should consider this as part of its duties and, perhaps, the Act could designate this, to organize public awareness about Parliament, to encourage people to visit Parliament and to make provision for their visiting Parliament and understanding how Parliament functions because as it stands, although we have some pretty expensive and attractive equipment, we have not got to any stage in Barbados where parliamentary debates are televised and we, therefore, have to rely on regular visits by schools and other agencies to see how it functions. 8.30p.m.

But there is no co-ordinated programme. Perhaps the Management Commission could consider ways and means of encouraging people to come to Parliament to see how it functions and to understand how Parliament relates to their well-being and their lifestyle. In addition to that, there is the question of the press and the frequent criticism that we get about arrangements for the press in Parliament, whether those criticisms are valid or not. Perhaps the Management Commission could also consider ways and means of improving the relationship between Parliament and the press in terms of information that goes out in terms of facilities for the press and that kind of thing. I think that that is important.

All in all, Sir, in recent times, there has been a serious attempt to upgrade not only the facilities of Parliament but many aspects of the functioning of Parliamentarians. We recently had the provision of rental for constituency offices, we recently had the addition of the Constituency Assistants, we have had the upgrading of the surroundings of Parliament and we have had public awareness which was generated by the 350th Anniversary of Parliament. I believe

that this Government has committed itself to ensuring that Parliament is given greater priority just as it has in many other areas including the question of legal affairs and that kind of thing. The Government should be commended for this particular effort.

With those few words, Sir, I should like to give my full support to the Bill and I look forward to the Management Commission not only being a body that reacts to issues that relate to Parliament but one that is creative in getting involved in the management of organizational aspects of Parliament, the administration and also the question of public awareness in relation to the visits by persons to Parliament and information about the functioning of Parliament.

Thank you, Sir.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Sir, I want to lend my support to this Bill currently being considered by this Honourable House because, for one, it is seeking to achieve a better administration of Parliament in giving it a defined administrative structure within the context of a corporation sole.

In some respects, although I do not agree with the Member for Christ Church West when he said that it slavishly follows the English legislation on the subjects, in some respects it does follow the House of Commons Administration Act of 1978, but I do not agree that it slavishly follows that Act. Because for one, the administrative structure is different and the whole approach to the management of Parliament and the way Parliament conducts its business is different. But the whole approach is a commendable one. I believe that we might have to come back from time to time to tighten the legislation as we realize and as we notice what errors we make from time to time and we may be able, according to our experiences, to tighten the administrative arrangements in this regard.

Now the bulk of my remarks, Sir, I would want to concentrate in the area of research, Research Assistants. From time to time in the short time I have been here occasion has arisen for me to want to check Debates. On one occasion I remember it was the occasion when we were paying tribute to, I think it was, Cyril Washington Miller and I remember that he was noted for one speech he made in this Honourable House and I sought to find the debate, I think it was a 1953, 1954 debate and I could not find it. They did not have any Record of it in the Library of the House at the time. I do not know if the debate has since been retrieved, recovered. But it occurred to me at that time that we were lacking in one area in our own approach to research and Research Assistants in Parliament.

In a lot of the cases we depend heavily on the Clerks and they do a very fine job in trying to remember where we could find Debates and things like that. This brings into

question the need for indexing of debates. It would be a very tall order at this stage I believe for us to get involved in such an exercise. But I am certain that it is not beyond our capacity. We have very well trained librarians in Barbados, librarians who have been exposed to a lot of systems of management of libraries and so on and I am certain that we would be able to achieve this if we only set out to do it.

I had occasion to visit the House of Commons Library in London in 1987 and I was amazed at the easy manner in which the librarians of the House of Commons could retrieve information when Members of Parliament, Members of the House of Commons ask for that information. I think this is one area where we are very weak in our administration of Parliament in the area of research and how we may be able to get at information.

It is also important because from time to time depending on my memory I have noticed that Members who have had a very long time in Parliament, 18, 20 years or so have from time to time shifted their positions in relation to certain matters. During the course of the debates on Civil Service salaries I had read some of the old Debates and it occurred to me that 1 or 2 Members were shifting their position and I was wondering whether it had anything to do with the exigencies of the moment.

I am convinced, Sir, that if we had an expanded research staff that Members would be able to keep tab, keep some account of positions that they held in previous Debates on similar matters. One's consistency in parliamentary life, I have come to learn and understand, is very important especially on key issues. I do not know if we are as issue oriented, as for example, politicians are in America - Members of the House of Representatives, Members of the Senate are in America. But it is of importance to them that they are regarded as being consistent on issues of great importance.

