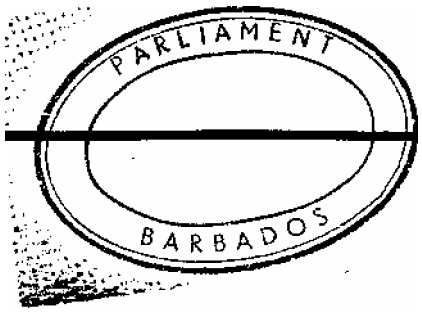
THE



House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1986-91

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, December 5,1989

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 12.20 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, B.A., M.A., (Econ.), J.P., (Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs)
Hon. H. deB. FORDE, Q.C., M.A., LL.B.
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, Telecommunications and Immigration and Leader of the House)
Hon. E. E. GREAVES, B.A., Ed.M., (Minister of Trade, Industry and Commerce)
Dr. R. C. HAYNES, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.P.(Edin.), (Leader of the Opposition)
Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN, B.A., M.A., (Minister of Transport and Works)
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)
Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS, Q.C., LL.M.
Mr. O. S. ARTHUR, M.Sc.(Econ.)
Mrs. M. BARKER-WELCH, (Parliamentary Secretary, 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
Dr. E. A. SIMMONS, M.D.
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 Harewood. Mr.

SPEAKER: The House is in session.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of Tuesday, 28th November, 1989.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I move that the Minutes of the proceedings of this Honourable Chamber for the meeting held on Tuesday, 28th November, 1989 be taken as read and confirmed.

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

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

PAPERS LAID

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs, and by command of the Cabinet, I lay the following papers:

The Rate of Interest (Section 4) Exemption Order, 1989.

The Rate of Interest (Amendment) Order 1989.

The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 3) Order, 1989.

The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 4) Order, 1989.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I give notice of a Bill to revise the law relating to the administration of Parliament, as well as a Bill to provide for the administration and management of the St. Joseph Hospital and for related matters.

FIRST READINGS OF BILLS

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I move that the Bill to revise the law relating to the administration of Parliament be read a first time.

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

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

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I move, Mr. Speaker, thai the Bill to provide for the administration and management of the St. Joseph Hospital and for related matters be read a first time.

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

The question \vas put and. resolved in the affirmative without division.

CONGRATULATORY SPEECIIES

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I think this is a very good occasion, and I think it is an occasion, lei us say, of rejoicing for the whole House of Assembly. I am referring to the fact thai Your Honour \\as preferred on Independence Day the award of the Gold Cro\sn of Merit.

I have known Your Honour for many years, long before Your Honour was a member of this Honourable IKui>>e, and although the award lias been granted for your very meritorious sen ice to this Honourable Chamber, I have no doubt, Sir, that you as a person could have been elevated and received such a reward in your own right e\en outside of tiiis Chamber because of the kind of person 1 have knovai you to be throughout all these years, because of your helpfulness to people in your chosen profession. Of that, Sir, I am well aware, having been your representative at one tune in my parliamentary life.

Aside,

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: That seems to be unknown to some members of this Chamber, but that is the position, even though, Sir, you chose to work politically in a different constituency from the one in which you lived at that particular time.

Be that as it may. let me say, Sir, that you have made a sterling contribution to this Chamber. I have sat quietly and watched your progress, both on the Opposition benches where when you did enter the debate you always made the kind of speech and address that caused one to think and think very deeply, because clearly you never joined the debate unless you had something and something of substance to contribute. It was no surprise to me, Sir, when at the change of Government you should have been chosen for high office.

I have been a member of this Chamber in the first instance from 1971 with a brief hiatus. I have seen many persons sit in the Speaker's Chair. I believe you are probably the fifth Speaker in my parliamentary experience. I can say tor my part without fear of contradiction that nobody has adorned that Chair and brought more dignity to the proceedings of this Chamber than Your Honour has brought. In fact, I will say that for me there has been no better Speaker. In fact, you have been the best Speaker, for me, that I have seen. I do not believe that you have reached your xcnith as yet, because I believe that you are still climbing, and I have no doubt that in due course what will be eventually yours will one of these days come your way.

On behalf of the Government and on behalf of the whole House - I happen to be Leader of the House but others can speak for themselves as well - let me extend to Your Honour very sincere congratulations.

Applause.

Dr R, C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the Opposition to extend congratulations to you and to associate myself with most of the remarks made by the Honourable Leader of the House.

I have known you, Sir, for many, many years, long before you entered the world of work, as a boy.

12 30 p.m.

One could have seen m sour conduct and atlilude the makings of the kind of person which you have turned out to be. I can say. Sir, thai you are the kind of person who cohlbims to those standards nf integrity which I believe should be the hallmark of those in the public life of Barbados,

1 believe, Sir, that you have the right kind of personality and temperament to iv the Speaker of this

Honourable House, and certainly you have performed your duties with that degree of competence and impartiality which I think should be the hallmark of an outstanding Speaker. We may not at all times agree with rulings, but nevertheless they are made in such a manner and in such a spirit that even if we have cause for disagreement, then we will of course always be able to come and discuss with you any concerns that we might have had and all things have been settled amicably throughout your period as Speaker of this Honourable House.

Sir, you have adorned that Chair with that quality of dignity and elegance which one often associates with those who have performed with eminence in the Chairs of Parliaments around the Commonwealth. It is also my certain knowledge, Sir, as I travel around that you have brought a significant amount of respect to this Parliament internationally by your conduct when you represent this Parliament overseas. I, Sir, believe that the Chair is very critical to the functioning of Parliament and that all of us on all sides of the House must have confidence in the Chair and you have been able to instil that level of confidence which is necessary to promote good and effective debate during your tenure of office as Speaker of this Honourable House.

In addition, Sir, you have always ruled with firmness and you have brought a level of courtesy to bear on your rulings even when you may have reached certain levels of frustration which sometimes arises out of the cut and thrust of debate in this Honourable House. I am quite sure, Sir, that you will continue to function with the utmost impartiality and dignity, and that is why I feel very confident even as Leader of the Opposition that I can make these remarks in relation to you, Sir, because I am quite sure that nothing would happen during the life of this Parliament which would create any problems for me in the making of these remarks. That is the extent, Sir, of the confidence which I have in you as Speaker of this Honourable House.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the Barbados Labour Party and in my own capacity as the Member of Parliament for St. Peter to join in the congratulations which have been accorded you by the House on the very high honour that you have recently been accorded. My constituency, St. Peter, is perhaps distinguished among other constituencies in so far as it has provided Speakership of this House to a greater extent than any other constituency since the War, and indeed, Sir, even as I salute you on the receipt of your very high honour, I rather think I would be remiss in my responsibilities if I were not also to mention the honour that has also been accorded to another former Speaker and should also want to say that we in the Barbados Labour Party have too been watching your performance as Speaker. You have broken the tradition that apparently has emerged in this House whereby the north has provided the Speakers, but I want to say to you, Sir, that you have in every respect behaved as a man from the North, and that I am pleased to say that you have in the conduct of your responsibilities as Speaker followed the tradition and the manner that has been the hallmark of other Speakers of this House. With those remarks, Sir, I want to convey to you the congratulations of the Barbados Labour Party for the honour that you have received.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, in rising to associate myself with the remarks that have been made to congratulate you, I am in a much more fortunate position than anyone who has spoken so far, because I have the distinct honour and pleasure of being one of your constituents. You represent me in this House of Assembly, that is me in my personal capacity, and all of the other thousands of persons in the constituency of St. Michael North West, probably one of the nicest places to live, but in any case a place where the representative is not only respected as a Member of Parliament, but is respected as a citizen of the area.

Unfortunately we in Barbados have not developed the tradition of allowing that Member of Parliament who becomes the Speaker of Parliament to be free of the difficulties and the vagaries of elective politics and competitive politics, and I have no doubt, Sir, that if ever that tradition were going to start, that Your Honour would be an ideal candidate for such tradition to begin, because I suspect that in all quarters and on all sides in this House of Assembly, Your Honour has been regarded and will continue to be regarded as a man for all seasons.

I have known you, Sir, as a school mate, I have known you as a person who comes from the same neighbourhood; I have known you as a person on the beach, I have known you in almost every capacity possible to know a young man, and I have watched you become the very epitome of dignity and decorum not only in your life as Speaker of the House but in your daily life as well, and in your professional capacity, Mr. Speaker, again yours is a performance that can be emulated as it is admired. Those who are familiar with you as I am in your capacity as a member of the health team functioning as a druggist, are aware that long before you became a representative you were known for your ability to dispense the medicine and worry about the money afterwards. I think that it is fair to put on the record that were you to receive all of that which is owed to you suddenly one day, you would be able to retire comfortably, for much has been taken from you over the years and you have always given it without worry about tomorrow. 12.40 p.m.

Many is the young man now who as a child survived because Mr. Weekes, the druggist, was willing to come out at 5.00 o'clock in the morning or in the dead of night with

the medicine even though he was aware that the mother was too poor...

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: No, no. I am talking about the druggist. I would not dare call his name if I was suggesting that, Sir.

The mother would know that her situation and that of her child would be taken care of and that is in the professional capacity. Those who have known you as a representative are aware that unlike some others who are constantly willing to allow their light to shine forth, that you have taken the path of reticence. You have removed yourself from the publicity areas while doing great works among the youth especially in the constituency.

Mr. Speaker, one could go on at length about the style which you have perfected in giving service and I think that the recognition which came to you by way of the Independence honours is a recognition that will sit well in the minds and hearts of everyone in Barbados that you have been so honoured and I have to agree with my colleague on my left who says that you have not yet reached the pinnacle and that it is only a question of time.

I am very pleased and happy that as all sides speak about Your Honour, whom I can call my friend in the truest sense of the word, that they can do so as I do so now with an open mind and an open heart and without having to feel for the right words "le mot juste" in order to praise Your Honour for truly this is an honour that is well deserved.

On behalf of all of the constituents of St. Michael North West, and all of the residents of the surrounding areas well known as Black Rock, and I think I can go on to say and on behalf of all of the people in Barbados who have admired you and your family over the years, I am extremely happy to associate myself with these remarks of congratulations.

May you live very long to enjoy sitting in that Chair for very long until all of the rewards which we know will come to you have reached their destination.

Applause.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Mr. Speaker, I join to add my words to those who have spoken already. In 1987 when I became a representative on the Executive of the CPA we met while going to Trinidad to a meeting of that Executive, my first meeting, and you were at the time the Vice-President of the CPA and I therefore had the opportunity of a briefing in the 45 minutes or so that we spent on the way to Trinidad, that was to prepare me quite adequately for my role in that organization.

I was aware of your broad and long experience in that Association and you would recall the words that we exchanged and the advice that you gave me in terms of the role one is expected to play in an international forum.