Speaking for myself I should like to see that we expand the Library staff of Parliament, that we have them trained some more. We might want to send them on training courses to other Parliaments abroad to see how things are done in the area of indexing of information, in the area of acquisitions for expanding our libraries and things of that nature.

We have lovely and salubrious surroundings, well air-conditioned, well carpeted and so on. We have the latest in technology in terms of sound and that kind of thing. But all of this will come to naught or we would not be able to use it effectively if we do not have that supporting staff. It is important that we have the supporting staff. The supporting staff must not only be able to take down our debates verbatim but that staff would have to be able, when called upon, to retrieve information that we ask for. For example the time might come when some Minister is delivering

himself of some position and it might occur to me, having heard him before, that he might be deviating or slightly changing his position and I might want to attack him on that to bring his attention to bear on the fact that he is now changing his position and to seek an explanation from him as to why.

One might want to exploit these situations and if we do not have staff that could retrieve the information for us when we want, or even if we do not have staff, that we have a system where we can go and retrieve it; a system that is based on proper indexing and so on, then I fear that we would not be in a position to do that.

When the Reports are published from period to period, one is able to look at the back of that Report, the last page or so and find out on which page a contribution was made. When Hansard is published you do not see a similar thing done there. I do not think in the bound volumes there is no mention that on page 2878 somebody made a contribution and so on. 8.40 p.m.

These are things I would like to see attended to. Of course, this would call for more money and so on. We always seem to be talking about expenditure and expenditure control, but I do not know whether we could not achieve what I want to see achieved, given the budget that we have at the moment, but this is something we have to look at very carefully.

The Member for St. John spoke about access to information, that as back benchers one should have access to information. When I was a member of the Democratic Labour Party I always thought that that was necessary. From time to time Ministers would come in and speak on matters of which I had no knowledge, but I have since come to realise that in a lot of cases there is need for secrecy and it might not be the best thing in each case, or it might be inadvisable in most cases, to give information in the circumstances that the Minister spoke about. Of course, if you had access to information you would be better prepared for debate, but in keeping with the parliamentary system of government and the ministerial system of government I wonder how advisable it would be to expose that information to back benchers, whatever kind it is. Of course it might vary from debate to debate, but that is another thing.

In terms of accommodation and the upkeep of Parliament Buildings, I believe that the Management Commission of Parliament might be in a better position, given this tighter arrangement, to keep an eye on accommodation, the necessity for maintenance from time to time, and when the buildings have been fully restored the Management Commission would be in a position also to advise as to their upkeep. It is for this reason, Sir, that I think the Bill is a good thing.

One last thing I want to speak about is this. I would like to see a system where we can codify rulings that are made by the Chair during a Session. A lot of procedural material is buried in the debates of Parliament. Mr. Speaker, you, the Chairman of Committees and the Deputy Speaker from time to time would make rulings as to what should obtain in any given situation, but a lot of these rulings are forgotten the moment we leave these buildings, and I was wondering if in keeping with my earlier support for the view that we should have some more research assistance, whether at the end of each Session it would not be a good thing if we had a codification of the rulings, so that from Session to Session we would be able to establish a body of precedent for regulating our procedure and we would not have to slavishly rely on May's Parliamentary Practice for guidance.

I think in a lot of respects our rules are slightly different from the rules that May's pronounces upon and it calls for sometimes instinctive ruling as to what ought to obtain in any given situation. I know that when I was Chairman of Committees there was an area of interpretation of the rules in which I differed slightly from you, Mr. Speaker, and it would be a good thing if these things could be codified so that we would at least appreciate the need for clarity in the rulings that come from the Chair, that people would be better apprised of the rulings that are given from time to time, that people would become more and more aware of what is proper parliamentary procedure and what kind of behaviour is expected in given situations.

These, Sir, are some of my thoughts on how I think we ought to proceed once the Management Commission for Parliament is established. In the area of research assistance and in the accommodation and upkeep of Parliament Buildings and what I consider to be the need to codify rulings given by the Chair, I would certainly want to see these suggestions taken up and worked upon with a view to allowing for the proper and more efficient administration of Parliament.

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

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee.

Clauses 1 to 4 inclusive were called and passed.

Clause 5 was called.

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, in relation to Clause 5, the Honourable Member for Christ Church West had made a point in relation to the functions of the Clerk in

relation to discipline, and had made the point that the power to delegate functions in relation to delegation to the Clerk, should not extend to the matter of discipline of the staff of Parliament. That is a view, Mr. Chairman, with which we concur and in the circumstances I am suggesting an amendment to Clause 5(l)(b) to insert the words "other than discipline" in brackets after the word "functions" and before "concerning". 8.50 p.m.