Since then, Sir, along with Speaker Buchanan of St. Kitts and Ralph Marshall of Bermuda, you have done very much for the region in terms of CPA activities and I think it is a signal honour that during your period as President that the Caribbean arm of the CPA is again playing a very important role.

One meeting was held in Guyana so far. Another is scheduled for Belize and it seems that we have been able to revive the Caribbean Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. I believe that much of the praise for that must go to yourself for your untiring work in furthering the aims of this Association.

I have seen you in various fora. When you had to operate under stress I recall very much at a conference where sometimes because of the schedule you may be called upon to address large numbers at very short notice and I coulu relax with the knowledge that Barbados would be very well represented because your speeches were always very fluent and very appropriate and were all very well accepted by the audiences to which you spoke.

As a matter of fact, Sir, I was beginning to get- a bit concerned when the 35th Parliamentary Conference was to be held in Barbados whether we would have been able to accommodate all of the people who would want to come here because you had represented your country in such a way and you had done such a tremendous job of inviting people to come to this country that I know that there was a ground swell of desire to come to Barbados and so many of us are familiar with the way in which you were able to oversee the proceedings.

The last CPA news which I received yesterday is glowing tribute to the conference.

The Secretary-General of the CPA has taken up a Barbadian term now, "take care". He learned that from Barbados because that is what he heard here all the time and, certainly, that would have been coming from you and the example that you set in ensuring that our visitors to this country enjoy the best of Barbadian hospitality, the best of Barbadian efficiency and I would like to say that I think that the conference held here would have been second to none ever held before and it sets a tremendous challenge to those who have to host a similar conference in the future.

Sir, we are all grateful for the way how you represented our country on that occasion. To me you are the quintessential parliamentarian. You set a very good example. You mix easily with all types of persons in the

international scene and you are a very good ambassador for Barbados.

As a young parliamentarian I have had the benefit of your advice both in your gentle rulings in Parliament as well as outside where we have had to ask your advice on matters parliamentary, and I am sure that others who have recently entered this august Chamber would have had the same benefit and we look forward to the very efficient, the very gentle way in which you conduct the business of this assembly.

I have been asked by my colleague from St Michael South East to remind this gathering in this august Chamber that, in fact, you were a distinguished cricketer at Combermere and I was advised by my colleague to say that because he felt that, perhaps, the Honourable Minister of Health might have been too young to recall those days and that is why, perhaps, he did not make that particular bit of advice available to us in his presentation.

I look forward to many more years when you will be able to guide the destiny of this Chamber and I would like to congratulate you also on behalf of myself and the people of Christ Church East Central on your very deserving honour.

I thank you.

Applause.

Hon. W. W. HALL: Mr. Speaker, words can hardly express the deep joy and satisfaction I find this evening in paying tribute to you, Sir, on the attainment of the....

Aside.

Hon. W. W. HALL: ...Gold Crown of Merit.

I join with all Barbadians in general and all the constituents of St. Michael West Central in general as we congratulate you. 12.50p.m.

Surely, Sir, you are the product of a decent St. Michael West Central family whose guidance and influence have made you into a young man of exemplary character. This is known throughout the world nowadays, Sir, about you and we must feel very proud of your attainment.

I know of no other Speaker, Sir, I have not been in here that long in this Honourable House to know of other Speakers. But I would safely say that others would hardly equal your performance in the Chair far less surpass them because your quiet but firm dignity and the way you have actually gone about your arduous task has been a lesson to all would be politicians and indeed those who would become Speakers.

To me, Sir, life is a dramaturgy where you have those who are front stage performers. But with you I rather think that you have been quite content to be at times a back stage performer, no fuss but quiet dignity which has won the hearts of all the constituents in the Black Rock area perhaps within a radius of 5 or 6 miles where they have known you very well indeed.

I feel, Sir, as a recipient of the Gold Crown of Merit and perhaps until shortly the only one in this august Chamber that I must try to identify with you, not only from the point of view of your being from Black Rock but the old school will be very proud to know that this high honour has been bestowed on you. I refer to your *alma mater* Combermere. They are all very proud of you. I should like to say that I know you would take this honour with the same cool and calm assurance as you have taken everything else in your life.

Since I cannot claim like the Member for St. Michael West that I have known you for say 50 years, I can safely say that I have known you for at least 40. And therefore personally I am rather happy that you have been awarded this great signal honour.

It is natural, Sir, to congratulate my other friends who have also this year been given various honours. But I would wish to recall while I am at it that I also wish to congratulate the Senior Reporter in this Chamber who has also been given an honour.

Aside.

Hon. W. W. HALL: They say it is separate, Sir. But I will not speak again.

I just wish to say to you, Sir, that like all other Honourable Members, I join in congratulating you on behalf of the people of Barbados for the wonderful job you have done, not only in this Chamber but certainly in your constituency and most definitely as an ambassador for Barbados in the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association where you have given yeoman service and wherever I go they come to me and they say what a wonderful ambassador you have been for Barbados.

In closing, Sir, I would say that you have not been a rough and tumble politician, Sir. You have been very quiet, full of dignity. Indeed, you have been very effective in your quiet way and I think that you have been a classy politician and hence you would last forever, whereas class is permanent and form is merely temporary. Sir, I class you as one who would be permanent.

May God bless you in your endeavours as you seek to do this very honourable job, that of the Speaker of this august Chamber.

Thank you very much, Sir.

Mrs. M. BARKER-WELCH: Mr. Speaker, I shall be very brief but I would hate this moment to have passed without joining my colleagues in congratulating you on the signal honour which you have been given.

Your dignity in this House can be seen as a role model for the younger politicians who are now trying to decide whether or not they will enter the realm of politics. We know that in these troublesome days, children and young people need role models like yourself. I am very proud to be associated with you in this Honourable Chamber. I was very proud also when the several dignitaries who came here for our 350th Anniversary celebrations from time to time showed the high esteem in which they held you because of the way you conducted yourself and the way in which you made Barbados proud.

Being a Speaker cannot be a very easy job but you have done the job with fairness and fearlessness and you would go down, I am sure in the history of Barbados, as one of the fairest and one of the most efficient Speakers in the history of Barbados. Congratulations, Mr. Speaker.

Rt Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I do not really wish to add to your discomfiture. I have observed you quite closely while other Members of this Honourable Chamber have been speaking and I could feel and also see the discomfort that you are experiencing. Such it is when modest persons are heeped with praises and their modesty would wish that they might be somewhere else when such words of praise are being spoken.

Nevertheless, Sir, I would wish to speak as an ordinary Member of this Chamber and a representative of the constituency of St. Michael South and to join with my colleagues on both sides of the Chamber in extending congratulations to you on the award of the National Honour of the Gold Crown of Merit It is a distinction that is richly deserved and I can say that sitting with you as a member of the Opposition at the time and now sitting under your guidance and direction as Speaker of this Honourable Chamber, you have always sought to bring to bear upon the proceedings of this Chamber that balance, that impartiality and that sense of fair play which is the hallmark of government by debate and by decision.

I have also sat, Sir, in the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Barbados Branch and have noted the high seriousness and the sense of commitment and purpose which you have brought to bear on the matters which come before that body. 1.00p.m.

I have also been a part of a delegation with you at meetings of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association outside of Barbados and I can join with my colleague, the member for Christ Church East Central, in expressing full satisfaction with the way in which you have taken a topic and without much preparation have spoken with authority and with command in the particular councils.

You have brought dignity, Sir, to this particular institution and it is most fitting that as we celebrate the 350th Anniversary of the establishment of oiir Parliament that you should be occupying that most distinguished position which gives meaning and purpose not only to our national deliberations directed towards the benefit of the people of this country, but also to the House itself as an institution.

No one, Sir, more than you put as much effort, as much hope, into the arrangements and the planning for our activities this year and I think it is most fitting that the honour that has been conferred upon you should have been so conferred.

I look forward, Sir, like all other Honourable Members, to a long association with you in the very difficult role which you have to perform, for you, Sir, are a Speaker but there are not many opportunities for you to speak in this Chamber and you do your job best when you do not have to speak very often, because if you have to do that very often it means that we ourselves are not conducting ourselves as you would expect us to conduct ourselves.

Then, Sir, you are a political representative but you are expected to keep yourself above the hurly burly of combative politics, and you have been able to walk that fine line to continue to service the needs of your people and also so to control proceedings in this Honourable Chamber that you have won the praise, the commendation and the admiration of all of us in this Honourable Chamber. May that continue for a long time, and may you be given the strength and the wisdom to direct our proceedings in the dignified and impartial manner that you have exhibited.

Mr. SPEAKER: In my modesty and humility I want to accept all the compliments and congratulatory comments made this morning, but as I sat here and I listened to all the speeches, one person stands out as if he were a brother in my house, as if we were raised in the same family, as if we were working together and knowing who I was. The Honourable Prime Minister in his opening remarks said exactly how I felt.

These kinds of comments are likely to throw me off guard, because one of the few things in life I try to do, as the Honourable Member for St. Michael West said, is to take the limelight, and no matter how I try to avoid it, it seems to follow me.

However, this kind of achievement makes me feel proud for more than one reason. One, I have come from a

very poor family, a humble family, and to be able to be taught and to be brought up to be able to achieve such commendations this morning caused me to reflect on my parents. I will never forget that one of the important aspects of growing up is the Christian way in which all of our parents tried to bring us up. Sunday after Sunday I would probably go to church three or four times, singing for the mental patients, singing for the lepers, and then going back on Sunday nights to do what one considered one's duty to his Creator, and it is those Sunday nights at church as a choir boy I used to hear among the opening sentences "to labour and to seek no reward," and it is based on that repeated comment that I acquired the habit of doing without being seen.

And so I am not really aware of all these good things that have been said today, that I really possess them, because I felt to labour without seeking any reward, and you know the continuation of that, that one's life would be meaningful. Never did I for one moment think that I would have had the responsibility of guiding one of the major, most important institutions in our country in order that our country may progress socially and economically on calm and smooth paths. 1.10p.m.

In this respect I have to mention the Honourable Member for St. Michael West, for many R lin • ! wei;' .<$ the question of coming into polHr'i! He , ^.-i p; ,,.: \ _,, able to lure me into this system wuhoitt real'fifig tpai I would have been an active participant as such, and much of what I achieved certainly would have to be cast on his shoulders because it was he who brought me into the main stream of things. For that I want to thank him. Then as I came into political life, one cannot succeed alone. There is need for association and cooperation,! haᵛe had the utmost cooperation from those in my own party and all the encouragement that one can have,

I remember very well the present Leader of the NDP when he was a member of my party took some interest in my own political development and would from time to time share moments of parliamentary life, and for that I thank him.

Most of all I must thank the people of St. Michael North West, for without having their cooperation and assurance I would never ever have entered this Honourable Chamber no matter how much the Honourable Member for St. Michael West might have encouraged me, and I think it is a tribute to that constituency to be able to allow me to make the contribution which you now observe as a very worthwhile contribution, and I think they should be very proud of having me to stand in for them, because that is what a representative really does. I stood in for them and I believe that they too will share just as much as I do the honour that has been bestowed on me. Then I cannot leave out another major part of this Chamber; we call them the minority Opposition. I will always remember the Leader of that party who on my nomination for the office which I now hold spoke very highly of me. I have been trying to preserve that speech because I am sure that kind of togetherness at that time would inspire the worst of us to do the best. I thank him for that kind of assistance and association; and if I need to mention the Honourable Member for St. Thomas, I will always keep his speech in mind as well. I believe that too has given me a feeling to be able to conduct the affairs in this Parliament on even keel.

I am sure you have said all that can be said about myself. Perhaps if I had a mirror that could have shown me these things when I look into it on mornings, I would not have needed you to tell me all these things. However I want to thank you most sincerely and extend to you my cooperation at all times and endeavour to maintain the standard which you think I have been able to carry in this session and all the other sessions I have served in. I don't , think words can express one's satisfaction, and it is really difficult for me to respond equally in the language that you have spoken. However simplicity is my standard in life and I will be as simple as 1 have always been, but at the same time conscious of the re^«x>n?ˀh*^^es in !hh Honourable Chamber.

I thank you all most sincerely and will forever treasure

Hon. V. M. CT FAVfv Mr. Speaker many people belie ʳe that tHs PofiKinuu works only with a Government, an Opposition, a Speaker and Clerks, but in fact there are otrier things, Sir, that cause Parliament to work and other persons behind the scenes that cause Parliament to work. I believe, Sir, that in this 350th year of our Parliament it was quite fitting that persons vho have made a contribution to the working of ParUamCiE should dso be remembered, and any person or persons who have served Parliament for 30 **or** more years, even less than that, would be deserving of merit.

It is my pleasant duty here, Sir., also to congratulate Mi, Lisle Whitiington, our Chief Reporter who has served Parliament, I understand, for 34 years. We should also, Sir, remember Miss Joan Banfield who I understand has served Parliament for 35 years. They are long standing servants of Parliament, and I congratulate both of them most heartily on being awarded the Barbados Service Star. These congratulations, Sir, not only come from me in my personal capacity, they come also from me as the Leader of the House. I have known both of them, Sir, ever since I entered Parliament and even before that. I remember Mr. Whittington both as a Reporter on several Committees, and I remember Miss Banfield when I was a Senator, that was in the 60s, also as servicing some of these Committees, and I cannot think, Sir, of any two officers who are more dedicated than both Mr. Whittington and Miss Banfield. They have both brought a seriousness to their work, and it

is because of them, Sir, that we are able to make Parliament work in the way in which it does work. For that reason, on behalf of the Government, on behalf of Parliament, I offer my very sincere congratulations to Miss Banfield and to Mr. Whittington.

Before I take my seat, I think it is also quite fitting they should remember at this time someone who served this Parliament in a very distinguished way and also this year is elevated to the Knighthood. I refer, Sir, to Mr. Kenmore, now Sir Kenmore Nathaniel Rhystone Husbands. He I am told was the first black Speaker of the House of Assembly and he served as Speaker for many years. 1.20p.m.

My understanding is for the first instance from 1948 until 1956 and then again from 1958 to 1961.

I think many persons have spoken of him in the manner in which he has presided over debates of the General Assembly, I believe, as it was then known.

I was, perhaps, fortunate st some lime in the late 1960's as, indeed, I believe my colleague the RL Honourable Prime Minister at my left, and I do not see anyone else here who served with Sir Kenmore at the level of Cabinet in the Government of the Democratic Labour Party between the years 1968 to 1971.

He was an extremely useful member of the Cabinet and he served variously, I believe, as Minister of Agriculture at one time, Minister of Trade, I believe, Sir, at another time including responsibility for Youth Affairs on one occasion.

But we all sat together at the Cabinet and we worked together as colleagues and I can say that he made some useful contributions at that level.

He is no longer active in politics. In fact, he is now fairly quite aged. I understand he is 84 years old and is not able at this time to continue to make the contributions that I know for which he has been known to make, that is, his helpfulness to people in general, particularly the people of Speights town.

I have been speaking of him as a Speaker and as a Cabinet colleague. One could also speak of him as an educator. He was a Headteacher of one of our schools in Speights town.

One can speak of him as a Scout Master. One can also speak of him as a parliamentarian generally because sitting in Parliament he did not always sit in the Speaker's chair neither did he always adorn the front bench.

He has also sat as an Opposition Member of Parliament on occasion and, indeed, I believe, between the years 1956 to 1958 he sat as a dormant member, I believe, of the Barbados Labour Party at that time and on the back bench, if it was so constituted at that time and as I was reminded a minute ago that in fact, Sir Kenmore was also a trade unionist

In fact, what it all boils down to is that he made an almost rounded contribution. He made a general contribution to life in Barbados and I too believe that the honour that has now been bestowed upon him is one that has been richly deserved. For that he has the congratulations of the Government and of Parliament.

Applause.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I rise to associate the Opposition with the remarks of the Leader of the House in respect of the three persons mentioned during his contribution.

It is seldom that during one's lifetime one has the opportunity to hear the many pleasant things said about you by way of tribute and often in our society the appropriate things are said about people at a time when they cannot participate when they can hear no longer or see no longer and, therefore, these occasions do present an opportunity to allow outstanding persons and persons who have served institutions well to have some appreciation of what others think about them.

I have known both Mr. Whittington and Miss Banfield long before I came in here as a member of this Honourable House. As persons they have always conducted themselves with dignity and decorum and, certainly, as officers of this House they have always been extremely helpful to me.

Sir, from time to time in the turbulent times of the past during debate sometimes the one thing that can save you is quick access to the record of the House and, indeed, on those occasions one becomes very highly dependent on the speed with which the records have been taken down and the speed with which they can be produced and, indeed, also, the accuracy because one could face a rather difficult situation if the record is not what you purport it to be.

I must say that on all occasions when I have been confronted with that kind of situation the record was exactly as I said it was. But it is not often appreciated the kind of difficulty which officers face in order to produce an accurate recording in this House bearing in mind the wide range of topics discussed, the *sotto voce* remarks that have become part of parliamentary exchanges and so on and it is a difficult task and I am very pleased to say that if there is one aspect of this Honourable House which I believe has always been at the highest level, that has been the work of the Reporters of this House.

It is a tremendous responsibility because it is important to remember that what goes into Hansard is what you have said. That is it and there is no way in which you can get the Hansard position reversed after a matter is reported in Hansard and, indeed, I believe that it might well be even against the rules of the House after Hansard has appeared to question the accuracy of anything that is in Hansard and that indicates the very important responsibility imposed on such persons and I think that they have conducted themselves and they have served this Honourable House, as I said in the beginning, with dignity and, certainly, with the highest levels of competence.

In respect of Sir Kenmore Husbands, I have never had any personal relationships with him although I have known him over a period of time but, certainly, from all the reports of those who served in this Honourable House with him over a number of years, he was, certainly, one of the outstanding Speakers in the history of the House of Assembly because it must be recalled that those were the days when the rules of the House were somewhat different from what they are now. 1.30p.m.

The whole debating process certainly would have put the Chair under even greater pressure than at the present moment. Indeed, it may be that there were perhaps some very formidable characters on both sides of the House, on all sides of the House in those days. So I could imagine the kind of competence that would have been required to preside over the proceedings of this House and to emerge at the end of the day with all those participating in Debates of the House at that time coming to the one conclusion that Sir Kenrnore was a competent and outstanding Speaker. When I say so, Sir, I am repeating what I have heard persons who served in the House of Assembly during that period say on many occasions.

I believe, Sir, that in those days there was no limit to speeches. I believe that speeches would go on to the early hours of the morning and the Speaker was required to sit there. I believe that the Rules of the House were not as precisely defined as they are now in the present Standing Orders. So it must have been a very difficult job and I think would require tremendous force of personality to control the characters who represented the various constituencies in Parliament at that time.

So therefore, Sir, I take the greatest pleasure in joining with the Leader of the House in congratulating the recipients of the various awards.

Thank you very much.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to associate myself likewise with the sentiments which have been expressed in this House by the Deputy Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition.

I am particularly fortunate in having known one of the recipients from my boyhood days when we both were the I think two examples, although he was always the better example of young people who found delight in dance, drama and acting. In those days, Sir, we were associated in a dance movement called The Star Buds. The history of The Siar Buds has been recorded in a publication by one of our members, Mr. Arnold Alleyne. About 18 months ago I had occasion to borrow the only copy now available in Barbados from Mr. Alleyne to refresh my memory about the events of those days and looming large in the pages was his description of the versatility which Mr. Whittington displayed as a dancer and also as an actor.

I think it is probably not known that even in those early days associated with him was his very charming wife Mrs. Whittington who also serves in this House. And indeed they danced together in those days with a correctness of poise and a lightness of foot that one would like to see followed by some of our younger people who seem to have no pleasure in dancing close together these days, Sir.

Laughter.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: But Mr. and Mrs. Whittington combined their skills and they have combined their skills in service to their country in their profession here. Very often when I take the few moments to go and talk to the Reporters who serve this House, I always make the joke about our days as children together.

Lisle Whittington is an extremely highly skilled professional. He is a very accurate shorthand writer. His knowledge of the English Language is excellent. He is one of the most friendly people that I have met in my life and he places great store on the friendships that he has established down through the years. Every Member of this House has always spoken of him as a very respectful person, Sir. No matter how much provocation he may receive from time to time from anyone, he is able to take that in his stride and proceed to do his duty with an excellence that we ought to emulate.

Therefore, on behalf of the Barbados Labour Party Opposition, it gives me much pleasure to say that the honour which has been bestowed on him is very well deserved and I am sure he will forgive me, if without taking from his own commendation, I say, Sir, that his wife as well must feel a great deal of pleasure, not only on being his fact but on the fact that a husband and wife team has worked so well together in this House and served their country in such an outstanding manner.

I did not meet Miss Banfield until much later, Sir. I saw her before I came into this but since serving in this House for a period of 18 years, I have had the pleasure of getting to know her well. She is a very friendly lady. She is

extremely knowledgeable, very co-operative in helping Members at all levels and has made an outstanding contribution as an Administrative Officer to this House and also in her contribution to the CPA. Nothing seems to anger her. No matter what request we may give and at very short notice, I have always found that Miss Banfield has been willing to serve and help.

I think it is appropriate, as the Leader of the House said, that at this time and particularly in the year of the 350th Anniversary of Parliament that we should recognize the contribution which those silent members and I refer to them in inverted commas as "members of the House", the real and true members of the House make to the conduct of public affairs in our Parliament.

I am particularly pleased to stress that the fact that Miss Banfield is a lady is all the more pleasing for me personally to see that we are recognizing that women are making such an outstanding contribution to the conduct of affairs of our country.