"The Commission may delegate to the Clerk any function (other than discipline) concerning the staff of Parliament."

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I beg to move that Clause 5 as amended stand part.

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

The question that Clause 5 as amended stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clauses 6 to 16 inclusive were called and passed.

Clause 17 was called.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, in moving that Clause 17, I wish to propose an amendment and that relates to the marginal note which now reads "Amendment of First Schedule to Cap. 30. Cap. 30." I believe the second Cap. 30 should be deleted.

Only one is required, so the amendment is for the deletion of one of the Cap. 30's.

I beg to move that Clause 17 as amended stand part.

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

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

Clause 18 was called and passed.

The First Schedule was called and passed.

The Second Schedule was called and passed.

The Third Schedule was called.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, in moving the Third Schedule, there is a minor amendment that I wish to propose and that is that the bracket should be extended to include typist with the Senior Reporter etcetera, and then over the page to delete the words opposite "Typist".

I beg to move that the Third Schedule as amended stand part.

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

The Fourth Schedule was called.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that this be the Fourth Schedule to the Bill, but there is an amendment which the Honourable Member for Christ Church West Central will move.

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, first of all let us start with 7(1). Clause 7(1) says a gratuity at the rate of 4 weeks' pay for each year of service shall be payable, etcetera. This is in Part n of the Fourth Schedule. Subsection (2) sets out to define what a week's pay is, so that in order to ensure consistency in language, as it stands it talks about one week's pay. 9.00 p.m.

Now, there is no reference to one week's pay in 7(1) so that in order to make the language right, the amendment I propose is to delete the (1) after the subparagraph (to delete that one in brackets) and also to delete the words "week's pay means" and we are going to substitute after the word "sub-paragraph" and before the words "the total pay" the words "a week's pay shall be". That clause will now read:

"For the purposes of sub-paragraph (1)..." I said delete (1). I am sorry. We do not delete (1).

"For the purposes of sub-paragraph (1) a week's pay shall be the total pay earned during the 104 weeks immediately preceding the date on which the service referred to in that paragraph terminated, divided by 104."

Is that clear, Sir?

Aside.

Hon. M. A. KING: The quotation marks are to be taken out of there. It is without quotation marks and "weeks" should be an apostrophe "s" - "a week's pay shall be...."

I move that the Schedule, as amended, be the Fourth Schedule.

The question that the Schedule as amended be the Fourth Schedule to the Bill was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On motion of Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, seconded by Hon. M. A. KING, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to Mr. SPEAKER, the passing of one Bill, as amended, in

Committee and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 5.

ORDER NO. 5: RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE BORROWING OF SPECIFIC SUMS OF MONEY FROM VARIOUS BODIES TO ASSIST IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PHASE I OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PLANNED TENANTRY AND SUBSIDIARY ROAD PROGRAMME

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this loan is to put in place the Government financing for the tenantry road development programme. The Addendum is a pretty full Addendum and I do not propose to go into details about this particular matter.

I therefore beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

ORDER NO. 6: RESOLUTION TO BORROW SUMS OF MONEY TO ASSIST IN FINANCING THE PURCHASE OF CAPITAL GOODS AND SEMI-CAPITAL GOODS DURING THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1989-1990

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, this is the second such loan that we are entering into. It provides a line of credit for some years for the purchases under the capital development programme. It is a technique which the House is very familiar with.

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

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

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

ORDER NO. 7 (RESUMED): RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE EXPLANATORY NOTE TO HEAD 72

On motion of Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD seconded by Hon. B. M. TAITT, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee of Supply, Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE in the Chair. 9.10p.m.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, the Data Processing Unit is in possession of certain computing equipment and it is well known that such equipment needs

air-conditioning facilities so that they may operate under optimum conditions. It is therefore necessary to provide such air-conditioning equipment and funds are available for the purchase of equipment, I believe, at a cost of some \$80 000. Funds are available under Head 72, Ministry of the Civil Service, Subhead 2, Object No. 25 Plant, Equipment and Furniture. But in order to utilize this available provision the Note for Object 25 would have to be amended to read as follows:

"Includes provision for the purchase of disk drives and internal storage (memory) associated equipment and an air-conditioning unit."

I beg to move, Sir, that the Note be so amended.

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

The question that Head 72, as amended, stand part was put and was resolved in the affirmative without division.