Mr. Speaker, I know that my continual harping on this subject has met with one or two fears on behalf of a few of the doubtful men. But I believe that the women of Barbados as manifested in people like Miss Banfield could hold their own among peoples, not merely women but men of all countries. She too is an outstanding example for us.

Now, Sir, I have known Sir Kenmore Husbands from the lime I was a child adopted by the Ifills in those days. I knew of him alongside people like Sir Theodore Brancker, Sir Grantley whom I did not know as well in those days, Sir Edwy Talma, Mr. Fred Goddard, the Hon. Wynter Crawford and a whole host of people that I would come across visiting with my adopted parents in the late forties. I held these gentlemen in great awe and sometimes great fear, Sir.

I recall once in this House being so bold as to be arguing against Sir Edwy Talma who was then Deputy' Prime Minister and Leader of the House and I thought I was doing well. He took a point of order and intervened and when I did not give way, he reminded me that I had to sit down and listen because when I was a child growing up and he came to the House I not only opened the door for him but I saluted him, which was a fact, Sir. In those days one showed the greatest respect as a young person to one's elders, and respect was shown in return. I never tire of telling the story how he befriended me when I first came into this House and taught me many of the Rules and the procedures of the House. 1.40p.m.

Sir Kenmore gave outstanding service to his country, both as Speaker and later as a Minister of Government. I am pleased that he was the first black Speaker of our Parliament and I am pleased that that event occurred too at the beginning of the social revolution brought in this country by the Barbados Labour Party under the redoubtable Sir Grantley Adams, because it was because of the agitation of the Barbados Labour Party in those days that black persons like Sir Kenmore were able to demonstrate to the world that they had, and we do have, the ability to make the necessary changes in our country and show at the same time dignity whilst we are going about revolutionary changes, without tearing apart the fabric of our society.

Sir Kenmore convinced all those doubters that black people had not only the poise and the skills, but the knowledge and the decorum to rise to the heights that one would expect from outstanding men in public life. So for us it is a particular pleasure to see that he came in as part of that movement and was able to give service.

He was honoured before, Sir, but I believe that this particular honour would come very special to him, particularly coining as it does, in the 350th Anniversary of our Parliament and coming at a time too, Mr. Speaker, where the honour has gone not only to him as the first black Speaker under the new dispensation, but has gone as well to two of the young people, Miss Banfield and Mr. Whittington, who would have benefited significantly from the social changes which were wrought at that time by the new Labour Movement led by the Barbados Labour Party. I think he would be particularly proud as well, Mr. Speaker, that the serving Speaker of this House who now has the tradition which he has set to follow has also been the recipient of a high honour.

It is one of the outstanding facts that have occurred that in this year we have honoured the person who first came to break with the tradition but to uphold the tradition, and the person on whom the mantle now falls to carry on with that tradition and to establish for all lime that this country's sons in the majority race have the ability to be outstanding in all respects.

I hope that the unanimity which pervades in this House on occasions such as this will enable us on matters such as this, where the public interest is paramount, to continue to demonstrate what outstanding qualities are posses 3ed by our people.

It gives me great pleasure, therefore, Sir, to join with my colleagues, the Honourable Leader of the Opposition and the Honourable Leader of the House and Deputy Prime Minister, in commending these persons on the high honours which have been bestowed on them.

Applause.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, I too would wish to congratulate Miss Banfield and Mr. Whittington for the well deserved honour that has been bestowed on them, but

more especially in the name of the people of St. Peter to congratulate Sir Kenmore for the very splendid and superb honour which has now been conferred on him as well.

Sir Kenmore entered this House of Parliament before I was born and naturally, Sir, he and I are of two different generations. I speak in this debate, therefore, on the basis of only the most fleeting personal acquaintance of Sir Kenmore but conscious of the very great contribution that he has made to the development of this country.

He is a man of great and varied talents and interests. He was one of the pioneers of the Labour Movement in Barbados. He also made a tremendous contribution to the education of the people of this country and in a sense he also elevated sartorial elegance to one of the highest places in the land.

The people of St. Peter still speak very positively of the way in which he touched the lives of many of them for the better, and indeed, Sir, he was one of those rare people in public life who despite their humble origins and the lack of personal riches were able to bestow tremendous benefits on the various people with whom they came into contact.

My contact with Sir Kenmore has been largely in the capacity of a canvasser, and as the member of Parliament for the constituency of St. Peier I am pleased to *wy* ihai he has shown me nothing but the greatest courtesy and has been entirely supportive towards me in the performance of my responsibilities as the member of Parliament for the constituency of St. Peter. Indeed, Sir, one of the very fondest memories that I retain is that of Sir Kenmore joining with me on the 21st Anniversary of this country's Independence at the community centre in 5t Peter to show the continuity among parliamentarians, despite the fact th?t he and I at that stage were members of duf^'cni poiif^oi parties. Regretfully, Sir, he was unable to join us this year in the celebration of our Independence, but he remains, despite ailing, a humble, dignified person who maintains a keen interest in the public affairs of this country, and I therefore salute him on the receipt of this honour which is well deserved, having regard to the tremendous contribution he has made, not only to the people of Barbados, but more especially to the people of St. Peter, and I wish him many long years of continued good health and trust that all the blessings will continue to fall upon him.

Applause.

Mr. SPEAKER: This morning when I was responding to the compliments on my behalf, I purposely omitted the staff because I felt that this compliment to our staff would have come at this time, and so I want to say for them that they have been the most co-operative staff I have worked with within the few short years that I have been here.

Both Mr. Whittington and Miss Banfield have always given me the assistance required to make sure that this Parliament functions efficiently. It is true that at times we require staff meetings and so on to get matters right, and it is some amazement as to how they respond to seek these staff meetings in an effort to make Parliament an efficient body. 1.50p.m.

To rehash what has been said about Mr. Whittington could only emphasise the fact that he is a very competent worker on the staff. He shows leadership and has at all times wanted to put the duty required of him before self-interest. It is true he may not always succeed in what he projects, but at the same time he is willing to accommodate what physical disabilities might occur from time to time. In similar vein Miss Banfield too responds in a similar way. But this is only a wider look at the staff we have working with us, and I am sure both of them would want me to say that their success very much depended on the efforts of their co-workers and in particular the Clerk, the Deputy Clerks and the maids as well who all pulled themselves together to work as a team, and that is why I said that they have been the most cooperative group of people I have been able to work with *m* ar* effort to givs 'jvs tc;4 & Jr -i Chamber.

In respect of Sir Kenmore Husbands, one never knows the impact that one has maoe upon you In ohserv«% -^i*i* watching people. Perhaps I might be one of the lew Members in this Chamber who frequently visited this Assembly when Sir Kenmore was Speaker, and I was really carried away and taken in by his dignity, the very manner of his speech, the very way he was able to deal with problems. As the Honourable Leader of the Opposition said, it seemed to i^e that the rules of that day were anything, and it was left '•r'j.maiiJy for that Officer to kce*p Psrlian-^nt in 3 very coc; nanncr. i iiuu? say the .-ionourit/lc *l.*^*&hcr* bus*; *&*** City at that time and the Leader of Government certainly made Parliament boil. And talk about speeches, endless speeches; sometimes Members spoke without any end as if the day was longer than 24 hours. They were the kind of speeches that I myself would have great difficulty in trying to keep that Chamber alive, and it must be a tremendous tribute that we should pay to him for being able for us to be in here building on the foundation that he at that time had laid, because we must bear in mind that he came at a time when the fortunes of our country were moving from one period to another, and he was probably succeeding a tradition which was set by others of different thinking, and so he would have had to model Parliament in such a way as to give us the kind of institution that we have.

I admired him greatly for his dignity, his decorum and his knowledge as to the functions of Parliament, and I do not think that this honour could be in any way much more than fitting for him. It is an honour which I think he richly deserves and I think Parliament and the nation as a whole

have been better off for his contribution to this institution. Like yourselves I want to extend sincere congratulations with the knowledge that at his age he may still be able to reflect on and appreciate what we are saying today with the greatest esteem.

ORAL REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Hon, M. A. KING: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 89 asked by the Honourable Member for St. Thomas is ready.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Standing Orders Nos. 6,16,18,20,42(5) 43 and 44 be suspended for the remainder of today's sitting.

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

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, the time is now a few minutes to 2 o'clock, and I don't think it is appropriate to commence any Government Business at this time, and the Honourable Leader of the Opposition is agreeing with me.

I therefore beg to move that this sitting be suspended until 3.00 p.m. this afternoon.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly. 2.00 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING Mr.

SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed. Order No. 3.

Order No. 3 was called - To move that the House resolve itself into Committee of Supply to consider the grant of sums of money from the Consolidated Fund for the service of the Island.

On motion of Hon. P. M. GREAVES 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.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1989-90 No. 9

HEAD 79-MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND LANDS $2 700 000

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, in the absence of the Honourable Minister of Housing, the member for St Philip South, I am moving this Resolution.

This Resolution is for the purpose of injecting some funds into the General Workers' Loan Scheme which is administered by the National Housing Corporation. This General Workers' Loan Scheme has been in existence for many years.

It is intended for the purpose of assisting general persons who are said to be general workers in the construction or purchase of stone or timber houses, in the repairs, or alterations, or extensions of those houses, as. well as the removal of the chattel houses from one place to another and also for the purchase of land.

The applicant must be between the years of 18 and 60 years of age at the time. The maximum loan is $15 000. There is also a minimum loan of $3 000. It carries an interest rate at 9% per annum.

Now, Sir, this General Workers' Loan Scheme, as I said, has been in existence for many years. Many people have benefitted from it.

There used to be a Sugar Workers' Loan Scheme and the General Workers' Scheme as well but some time, I remember during the time of my tenure as Minister of Housing, the two schemes were merged into one and became a General Workers' Loan Scheme. At that time it used to be financed partly from levies from sugar.

The history of this shows that between the years 1981 and 1986 there was nothing done under this scheme. The scheme was dormant between those years. It was revived in 1986 with an injection of $3.1 million capital into the scheme.

In two years after the revival of the scheme there were roughly about 2 000 applications for loans under the scheme. Some 730 of these applications have been approved representing for loans totalling over $7 million.

Of those loans that have been approved, disbursements have been made in respect of 407 of the approved loans and the amount disbursed was $4 206 685. The remaining of about 280 approved applications require about $3.7 million.

Sir, there is still some funds left in the scheme and according to computations the $2.7 million would be sufficient along with the funds left in the scheme in order to take care of the needs and the requirements of the loans that have already been approved.

Let me say here, Sir, that there are proposals and Cabinet has approved them but the Minister will have to so inform the House to restructure these loans. I think it is known that one has to be earning about $300 a week. If one is earning in excess of $300 per week one does not qualify.

The qualification is for persons earning up to $300 per week and it is proposed eventually to increase the maximum loan to a figure already approved by Cabinet and, as I said earlier, the Minister of Housing will in good time - unfortunately, Sir, he is out of the country - but he will inform the House the way in which it is proposed to restructure this loan.

With those words, Sir, I move that the Resolution for $2 700 000 stand part.

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

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I think it is important to recognise what the present Government of Barbados has really done to the poor people of this country who are requiring even small loans to either purchase a property, to repair a property or to purchase a home.

Only this morning I was faced with two distraught young ladies, one after the other, one in the 30* s, the other in her 40's who had deposited sums of $10 000 and $8 000 respectively in order to purchase a home only to be told that they are now faced with the situation where they will probably lose their deposits because the institutions do not have any mortgage money.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: - Lose their deposits because the vendors are demanding settlement. There are other lawyers in Bridgetown, including lawyers in this Honourable House, Who are faced with that situation that the banks, where they did not have a written agreement that these people today, because of the lack of mortgage finance in Barbados, the first time ever in the history of Barbados - certainly, in the last 40 years - there has been a complete tramp down on mortgages and financial institutions find themselves in a position where they may have to renege on verbal commitments. Indeed, I believe that one attorney-at-law is seriously considering whether or not he may not have a case for a suit against the bank going on the basis of the verbal agreement.

3.10p.m.

But the point is that the banks simply do not have the money and this is the first time that this is happening. Now we are faced with a situation where having turned off, turned away millions of dollars that could have been available to people in Barbados for Housing, you are coming now to the taxpayers for $2.7 million and touting this as some major revolutionary scheme.

I am concerned that any Government in this day and age that can so manage the affairs of Barbados as to stop poor people from getting access to mortgage money or getting loans for repairs and improvements on their homes that that Government cannot be acting in the interest of the overwhelming majority of the people of this country.

We feel, Sir, and we feel very strongly that this is perhaps the most deadly blow to the black people of Barbados that has been delivered probably since the 1950s in this country. This loan fund, this revolving loan fund was established at a time when the doors of the banks were closed to the masv';> 01 & r^c-i- ^^ thcrer:>pj t;t'- Government had to intervene in order to make small sums available for things like moving chattel houses, minor improvements to their bo.ro?" aad things like than This cannot be the mair*. thrust of a g^vemrnent housing programme in this day and age.

The main thrust of housing in Barbados must be to have & financial environment In this country which permits the overwhelming majority of people, apart from those depending largely on welfare because of their unfortunate circumstances to be able to help themselves by having access to funds at reasonable rates. And so. Sir, the affairs of this country have been managed over the years 10 snake sure that there was a reasonable flow of funds into the mortgage market.

What exists in Barbados today? $3.1 million. Even those institutions that were designed by Governments to cater to the lower middle income and lower income groups in Barbados such as the Barbados Mortgage Finance Company. They are now under extreme stress. I can tell you as a maiter of fact that there are several people who have had commitments from the Barbados Mortgage Finance Company and today they cannot get any disbursements from them because they are under the same pressure for funds. What kind of people are we in this Honourable House? What kind of persons can we consider ourselves to be when, as representatives of the people, we have allowed a situation to develop in Barbados where people cannot have access to credit for a very basic human need. This is not money that they are going to spend and throw away. This is money that they will use to repair the roof over their heads. Money that they would use to extend their homes,

put on another bedroom with the arrival of a new baby. Money that they would use in order to have adequate latrine facilities out of the backyard and into their homes. And we have completely deprived the people of Barbados from access to such money. I say it is a total disgrace! I say it is totally intolerable that we can so manage the affairs of this country. And the Government ought to be ashamed.

Laughter.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: The Honourable Deputy Prime Minister should not be laughing. He has spent most of his life, you have spent most of your life as a Minister trying to make some contribution to housing in Barbados. And perhaps the most useful time you have spent as a Minister of Government was in that area. And now you sit in a situation in a Cabinet that has allowed this kind of thing to happen to the poor people of Barbados.

It is absolutely incredible. And I say the Government has a responsibility immediately to introduce measures to ensure that at least the middle and lower income groups in Barbados have access once more to bridging loans and mortgage money at reasonable interest rates. It is a fundamental responsibility.

All this talk I hear about economic democratization, there can be no economic democratization in Barbados unless people have access to ownership of a house spot and a home. That is a basic. That is a basic investment in this country. All the rest can go one way or another, If you deprive them of that, you are depriving them of a fundamental stake in Barbados. And thai is what the Government has done at the present moment. There can be no argument about it. There can be no dispute about what is happening in relation to mortgages. There can be no argument that it has not happened in Barbados, I would say in the past forty years. It is the first time it has happened,! am talking about a total clamp down on mortgages, complete clamp down. You have created a situation where* those peopk who have mortgages out there will in fact be even losing money on existing mortgages.

I do not think it is understood that if you create a situation where financial institutions have to attract money at a rate that is so high that when they onlend it at the fixed mortgage rates that they will lose money, then you have completely turned off the tap for mortgage money. There is no point even considering new mortgages. I think it is disgraceful and I think that coming in here with a Resolution like this in an area like housing really does nothing. You are talking about I think the Honourable Member said something like 500 applications $2.7 million or somewhere in that region and at the same time you have turned off thousands and thousands and thousands of people.

What is worse, Sir, they have encouraged people to get involved in building their own homes, encouraged people to commit themselves to mortgages and commit themselves to deposits on houses, and now in the middle of it all, they have left them high and dry. What is going to happen to these people? What is going to happen to the deposits that people are going to demand forfeiture for?

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: What is going to happen? Do not tell me it cannot be done. It can be done under the law. You enter an agreement, you pay down your money, you assume that you would have bridging finance and you assume that you would get a mortgage. All of a sudden, the bank says I am awfully sorry, I do not have any money. I would like to go ahead with it but I do not have the money. And I am saying that there are hundreds of people out there with those kinds of deposits at stake today. I am saying there are hundreds of people out there who have houses half way up and cannot complete because the banks have no money to lend them. I am saying there are hundreds of people out there who have houses badly in need of repair and they cannot get money to borrow to repair their homes, I am saying there are hundreds of people who would normally go to a bank at this time of the year coming on to Christmas in order to borrow some money....

Mr, CHAIRMAN: May I remind the Honourable Member that we are dealing with a Resolution which relates to the general workers loan scheme and you are drifting a little way from it.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I am not drifting anywhere,

Mr, CHAIRMAN: That is my understanding of the matter. So if you could come a little closer to it.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: My understanding of the matter is that there are a lot of poor black people out there who stand a chance of losing their money who cannot get....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Under the general workers loan scheme?

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: ... and that this $2.7 million is totally inadequate to meet their needs.

What the Government has to do, instead of coming in here with this kind of Resolution, is to reverse the present situation as far as availability of funds for the purposes required by poor people for their housing, so that millions of dollars will once again come on stream. Sir, this must be a matter of grave concern.

I happen to represent a constituency where 90% of the people will live in homes of the kind that would access to the kind of financing that I am talking about. They are all

today prevented, not by the wicked commercial banks, not by the white mercenaries as they are called by some members of the Democratic Labour Party, not by white capitalists. Who have stopped them from getting access to the money? Their black Democratic Labour Party representatives. 3.20 p.m.

It is a Government decree that has determined that this should happen. I want to see how the Government is going to get out of this, I want to see how they are going to face those people who go down to Bridgetown to their banks and say "look, I want to get some matching funds. I am going to get $3,000 under this scheme and I want to get another $500. The carpenter has given me a quotation of $3,500, I can get $3,000 under this scheme, I want another $500." They will say you cannot qualify. So they cannot get the $3,000 and they cannot get the $500. This is the relevance of what I am talking.

What I am talking about, Sir, is that people have traditionally used this money to compliment and supplement other sources of funds, whether it be their savings or small borrowings from other institutions, and now they are totally deprived of access to it. I say that is a disgrace. It is even more of a disgrace when as a political party you went out there and told the people that you were identifying housing as the number one priority over the next 20 years; when you criticised the former administration for their lack of sensitivity in terms of making funds available for housing.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I recall the Honourable Minister of Agriculture going on a platform one night and working out how many houses the Democratic Labour Party could build for the $90 million or however much it cost to build the Central Bank.....

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

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: ___ and now, Mr. Chairman, we arc faced with this situation in Barbados. All I say is that something has to be done and something has to be done rapidly to -

(1) stop those who arc already committed from losing their deposits,

(2) ensure that those who have houses under construction, that at least they can complete those, and

(3) restore some hope to the vast majority of poor people in Barbados that they will have an opportunity to own a stake in this country.

It is wrong, it is cruel, it is brutal and, Sir, I would say it is almost criminally negligent for a Government to so destroy and dash the hopes of so many poor people in this country.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your time has expired.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I will be back, Sir. I have a lot more to say on this particular matter.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, the Barbados Labour Party will be voting for this supplementary. At a time when indeed funding for housing in this country is scarce and getting scarcer, the injection of $2.7 million particularly into low income housing will be of some assistance in allowing those low income households to deal with a situation which is tantamount to crisis, and it is in that kind of capacity that we will be supporting this particular supplementary, a small mercy being extended by Government in a situation where a general crisis exists.

But this particular supplementary raises the question as to what exactly is the Government's policy as regards the provision of financing for low income households in this society. I want to deal with that particular issue, Sir, if only in reaction to a statement that was made by the Acting Minister of Housing as regards the fact that this particular Facility, the General Workers Housing Loan facility, was dormant for a number of years. If the Barbados Labour Party in that period to which he makes reference did not have a substitute that was better than the General Workers Housing Programme, I would feel ashamed, but in truth and in fact, what the Honourable Members should have told the House is that in that interval a tremendous initiative was taken to change the relationship of low income earners in ihis country to the financial institutions of this country, to the Government of this country in relation to the acquisition of funding for home improvement, for the purchase of spots and for the erection of homes in the first instance.

In 1981 we had a situation in this country where the only institutions that were providing loans to low income households, whether for home construction or home improvement, were either the Government to a marginal extent or the major companies such as the Barbados Lumber Company, which was both a seller as well as a financier, or Manning, Wilkinson and Challenor, and we said that that had to stop, that the low income earners of this society belong in the mainstream and that the situation existing then whereby no bank in Barbados was prepared to lend any money to low income people to undertake home improvements or home construction had to stop. We had to put that behind us once and for all. We could not also continue a situation where low income people had to look only to the Government and the Government alone for funding in order to undertake development of their homes.

It was against that background, Mr. Chairman, that the Barbados Labour Party brought into existence the Housing Credit Fund, the specific purpose of which was to pump $20 million, not $2.7, Sir, into a fund to deal precisely with the people to whom the General Workers Housing Fund has always catered. It is significant that we put up the $20 million in such a way as to have a continuous reflow of funds through the Housing Credit Fund.