ORDER 7 (c): RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE NOTES
TO CERTAIN HEADS AND SUBHEADS OF THE
ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE 1989-90
AS SET OUT IN THE SCHEDULE
TO THE RESOLUTION

HEAD 25 - MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE,
FOOD & FISHERIES

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Chairman, this is to amend the Note Subhead 7, Item 25 Plant, Equipment and Furniture to read:

"Provide for filing cabinet, desk, desk chair, anemometer, tilting syphon, eight-day clock, stereoscope and accessories."

I beg to move, Sir, that the Head be so amended.

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

The question that the Head be so amended was put and was resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Chairman:

"Subhead 9 - Plant Protection,

Object No. 25 - Plant, Equipment and Furniture amended to read as follows:

"Provides for plant tissue colour chart, filing cabinet, hot plates, kettles, bunsen burners, cylinders, floor fans and mist-blowers."

I beg Sir, that the Head be so amended.

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

The question that the Head be so amended was put and was resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: I beg to move, Sir, that Subhead 18, Fisheries Department:

"Object No. 25 - Plant, Equipment and Furniture" be amended to read:

"Provides for desk, desk chairs, chairs, guillotine, clock, adding machine, filing cabinets and a storage cabinet."

I beg, Sir, that the Head be so amended.

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

The question that the Head be so amended was put and was resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 36 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, during the last Estimates, when the Estimates came before this Honourable * Committee there was a Note which was inadvertently left out and as a result, although the money was voted the chairs could not be purchased. We therefore need to change the Note and I beg to move that this Head stand part, Sir.

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

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

HEAD 74 - MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD ^m
AND FISHERIES - SUBHEAD 16 - MARKETS

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, Head 74, I beg to move that the Head for the sum of \$329 000 to take care of Professional Services, stand part. These are funds in connection with the census that is being conducted now. Funds are required to meet the balance due to inspecting the census for agriculture, the Government Analyst funds for the purchase of laboratory equipment and other supplies.... ^

Aside.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that Head 74, Subhead 16 stand part.

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

CHAIRMAN: The question that Head 74....

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Sir, my friend from St. Michael West in a little bit hustling. He is a bit premature. I really have to make a brief intervention on the question of markets.

I am very concerned at the fact that the Superintendent of Markets, the head administrative person of markets has been acting for an extraordinarily long time and no appointment has been made to the post. I consider that part of the difficulty we are having with the administration of the markets relate to the fact that there is a certain frustration in people having to be acting in this position. Whilst I recognize that it is not the Minister's role to appoint such a position, I think it should be drawn to the attention of the appropriate service commission that it is not proper to have someone acting in a post such as this for such a long time.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I do not mind, Sir. Bad precedents do not make good law as the Honourable Member for St. Michael West would know, Sir. I am not going to be hamstrung at all by the past where it is necessary to chart new ground properly for the future.

The Honourable Member will know that I will not be bogged down by that. Whilst I recognize precedents I only look at precedents that are relevant and good.

In this case, Sir, I am really concerned that it seems....

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: No, Sir. I began by saying that I am not laying the non appointment of any particular person, whoever is the relevant person, at the door of the Minister. But I am saying that what we must try to do is to get into the system and draw to the attention of the Public Services Commission and the relevant Commission the fact that this in a very important post. The holder of the post interfaces with people at all rungs of the socio-economic ladder and particularly with persons who have to use the markets to eke out a living. If you are not getting the feeling that people in their jobs are secure, that they know where they are going, Sir, you do not get the same efficiency that one would expect.

In this case, it has been drawn to my attention that the post has been an acting post for a very long time. The authority that would have come from appointment is obviously not completely there and I would wish that some effort should be made to get the relevant service commission to make a decision on what, in my view, is an important post within the Public Service. I think that that would help us sort out some of the problems that have been occurring in the markets. 9.20 p.m.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I just wish to say that the Honourable Member's recommendations to the House are well taken on this side. There are a number of instances in the Public Service where people have been acting for an inordinately long time. I have spoken in this House before of an officer in the Ministry of Health who acted for 17 years and who left finally out of frustration. I have instances of persons in the hospital who have been acting for seven and eight years, and I feel that there is something wrong with a system where persons can be acting for such long inordinate times. I feel that after two years or thereabouts any system should be able to determine whether the person who is acting in it is capable of performing the functions.

The political arm of the governmental system has no say in these appointments and the Public Service Commission is entrenched.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I am not getting into that. The system we have does not allow for the political arm to get involved in these permanent posts. I thought the Honourable Member was getting up to say that he had reached the stage now where he is prepared to, as he said, chart new courses and break new ground and make certain recommendations about the involvement of the political Head of the Service. If he is not going any further than he has gone, then there is nothing new to say, Sir.