My point here, Sir, is simply this, that when the Barbados Labour Party Government invested the $20 million into the Housing Credit Fund, it did not require that the Housing Credit Fund should assume responsibility for repaying the loan, the implication being that all of the money that came back was to be reploughed into the Housing Credit Fund so that you would have a continuous revolving fund that would enable low income people in this society, Sir, not just to have to look to Government, nor to the Barbados Lumber Company, but to have a financial institution properly capitalised with a secure stream of income in perpetuity to bring them into the mainstream of development in this country.

The way in which that Fund was to work, Sir, was that the Fund would act as an intermediary between the low income people of this country and the banking institutions, because it was part of our objective that small black people in Barbados would also be able to go to the banks in this country and get funds for housing in the same way as the upper class or the middle class of Barbados was able to do, and the Housing Credit Fund to date has worked as a tripartite relationship between low income people, a Government institution and the private commercial banks, as well as the Credit unions of this society because we in the Barbados Labour Party believe that you cannot just deal with the problem of small low income black people by setting up marginal institutions, that you have to put the satisfaction of the financial requirements of that class of person who has been dispossessed for too long on a secure financial footing. 3.30p.m.

It therefore remains for me to ask the Government what is the relationship that the Government intends to develop between the general workers housing fund as it has existed of old which merely established relationship; between low income people and the Government, what is the relationship that the Government intends to establish between that facility and the housing credit fund which has the virtue, Sir, of establishing a relationship between low income people, credit unions, commercial bank and a Government institution. What is Government's policy in this area? To what extent have all of the funds initially ploughed into the housing credit fund to deal with this particular matter, low income housing development in Barbados, been used. Have those funds been exhausted? What is the position in relation to reflows into the fund, and is Government interested at all in pursuing the further development of the housing credit fund since it was always the intention that the initial injection of $20 million of capital interest free by the Government of Barbados into the housing credit fund would be the first step in making the housing credit fund one of the premier financial institutions of this country. So when the Democratic Labour Party Government comes to this House and says that they are going to make $2.7 million available to low income people through the general workers facility, Sir, I think it is tokenism because we had started to build an institution capable of handling vast amounts of money, an institution that brings a large number of entities together to work on behalf of low income people in this society, and that it would be preferably, Mr. Chairman, for that relationship that started as a substitute to this facility to be developed, so that at last the small black people in this society, of whom the Democratic Labour Party loves to speak, can also feel that they do not have to depend only on Government, that they like the rest of us, Sir, can walk into any bank and have their financial needs addressed like any other ordinary citizen. This is carrying us backward, Mr. Chairman, and we are only supporting it because the situation is so dire that it serves as a small little mercy in a time of general crisis. It ij> a pity that the acting Minister of Housing is so out of touch with the situation that he did not, when he said that we caused this fund to go dormant speak in terms of the financial innovation that we put in place to substitute for it, Sir, and it is clear that this Democratic Labour Party administration in most things is just prepared to turn back the hand of time.

I also share, Sir, some of the general strictures raised by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central as regards the general financing environment within which the Government is failing to meet not only the needs of the low income persons in this society who need housing, but meeting the needs of the society at large, and it is clear, Sir, that in this area of housing as indeed in the area of the general management of this economy that this country is trending towards a very severe crisis, and I can only close by reminding Government that part and parcel of the foundation of the growth of which he speaks as perhaps the only accomplishment of the Democratic Labour Party is the fact that housing has been buoyant. It did not become buoyant only under the Democratic Labour Party, but it has been buoyant, and it should be clear to you that anything that causes a reduction in the level of housing activity in the country at this time is going to commit the country to a serious recession. The concerns therefore that are being raised on this side have as much to do with how we meet the welfare of the low income people of this society as they have to do with the way in which we manage and keep the society on the move and stable. In that context, Sir, as I said earlier, we will be supporting this $2.7 million. I would have preferred if this afternoon the Government was in a position to tell us that they were now going to add an additional $25 million into the Housing Credit Fund so that the initiative that was started in that period when this fund

was dormant could be advanced for the benefit of the low income people of this society. I am obliged to you, Sir.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Mr. Chairman, like the Honourable Member for St. Peter I am only supporting this Resolution because of the seriousness of the situation. There is no doubt that we are existing in terms of housing in Barbados in a state of crisis. That notwithstanding I am still heartened to see that Government has put this mere pittance, as I would say, into this scheme for the poor and oppressed peoples of Barbados to benefit.

Sir, if we look back, one will notice that Government's assault on housing began sometime ago. It was the stated policy of the Democratic Labour Party and one that I supported when I was a member of that party that housing in Barbados would develop along certain lines. It was the intention that this nation would be housed completely in a relatively short period of time, but what have we noticed as we have gone on since 1986? We have noticed contrary to manifesto policy, after a reduction in taxation, progressive increases in taxation along consumption tax, and consumption taxes which initially placed an additional burden on people who wanted to have their houses. This policy did not only attack the low income earners, but it also attacked those people who were from the middle class groups.

I remember when the taxes were raised in the last budget that the cost of house building went up significantly, and I had some clients who had to stall until they could get another $5 000 to make up the amount of money to purchase their homes. This $5 000 for example on a $100 000 house the estimated increased cost because of the tax measures of the-1989 budget went over by about $5 000 to $6 000. This was because of the increase in the cost of building materials. What has happened now is that Government has also attacked the concept of home ownership in Barbados by increasing interest rales over time.

Now the Government's view is that people are spending too much money on consumer durables, things that demand foreign exchange. I have my grave doubts about that. I think one of the greatest problems that we have today, and if you look at it you will see that the increased cost of running the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is significant.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let us get back to housing. We are dealing with Head 79.

Mr. R. P. BYER: My understanding of the rules is that as I just heard, it is a money Resolution and you must allow a little latitude. I am not flaunting your ruling, Mr. Chairman, but I have a pretty good understanding of the rules having sat in that Chair myself; so I would know how far I can go. 3.40 p.m.

Now, there has been an increased cost of running the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a significant increase.

We have also noticed as a component of that increase the increased cost of travel. Now, I am certain that by the end of this year that the amount of money spent by the Government on travel will surpass this $2.7 million that we are voting today. I am certain about that. That, Sir, in itself is very disgraceful.

I am yet to see the benefits from this increased travel. I do not even think that you can see them with a microscope so that Government's interest rates policy has given rise to a situation now where it is difficult to obtain loans for construction, house repair and renewal. That is the logical extension of Government's interest rate policy.

The policy might have been designed to correct what deficiencies there were in the management of our balance of payments but this :s a problem t^at has now arisen because of that approach, KK<ngage fundfc have virtually dried up...

Hon,. M. A. KING: *Sir,* on & point of order.

Use Honourable Member for St. George South made a statement the significance of which it has just dawned on me which indicates that he is misleading the House in relation to the statement tliat Acre has been a significant increase in running of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. That statement, Mr. Chairman is simply not true.

I know thai there have been Press reports *about* it but it is no! true.

Mr. R. P. BYER: But Sir, as far as I can recall, it now costs about $30 million. I think it was $8 million at one time, according to the Central Bank Report.

Hon. M. A. KING: On a point of order. That is exactly the point I am making that that is not so. That is not true.

Certain remarks made by Dr. R. C. HAYNES were ordered expunged from the records by Mr. CHAIRMAN.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. George South will he continue?

Mr. R. P. BYER: Yes, Sir. Now, Sir... Hon.

B. M. TAITT: Sir, on a point of order.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Sir, I have not said anything that he can rise on a point of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Can I hear what is the point of order?

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, the point of order does not depend on what he says or does not say. The point of order has to do with...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Two Honourable Members are on their feet and I will entertain the point of order.

Aside.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am entertaining the point of order so the Honourable Member will take his seat I have to hear what it is.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, when Your Honour rose a moment ago and Your Honour sat back down Your Honour said the Honourable Member for St George South. What the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central did was to raise in a question and use the same language he had used when Your Honour ruled that that matter should be struck from the record

It is my contention that all of the matter said because he repeated the words should be struck from the record because it suggests that a Ministry would do an illegal act and I think all of that should be struck from the record.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Just one minute.

When I rose whatever remarks were made while I was on my feet obviously have no bearing and it will obviously be struck from the records.

The Honourable Member for St. George South.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir.

I object very much to the Honourable Member for St Michael West directing and bullying the Chair into decisions. That is what has happened or he is attempting to do.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I wish to make the point very clear that nobody is going to bully me when I am in the Chair and such a suggestion is questionable of my ruling. Thank you.

The Honourable Member for St. George South.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Sir, how much more time do I have with all of that, Sir?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Fifteen minutes.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Now, what further emphasizes this iniquitous and wicked policy on the part of the Government is the measure and level of homelessness existing in Barbados today.

It has now become a focal point of organizations in Barbados to look seriously and are asking the public of Barbados to look seriously at the level of homelessness existing in Barbados today. Now, any Government that is serious about its social...

Aside.

Mr. R. P. BYER: I do not care what you say. I am dealing with Barbados. They had homelessness in Trinidad from the time I was there in 1973.

Certain remarks made by Mr. R. P. BYER were ordered expunged from the records by Mr. CHAIRMAN.

Mr. R. P. BYER: As I was saying, Sir. I am dealing with Barbados. Homelessness was in Trinidad long before I went there in 1973 and it is still existing. I am dealing with Barbados that there is a measure of homelessness that one cannot tolerate in Barbados and that any political party with a serious social agenda for transformation in Barbados has to take particular notice of this problem that is existing in Barbados today.

I agree, Sir, that it is big problem in the United States of America and that that country with all of its resources has not been able to tackle the problem but the level in Barbados is not as great as it is there.

The point I am making, Sir, is that if we do not take stock of what is happening in Barbados in terms of homelessness we will be confronted with the situation that hangs like a millstone around our necks. That is my point, Sir.

It is becoming more and more acute every day. This homelessness is born not only because of the Government's interest rate policy but its economic policy overall and the level of unemployment. These are the things that contribute to homelessness and if we allow this problem to proceed unchecked and unsolved, we will have a greater problem in the future and it will be a problem of great and significant enormity.

Now, Sir, I have had the same experience that the Leader of the Opposition has had in relation to clients who are now faced with a difficult situation because they cannot now meet certain contractual requirements, certain promises that they made in relation to the purchase of properties. 3.50p.m.

I had two clients that were faced with the situation where their deposits were liable to be forfeited for non completion of an agreement to purchase property. In one

case, the Bank had made a commitment by word of mouth to honour the obligation but because of the directive from Government, it had to look elsewhere for mortgage funds. Those funds were found and fortunately that person is now in a position where the Bank has now said we will commit certain funds to you to complete the purchase. The other person has not been that fortunate and he is liable to have almost $30 000 forfeited because the Bank has decided that it will renege on its promise.

I do not even know whether we can sue the banks on the faith of the promise to commit funds for a particular purpose. It is not their fault that they will not commit. The bank would probably plead frustration, something like that. I do not know. Some defence that it will come to. It is Government's fault, not their fault. And that is the problem that we have at this moment. Government has got to look at this problem with a view to solving it.