Left to the political arm of the Government, no one would act longer than two years, but the system requires that this process be gone through.

The question that the Head be so amended was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

7(d) - SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1989-90, Part II - CAPITAL

A Resolution for the sum of \$329 857 was called.

HEAD 74 - MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND FISHERIES

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Chairman, this sum of money under Capital, required under Subhead 1 - Administrative Complex, is to pay the expenses of the census that has just recently been concluded on the 15th of this month, \$121,000.

Under Government Analysis, this is to pay for the cost of laboratory equipment and other supplies ordered from overseas through Central Purchasing. These items did not arrive in time to allow payment to be made during the last financial year.

The amount for the Veterinary Diagnosis Service, \$11,800, equipment and supplies ordered through the Central Purchasing Department did not arrive in time to permit payment, and an amount of \$39,300 supplementary funds is required to purchase a high pressure machine, a refrigeration unit, small fittings and piping. These items are considered necessary. A high pressure washing machine is necessary for the cleaning of all frozen working surfaces.

It is also necessary to have the note to 74.16 amended to read as follows: "Provides for the development of a new market, repairs to existing markets and remedial structural work at the Bridgetown Fishing Complex."

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 74 - Capital - stand part.

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

Mr. R. P. BYER: Sir, earlier today in the omnibus Resolution when the Ministry of Agriculture was being discussed I had asked the Minister a question pertaining to soil conservation. I notice that under Head 74 Subhead 21 there is mention of soil conservation. The Minister in reply did not have enough time to go into this aspect of my enquiry and I was wondering if at this stage he could give me the information that he sought on that occasion.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr.. Chairman, the Honourable Member's point is well taken. Only yesterday I visited Soil Conservation particularly to have a look at the workshop and to discuss with the Superintendent of the workshop any difficulties he has been having. I know for a fact that there were certain pieces of large equipment that were inoperative for a long time, but he explained there are two pieces of equipment, one being a big DC 8 that needed new tracks. It takes about six months for tracks to get into Barbados from the time you order them, so those tracks are now available and they are working on them. The second piece was the mobile crane for working in the Scotland District. It had the same problem. It needed tracks which cost some \$34,000, and the time from ordering to delivery is about six months, because it is a specialised item. Both of these pieces of equipment are now in.

I also discussed with the administrative people some little difficulty they seemed to have had with the administrative flow in organisation that governs the workshop vis-a-vis the other agronomic section of the Ministry. I am well aware of these things and I have had discussion with Dr. Smith. We visited yesterday so I could see for myself what was happening and I am fairly certain that those two large pieces of equipment will soon be mobile again, which will allow Soil Conservation to carry out its work.

This is very important, because in that section this equipment is needed almost on a daily basis in order to

keep track with the continuing work to arrest any soil erosion in the area, so I am hopeful that with the repair of those two pieces of equipment the programmes will get back on schedule.

Mr. E. BOURNE: Mr. Chairman, just a short intervention. I notice here that there will be a training course for fishermen to strengthen the Fishing Division. I would hope that the training programme will be conducted more in the evening rather than during the day, because it is inconvenient for most of the fishermen to attend a day class. I hope the Minister will look into that.

I notice he has been talking about the provision for a new market. I wonder if he is building a new market.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Two things. First of all, I take your point. I have discussed with the Fisheries Officer the problem of low attendance at classes and we have arrived at the same conclusion, that perhaps we have to vary the time. Unfortunately, some of the courses are fairly long, particularly navigation, and they need to attend during the day for practical work on the boats. We have decided that for the maintenance course and shorter courses we will adopt a modular system where we would do particular modules in the evening and we might move from the fairly large fishing districts in order to maximise the participation by all folks, so that point is very well taken.

About the new markets, we are currently examining the remodelling of the Cheapside Market, so that Head gives us the provision to finalise the plans for that one.

The question that Head 74 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 9.30 p.m.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Your Honour do now report the passing of three Resolutions in Committee of Supply.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of the three Resolutions to Mr. SPEAKER who resumed the Chair.

On the 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.

THE FISHERIES REGULATIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1989

Order No. 4 was called - To move the second reading of a Bill to amend the Fisheries Regulations Act.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Speaker, this Bill seeks to amend the Fisheries Regulations Act to do two things, to change the duration of the yearly closed season for sea eggs and to increase the penalties set out in sections 7, 11 and 24. Because of the continuing decrease in the catch of sea eggs, there was a closed season over the last two years and this is the first year that we have reopened after that closed season and this Bill seeks to reduce the season from 1st September until 31 December. Originally it was until 31st March, and the reason for that mainly, Mr. Speaker, is to provide some continuing protection to the animals to allow their continual increase.