Aside.

Mr. R. P. BYER: It has been happening, Sir. I do not care what questions are raised on the other side. I know from my experience. I am not going to come in here and tell a lie. I am not going to come in here and deliberately mislead this House. That has been my experience.

So the problem has got to be looked at with a view to alleviating the situation of people so circumstanced.

I would stop at this stage, Sir, but I promise to be back.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Michael Central.

Mr. C. LeR. TROTMAN: Mr. Chairman, *I* am like the other speakers supporting the Resolution.

Aside.

Mr. C. LeR. TROTMAN: And like the other speakers, I am also expressing concern about housing. I would think that anybody who is socialist in orientation, anybody who is concerned about the living standards of poor people in his constituency would be concerned about housing. And especially when we bear in mind that the particular Resolution addresses money that is set aside for lower income housing, very clearly we would have to be concerned.

It appears to me though, Sir, that an important thing is being lost sight of in the parry and thrust of the situation and that is that we are talking about a supplementary vote. And it is a supplementary vote of $2.7 million, Mr. Chairman, when the original vote was $6 million. It would seem to me therefore that if there were a problem and I am not denying that there is a problem that the concerns expressed ought to have been expressed on....

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Sir. I think the Honourable Member has misread the Resolution and is inadvertently misleading the House.

The original grant to public institutions, Object No. 16 shown under Other Expenditure was obviously to the Housing Corporation.

It was not to the fund itself. This is the first injection for this year, Sir, for $2.7 million to the General Workers *Loan* Fund, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your point is made.

Mr. R. P. BYER: On a point of order, Sir. Page 129 of the Estimates for 1989-90, Explanatory Notes, Subhead 2: National Housing Corporation $6 million.

> "This subhead provides for continuing capital projects, sites and services programmes, relocations, development of lots, sale and building of houses for in commercial programme, refurbishing existing rental units etc."

Mr. C. LeR. TROTMAN: I apologize, Sir, for misleading ihc House *M*<^ I ;.-•?. hidcbitd lo rnv' vivo honourable colleagues.

The point I was making is still worthy to be made that my concerns rest with, and it was not an attack on any honourable gentleman, but my concerns rest with the original position and not necessarily with the supplementary position. 1 am concerned that we have to recognize that there is an every burgeoning demand for housing at the lower income level and that whatever our positions might be, whatever political climate we might feel more comfortable living under that that concern is one that we will find increasingly a problem that we have to address in the circumstances of this Barbados of ours.

The problem therefore in these circumstances is to be able to recognize what are causing the ever increasing demands on housing, we have to be able to formulate a policy that addresses that and we have to be in a position to make the public aware at every stage of what that position is and to be able to satisfy that the effort is being made. Whatever our political concerns we will need to recognize that Barbados has moved more and more away from the extended family towards the nuclear family. It is a phenomenon that is not alone a prerogative of persons from Barbados but we are concerned about Barbados.

The people who lived in families where there were 12 or 13 in a house are now recognizable as persons who would want to go and live just as couples either married or

informally in a situation where a young man and a young woman may live together from an early age. I am not addressing the morals or how good the people are in that regard at this stage, Sir, I am addressing importantly the factor of the pressure that that puts on the demand for housing stock. And anybody therefore has to be able to recognize that that is going to be a factor which will impact on us from time to time in a manner that we had not hoped for.

Additionally I think that we would need to recognize and certainly, Mr. Chairman, in constituencies in St. Michael like St. Michael North East and St Michael Central, we will increasingly be faced with a problem of having persons who are quietly renting houses not worrying themselves previously because they thought they were quite happy where they were finding themselves in situations where the owners of the houses now having their children reach maturity making demands on them for a return of the house so that they can build a wall structure for their children, against the children getting married or wanting to return home. And therefore there is an increasing demand for persons to have housing, even though they may have presumed themselves to be in positions of security in their houses because they have lived there for 20 or sometimes as many as 25 years.

Whether we like to recognize it or not therefore, the concern for housing is going to have to be one where organisations, governments, interested persons, all of us have got to be able to recognize that it is a requirement for everybody to look at in a broader sense and not in a narrow political sense. Now mind you, Sir, I am not suggesting that there is not a very strong social conscience directing the comments here. I am looking outside of this Honourable Chamber to the broader society and I am suggesting to you, Sir, that in much the same way as the organization that I am proud to be associated with, that is to say, the Barbados Workers' Union has concerned itself sufficiently with this matter, in 1974 to embark on a housing programme, a housing programme that addresses the poor, in like manner other organizations are going to have to move in that direction, 4.00 p.m.

I am of the view that Credit Unions that have a sufficiency of funds and that other institutions that have funds that are available are going to have to concern themselves with making some of those funds available in order to increase the housing stock that there may be in our country. I am satisfied that Government will have to look towards having some kind of machinery where it might be able to meet with those organisations, be they Credit Unions, insurance companies, Trade Unions or otherwise, and sit down to find out from them what those institutions are prepared to do in regard to an injection of funds into housing, and that Government working together with those institutions would then formulate a national programme for housing which does not address only what Government itself will do, but in addition to that will also address what the private sector will be prepared to do at the institutional levels in terms of finding housing for the many dispossessed people and unfortunate poor income people in our country.

If we were to move in this direction I ant satisfied, Sir, that though we will never totally satisfy the demand for housing that there will be, with the burgeoning numbers of persons who are younger - younger in the sense that a certain member made mention of earlier who are better off when they are with their parents - even though we can never totally satisfy the demand there will be from those young persons for housing....

Aside.

Mr. C. LeR. TROTMAN: Better behaved. I stand corrected, Sir. There will still be a sufficient satisfaction of that demand that there will be a recognisable increase in the easement that there will be to our people in terms of the houses which have been provided for the people of our nation,

I am obliged to you, Sir.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, one of the things about the debate in the Committee of Supply.is that one has to be extremely careful and keen if not one can find oneself in a position of defence when it is totally unnecessary.

Now, Sir, listening to the Leader of the Opposition, followed by the chief spokesman for finance in the other section of the opposition, one was minded to do a very fast recap of the history, and one was able to check this issue quickly.

I think the recommendations made by my colleague who has just sat down are so worthwhile and so worthy, because he speaks from the position of an organisation that has put its money where its mouth is. The Barbados Workers' Union has been a leader in the area of provision of alternate housing in a community that is hungry for housing, and that has been from time immemorial.

The Democratic Labour Party's record on the provision of housing is so crystal clear and so obvious as not to warrant and require any defence. If one goes into any of the areas whose names with the appendage "housing estate" or "housing anything" it is invariably, even as the Leader of the Opposition and to admit when the Honourable Members, the now Deputy Prime Minister, was Minister of Housing, the most massive campaign of house building in this country occurred during the time of the Democratic Labour Party, but that is not the issue, Sir.

This Resolution came here today to seek to get $2.7 million to put into a housing programme of the Government, and the Honourable Member for St. Peter - I almost got lulled into that sense of insecurity, Sir - sought to give the impression that his political party when in Government had been in the forefront of this, so I went to the files, Sir. The files indicate that the General Workers Loan Scheme - and I am reading from the files, Sir - experienced an operational hiatus between 1981 and 1985 when no loans were made. It was reactivated in 1986.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, on a point of order. I agreed with the words that were used by the Deputy Prime Minister that the General Workers Scheme was not operating, but I made the point that an alternative was put in its place, and the member should have made that point to the House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your point is made.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I am reading from the file, Sir. It was reactivated in 1986 with capital of $3.1 million. From 1986 up until the end of October 1988 the Corporation has received 1,815 applications for loans totalling $17,563,082. Seven hundred and thirty of these applications requesting $7,967,310 have been approved.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: He is repeating exactly all that the Leader said when he introduced the Resolution.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I am repeating it because in the debate they behaved as though there was no problem.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You would not sit down. You have no manners. Sit down when I am on my feet.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I did not realise you were on your feet.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I was trying to determine on what point you had risen. That is why I was asking.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I am sorry. I did not recognise that the Honourable Member had risen, Sir, otherwise I would have given way. He knows that I would not normally do that.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: He did not mean that. It is not the first time he said something he did not mean, Sir.

Sir, I am repeating, especially for the Leader of the Opposition, who now wants to run away, I do not know where he wants to run and go, that 730 of these applications requesting $7,967,310 have been approved. A sum of $4,879,730 has been committed and of this $4,206,685 has been disbursed in respect of 457 applications, leaving an unexpended sum of $673,045. The remaining 281 approved applications would require funds amounting to $3,760,625 and we are therefore seeking to put $2.7 million in.

I am repeating it, Sir.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Even the Judges repeat judgments.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I am not saying I concur because the people who heard the two speeches before would not know that they were responding to these facts. You would think they were responding to new facts, when you hear phrases like "homelessness", when you hear the new phraseology which is imported from CNN being imported into the debate in Barbados about homelessness, when you hfcar this in the context....

Mr. R. P. BYER: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. It is unfortunate that the member for St. Michael West does not understand good English, standard English.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: You see, Sir? If he had accused me of almost anything else, anybody would believe him. The one thing they had not accused me of is not understanding the English language or speaking it well.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is no point of order.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: It just goes to show you the level of the Honourable Members's input, Sir. 4.10p.m.

It is exactly what I am saying. If it comes from CNN suddenly he will repeat it. The point I am making, Sir, is that the use of words like "homelessness" and the very important point which the Honourable Member for St. Peter sought to make must not be brought in confusion with this particular Resolution. They are supporting it, I accept that, but not everyone who heard the debate especially as the Leader of the Opposition furrowed his brow and went into his most crouching attack which used to be reserved for the late Tom Adams. When the Honourable Member starts to thunder from on high for something that he is supporting, you have to start wondering what is behind it. If he wants to discuss the economic situation in the context of this Resolution, let us discuss it. If he want to discuss that, we have other Resolutions coming, but all we seek to do here is to raise additional money to put into a scheme to alLvV those persons who are earning less than $300 a week to get precisely what he is saying that people cannot get from mortgage. They want to discuss the mortgages in Bridgetown. Well let me be the first to say that the Government gives its mortgages through the National

Housing Corporation and through the other Governmental agencies. We have no responsibility for Barclays Bank, Royal Bank, Bank of Nova Scotia or any of the other banks or any of the other places with mortgages. If those people prefer to give what money they have by way of loans to their preferred customers, or if the lawyers in Bridgetown prefer to tell people that they cannot get mortgages that have been committed, I have never heard this yet.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: We are not abdicating responsibilities; we are saying we are not bankers, we are the Government. The Central Bank of this country is doing what the Honourable Member for St. Peter recommended that it should do. It is involving itself in the management of the economy.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: On a point of order, the Honourable Member is misleading the House. I have not made any recommendation to the Central Bank. It is not my responsibility to do, and I ask that those remarks be withdrawn and struck from the record.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, he did not say it in those words.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: I told the House what the Central Bank is planning to do. But it is not my responsibility to recommend anything to the Central Bank.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, I have heard him on more than one occasion indicate that the Central Bank and the Minister of Finance have been put in place to take action and they must take it.