What we have noted is that when we closed the season we monitored about 21 spots to see the recovery rate, and the recovery rate was fairly closely connected to the areas where there is continuous fishing. For argument sake, at Sam Lords Castle where there was almost continuous fishing during the closed season, there was only a recovery rate of about 3.5 per cent, while at St. Lawrence where there was negligible fishing during the closed season, the increase was about 27.5 per cent, and at Consett where there was no fishing at all during the closed season of two years, the increase was about 167.4 per cent.

The reasons that have been given to me by the technocrats for this increase goes all the way from the loss of natural habitat for the sea eggs to pollution as the Honourable Member for Christ Church East mentioned earlier while dealing with the speed boats. However the over-fishing is believed to be the most serious of all of the difficulties in dealing with the sea eggs, and it is particularly effective against the sea eggs since they are almost immobile and they are easily accessible by most people without any boats as they can always swim out to them. This is a continuation of the protection of them to allow them to regain their full force.

As a matter of fact, in 1948 it was said that sea egg diving employed at that time almost every available fisherman and their families between the months of September to December, but we know that within recent times that this has not been so. This reduction of the season will not pose any great harm to the divers anyhow because they usually stop diving in and around November, so it really would not pose any harm to them, but it is just to provide legislation to stop those indiscriminate persons who would go outside the normal December period.

The legislation is seeking to increase the penalty from \$250 to \$1 000 for anyone diving sea eggs during the closed season, from \$100 to \$500 for anyone buying or exposing for sale sea eggs during this period, and similarly from \$100 to \$500 for anyone destroying or injuring sea eggs during their season, and finally from \$250 to \$1 000 for any boats or craft or boxes used in the fishing of sea eggs during this period. I would like to invite support for this Bill since the sea egg industry has always been a very

important one to us, and up until now we have not been able to develop the larva stage in the lab in order to transplant them into beds. Work is still going on at the Belair Institute and at the Biology Department of the University of the West Indies with some students. We have considered transplanting the sea eggs, but the recovery rate has been good enough when we protect them, which means we would not necessarily have to go in for any transplanting. So the Bill seeks to shorten the season and increase the penalties for offences under this Act.

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

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

Mr. E. BOURNE: Mr. Speaker, I will support this Bill, but I would like to make a few observations. Like the Minister has said the season comes to an end about December, because the waters around that time are very cold and the numbers are much smaller than during the prime months of September and October, and then there is the problem of the approach of the men-of-war, so I have no problem with a closed season in December. What I would like to point out to the Minister is that I would be happy if at some time there could be an opening season say about the middle of August because there is no point saying that the season begins on 1st September when in actual fact the season starts in August, and try as you may you never can stop most of these fellows from beginning the season in August.

Another thing I would like to point out to the Minister is that I see here there are fines of \$1 000 and up to 12 months imprisonment. This would serve as a kind of deterrent, but when we look at dynamiting fish which is \$100 to \$250 and three months gaol, this needs to be changed too, because dynamiting fish is more dangerous to the marine life than people taking sea eggs out of season. People dynamite fish, and this needs to be changed too from \$100 to \$250 and six months gaol term.

Now many people believe, and I think some of your technocrats believe, that the sea eggs only spawn at a particular time of the year, but this is not really true. There are about four species of sea eggs and each species has a different time of year for spawning, so since the people who are engaged in the trade close the season themselves in December, I have no quarrel with the Bill and I will give it my support.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Speaker, the points are taken. The parent Act allows the Minister by order to change the season, so the point will be taken into consideration after discussion with the technocrats, and we think it is feasible.

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

On motion of Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN seconded by Hon. C. V. WALKER, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE in the Chair. 9.40 p.m.

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee.

Clauses 1 - 8 inclusive were called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN seconded by Hon. P. M. GREAVES, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to Mr. SPEAKER the passing of one Bill in Committee and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On separate motions of Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN seconded by Hon. P. M. GREAVES, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, as far as the Government is concerned, we have no further business that we would want to transact at this sitting and unless other members have other things to raise, I am about to move the Adjournment of the House.

Before I do that, Mr. Speaker, I think there are certain little formalities which will have to be observed and I say they are formalities but what I have to say I will very sincerely mean.

Let me first of all say this will be our final sitting for the year 1989 and looking back, Sir, I think we have done a fair amount of work during the year and I would like to thank Honourable Members for their co-operation and the assistance that they have given to enable us to conclude the work that we have set out to do.

Looking back, Sir, I note that the structure of the Chamber is not what it was when the year opened. I am not referring to the physical structure of the place. I am just referring to the Honourable Members sitting on the other side but that did not deter us from concluding our work and for the most part I would say that a good spirit has been exhibited during the course of this year. It is for this reason that I would have to join with the Honourable Member for Christ Church West when he said that it is wrong to give the impression both within the country and outside the country of the polarisation of the parties in this country. In fact, that has not been my experience.

There has been very solid opposition. Perhaps, we have gone beyond the crease. Nobody has been stumped but all in all, Sir, I think we have had a good year and I want to repeat, I think that the relationship that exists between the respective parties in here has been a healthy one for democracy in this country.

Having said all of this as a background. I think you would understand that when I say I want to wish members on the other side Season's Greetings, a good year, a good sense of support for the Government next year and socially as well. I wish they will have a Merry Christmas and I hope they will have a prosperous New Year. But, Sir, having done that, I must also wish members on my side a Merry Christmas as well and extend greetings to them and pride of place always must go to the Speaker. We have had certain things to say about Mr. Speaker not so long ago and I would not want to repeat them here.

I want to extend to Your Honour the greetings of the Yuletide Season and I would like you to return to us next year completely refreshed to carry on the good work that you have been doing for the past three years in presiding over the affairs of this Chamber.

The work of this Chamber could not have been complete without the assistance of the Clerks at the Table, without the assistance of the Reporters, without the assistance of those who operate the equipment, without the assistance of the Marshal. I would like to extend the Season's Greetings to the Marshal, the Deputy Marshal and all those other Members of the staff of Parliament whom we do not see who work behind the scenes and also, Sir, we have to remember the Police who give us good support in this Chamber as well as the Security Officers attached to Parliament. We wish them all the very best for the Christmas Season and great prosperity in the New Year.

Now that we have passed the law relating to the administration of Parliament, we are looking forward to making certain adjustments in terms of accommodation for the staff of Parliament and for the Leader of the Opposition. 9.50p.m.

We are hoping to find some room somewhere where we can offer some accommodation hopefully, Sir, to the Members of the Barbados Labour Party who are Members of this House. I hope I have covered everything for the year.

I will now have to move, Sir, that this House do now adjourn until January 23, 1990 at 12.00 o'clock noon.

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

Mr. R. P. BYER: Sir, speaking on the motion for the Adjournment, I would want to join in the sentiments

expressed by the Leader of Government Business, the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister.

I certainly would also like to express the opinion that, as far as I am concerned, I have not witnessed any polarization of political parties in Barbados. I am doubtful at this stage, Sir, whether the Jamaican experience will ever follow us into Barbados for the reason, Sir, that family and friends cut across party lines. Even in this Honourable House we have examples of that. For that one reason alone, I do not think that that experience will come here. But that is a debate that we will engage in at some time. The question of whether or not there is tribal politics in Barbados.

But the Leader of the Opposition has asked me to extend, on his behalf, the Season's Greetings to you, Mr. Speaker and the Honourable Members and staff of this Honourable House.

Now as we break for the Christmas and the New Year, I pray that we will all have a cheerful and restful holiday and return to this Honourable Chamber recharged, ready, willing and able to conduct the people's business.

I will also join with the Leader of Government Business in extending the Season's Greetings to members of the Barbados Police Force who have been part of the protective and security arrangements in this Honourable House during the period of this year. We wish that they would also have a Merry Christmas.

During this session, Sir, as the Leader of Government Business has said, we have had some useful and hardworking sessions especially during the latter part of the year. Of course this coupled with other reasons has now made it incumbent that we should go off and have a rest. I hope that we will emerge from the holiday season with renewed vigour.

To the staff of Parliament, I say have a Merry Christmas and may prosperity follow you into the New Year.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Sir, I would wish to join with both Honourable Members who have just spoken in extending best wishes for a Happy and Merry Christmas to all Honourable Members and their families and friends and also to the staff of Parliament, the official staff and the supporting staff who ensure our safety and make certain that we are able to carry out the people's business in this Parliament in a businesslike and efficient manner.

I also extend greetings to you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, and hope that you will enjoy yourself for Christmas. I wish I were in a position to promise the Government a respite from strenuous and aggressive opposition in the coming year but as we get nearer to the witching hour, I call on my

experience to say that relations tighten, persons get on edge particularly those who may not see themselves coming back up the steps, Sir, and inevitably there are some of those for whom the bell tolls.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: It will not toll for me, Sir. I said once to the Right Honourable Member for St. John when I first came to this House that I was going to be in here for 5 years. He said "five years. You mean five months." I said to him that I will be in here long enough to see him pass out of the House and sing his praises as well as tell a few things, Sir. I live to tell that tale.

I want to tell the Honourable Member for St. Michael West, Sir, that I am not promising him any easy passage. He was just asking me to send a particular candidate to run against him, Sir. But I promise him not an easy passage.

The Session has been, in my experience, a most interesting Session in some respects because from my own perspective, obviously we became - no longer the Official Opposition - the unofficial Opposition if you would wish to speak in that way, Sir. Although it was not a new event in the life of Barbados, for us it was a changed event and I wish to say that the Honourable Member for St. Thomas and the Honourable Member for St. Peter and myself quickly adjusted to this task. I believe the Government still has to take our measure very seriously.

I would hope that as the year goes on that I would like to see at least a couple of improvements next year, Sir, as we enter into the last decade of this century and face the challenges of the twenty-first. If I had one wish it would be to see the Members of the public participating in larger numbers than I have witnessed in this past year in the workings of the House.

I think the point made earlier by the Honourable Member for St. Thomas about the early publication of the debates is a very valid point because not often do we get a full and not always an accurate, representation of the points of view in Parliament. Very often there are many valid points worthy of consideration that never get into the public domain. Sometimes the public understands Parliament as speaking only about disagreements rather than on the areas of consensus about conducting the affairs of this country.

I would hope therefore in wishing the press as well who are absent now a Happy Christmas that the reporting of Parliament will become a much more serious business than it has been and that we can entice the public back to come to listen to Parliament.

I would hope too, Mr. Speaker, that the decade of the 1990s and the twenty-first century will convince us, as Parliamentarians, of the need to broadcast our debates so

that people can see that the Parliamentarians work for their money and that we are serious people who take the public's business seriously. I would think that the Leader of the House no doubt will put early on your agenda, Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question of an all party committee looking at the televising and broadcasting of the debates of this Parliament; probably not verbatim, every word that we say in here, but some adequate and satisfactory summary.

I would hope too, Sir, that Parliament would use more and more the modern technologies that are now available to us to make our business more efficient.

Therefore, Sir, I wish that Members would have a happy holiday. 10.00p.m.

I thought, Mr. Speaker, that the Leader of the House was a very daring man in challenging us to come into Parliament just six days before Christmas. It is the time in which you walk the street as Father Christmas reincarnated. You are expected to bring the dollar bills, the Sir Grantleys and the Errol Barrows. This is one time that both those gentlemen keep happy friends in the palms of the public. As I came over here today, Sir, I had to make sure that I changed a Sir Grantley into several ones and fives just in case I pulled the wrong way as I walked across. That is one of the things at this time.

I do trust, however, Sir, that in future our Sessions can end, like Sessions in some other Parliaments, probably about the middle of December, which would give the staff of Parliament a reasonable opportunity. Today we have done a lot of business. Many of us would have liked to carry debates on some of the measures further, but we are conscious of the need to conclude business and we are conscious of the fact that the Senate has to meet tomorrow, so I hope in future we will not go past December 15 unless an emergency really requires us to do so. Perhaps the

Attorney General and myself will then have a few more dollars in our pockets. I received one gift, I must say, but I was on the giving side today in the House.

So, Sir, I wish you, on behalf of myself and the members of the Barbados Labour Party Opposition in this House, and all other Honourable Members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mr. SPEAKER: I thank you all most sincerely for your greetings and compliments of the Season, but I am sure that the smooth running of this Parliament could not have been achieved unless we had much co-operation from both sides of the House. I am sure that the Chairman of Committees and the Deputy Speaker have all had some experience this year and I am pleased that they have been able to fulfill and perform their functions as readily and as smoothly as they have done during this year. Perhaps I may be anticipating the coming year and I am preparing myself for the help from these two gentlemen who have been groomed this year, so have no fear, the Presiding Officers section will be well supplied for any battles or debates that may be very contentious, and I hope very effective and rewarding, whichever side wins.

I want to extend to all of you a very happy Christmas. I am sure it is going to be a prosperous New Year for all of us and that 1990 will offer us the hope that we all dream for as proud citizens of this nation.

Once again, happy Christmas and a very blessed and prosperous 1990.

The question that this House do now adjourn until January 23, 1990 at 12 o'clock noon was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly. 10.04 p.m.

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