Mr. Chairman, I have nothing but time. I have all day tonight, so when they are ready I can split. The point has to be made that when the Central Bank which has the responsibility as the Reserve Bank in this economy to help control the movement up or down of funds into Barbados, * which has the responsibility for ensuring that the economy move at a certain pace, when the Central Bank makes those decisions, we can disagree with them, but they cannot run hot and cold; so if they want to have a debate on that, let us have that debate, but this particular Resolution is a Resolution to allow some more people to get loans for housing.

The Honourable Member came in here and if you had heard him you would believe that every poor person .... I have never heard him talking about so many poor people like I heard him today. All of a sudden like a man finding religion he has discovered poor people, but that is all right. The other thing now is that everybody on that side has discovered that poor people are black. That is fine except that it should not be done in this Resolution. This Resolution seeks to do what you say should be done; this Resolution seeks to add some money into the National Housing Corporation's kitty to allow it to lend money to some poor black people who work.

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: He does not mind if I call him a mulatto; it is if he calls you a mulatto that that would be a problem. He is a clear mulatto. It is you who would be a problem if they call you a mulatto, you or any other Honourable Member on that side. But, Sir, the issue here is that the Government must not be pilloried in this Committee for doing what it is supposed to do. This Resolution is the culmination of activity that began in May 1989. As everyone knows, these matters take a process. The Honourable Member knows that this is not a result of any activity that occurred by the Central Bank last week or the week before. The former Minister of Finance must know that. It is since May of 1989 that this particular Resolution was put in train by the National Housing Corporation saying, we wish a grant. The House is being asked to allow the Government to make a grant, Sir, to give some money into the fund to recapitalise a fund to allow for some of the poor black people to be able to borrow some money to do their houses or to build houses.

Now, Mr. Chairman, to sit on this side and to hear my friend the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central talking about how wicked the Government is, -how awful it is and how ashamed, for a moment he had me going because I could not understand what it is I had to be ashamed of, and I then examined what he was doing. He was making the speech which he wishes to make today. Whether it is on this Resolution or some other Resolution, that is the speech of the day. The Honourable Member makes a particular speech every day. Today is that kind of speech.

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

Hon. B. M. TAITT: So the Honourable Member tries to turn this Resolution which they all agree with and which they are all supporting, in which we are putting some money into the National Housing Corporation, into critical support. Well God save me from critical support if that is what you are giving me. Please do not give us any critical support if that is how you are going to frame it. If you wish to support this Resolution, let us move on to the next one so that you can air your views about the economy, but it is really not fair to the society to give the impression that something is fundamentally wrong.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: What I am quite sure has come across as a result of the Honourable Member's speech is that he is not prepared to defend the financial policies of the Government that have deprived the masses of black people

of access to finance for housing. You are not prepared to defend it and I agree with you.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, the point that the Honourable Member just made confirms that if he saw a mass of poor black people anywhere, he would not be able to recognise them, because I don't know how he managed to get out of what I just said what he just said, but I understand him well. I will leave him for the time being. I am dealing with the methodology of debate in this Committee concerning this particular Resolution.

This Resolution seeks only to top up, but I will say this; the Ministry of Housing has called for a Committee to be established, in fact, to do precisely what is being recommended, because the idea of this fund which the Honourable Member said was his initial idea is to allow it to be self-sustaining, so the $2.7 million ....

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: The Honourable Member is confusing the Housing Credit Fund with the General Workers' Fund; they are two separate entities.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I am sorry. It is because it is one minute that I was trying to have two thoughts together. I am saying that the National Housing Corporation is asking for this fund as well. As well as the Housing Credit Fund that has been set up, they are asking for this fund to be self-sustaining.

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: 1 said that the Ministry of Housing is setting up a Committee.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your time has expired.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a pohu of oidcr, I *Bm* saying that the Ministry oi Housing has not only appointed a Committee about two years and over ago; they have hold the services of a specialist, the specialist has advised them how they can make use of the seed funds in the Housing Credit Fund, and today they would be found lo have built up to $60 million available to the people of Barbados and nothing was done. To come in here now and say that they are setting up a Committee to look at this same matter is misleading the House.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, the Honourable Member has made a very serious charge and unlike the other people whom he does that to, I don't fool around. I have a letter here, Sir, dated October 12, 1989, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Lands, to the General Manager, National Housing Corporation. Now, Sir, October 12, 1989 is a couple of months ago. 4.20 p.m.

It says: "To this end" I am quoting from it. I am .glad you said a couple of days ago because the Honourable Member just jumped up and said something was formed two years ago but he is accustomed to doing that. He is accustomed quoting facts that never existed.

It says here, Sir:

"To this end the Ministry proposes the establishment of a joint committee comprising ...."

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order.

The Honourable Member said words that should be unparliamentary. The letter that he is reading will disprove nothing.

It was a member of the NDP whom they hired and paid to do that same study two and a half years ago. That is a fact. It is a fact what I have said. That letter is irrelevant to the proceedings of the House.

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: What he paid Russell has nothing to do with me. I am not getting involved.

Aside.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Can I have some order, please,

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I am reading from the files dated October 12 and I am saying that he cannot say that tins *h* irrelevant. It says here -

"Arising out of the decision to amend the fund in this way was the recommendation that a plan for ensuring the viability of the scheme sbouLJ be paired The hop} *-t tVi in the tuture the Gcicr?! Workers Fu*$_4$d should be srk sufficient.

To this end the Ministry proposes the establishment of a joint committee"

And it goes on to say comprising whom -

"and report on such a strategy." That is what

is here.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member's speech has concluded.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: If you are raising a point of order I am going to permit the Member to respond to it.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I have all day, Sir. I have no problem.

The committee you are referring to is the committee dealing with this Revolving Fund. The study I am talking about deals with the Housing Credit Fund. The Honourable Member obviously does not understand the difference between the two funds and instead of admitting that...

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I said the same committee and he jumped up and said that I was misleading the .House. The facts will show that when I started...

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

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I have not completed my point of order, Sir.

The point I am making, Sir, is that the very committee he is quoting, the very letter relates to the Revolving Fund and has nothing to do with the Housing Credit Fund that I was ealking about and he has the audacity, as he says he has the temerity to accuse me of misleading the House past and present. He does not understand that there are two different funds.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The record will show....

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: You think I am going to allow anyone of the three of you to go in the record against me?

The record will show that I started to speak about a letter and the Honourable Member jumped up and said that I was misleading the House,

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member just hold on for a minute.

Since it is possible for you to come back I think we should close...

Hon. B. M. TAITT: But can I set the record straight with your permission?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Thomas.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, let us get down to some basics because what I have always suspected about many members of the Government it has now been revealed with great clarity that there is a certain lack of understanding of certain institutions and their operation in Barbados and certain basic elemental facts.

I had a little responsibility for three years as Chairman of the Housing Corporation. In those days one of the functions of the National Housing Corporation was to lend money to people who were worst off in the society who were working, I suppose, for $150 or $200 a week, I cannot remember the exact parameters now, but who were earning very low wages but who had their chattel houses particularly in the country and needed to improve them, repair them and so on.

Those people were denied access in the usual way to the commercial banking system of Barbados and the General Workers' Loan Fund had been set up to enable them - it was not set up in 1975, long before that -1 think in the Fifties - out of, I think, something called the Sugar Workers' Stabilisation Fund or Provident Fund, one of them.

It had its origin in sugar money, sugar receipts and some of this money was channeled into the Housing Authority which then became the Housing Corporation for on-lending to the poor people who lived particularly in those days in the country. They were the greatest beneficiaries at one time.

Interest rates in those days were something like 4% or 5% and...

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Two percent. I cannot remember all the details. I was dealing with the parameters of how it operated. You had inspectors who used to go out in the name of the corporation and ensure that the borrowers repaid to the Housing Corporation.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I personally know inspectors who were paid to carry out that function, to go and check and make sure that people were keeping up-to-date with their payments. I know that, Sir.

Aside,

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: No, No. Grant it that you looked at your books and found out who were the defaulters and then you would go and visit them.

Now, Sir, that fund operated until 1981. I do not remember at anytime whether it was necessary for the Government to top it up by way of a grant in the period 1976 to 1981. I do not remember, possibly, Sir. I do not remember if they got grants or loans. Anyhow, what they are getting now is a grant. The fund is getting a grant now.

Between 1981 and 1985, as the Leader of the House said when he introduced the Resolution, that fund was

dormant so that those people who ought to have had access to that fund as had been the case previously, no longer had access to that fund.

But in the meantime, Government had negotiated. The Honourable Member for St. Peter was one of the negotiators at the time that went to Washington. In 1982 the Government had negotiated with US Aid for a new and bigger fund to perform a similar role and function for the General Workers Loan Fund.

U.S. $10 million was put in as capital and an arrangement was made between the credit unions, the banks, trust companies and the fund and essentially it was to get the banks to involve themselves in making finance available to the small man because they had never been in it before. They eschewed getting into it for obvious reasons.

Between 1982 and 1986 the fund worked and $20 million was disbursed. If members had only done a little research on this they would have found -1 cannot make this a document of the House at this stage, I will pass it for members to look at it. 4.30p.m.

There was a document prepared in July 1985 for the Ministry of Housing and Lands entitled, "The Housing Finance System In Barbados, A Blueprint For Action" done by Elaine B. Weis, Commissioner of Financial Institution, State of Utah, P.O. Box 89, Salt Lake City. Government would have copies of this. And on page 4 and page 5 the Author explains about the Housing Credit Fund. And one of the things she said is:

"The Housing Credit Fund is an integral part of the Government of Barbados' plan to support and stimulate private sector involvement in the provision of low and moderate income housing solutions. Since its creation the Housing Credit Fund has served as the conduit for housing guarantee funds lending to private sector financial institutions for onlending to eligible Barbadian households.

As of June 1985 the Housing Credit Fund had drawn down US$5.6 million of the US$10 million Housing Guarantee Loan. Based on current projections, all funds from the existing Housing Guarantee Loan should be disbursed by the end of 1986."

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The criticism that we have, Sir, is that that was a fund with BDSS20 million which would have been exhausted by 1986. But it should have been a revolving fund. But between 1986 and now, there has been little done by the Government in this particular area until now. You are coming for 2.7 now. Do you know why? You are getting close to an election. That really is the heart of it and I would not talk about it. You are getting close to an election....

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Election cannot be any later than November next year and some of you over there in the Cabinet are trying to get the Prime Minister to have it by May. You know that.

Laughter.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Do not come with any Budget. Have it in May. Well let him come in May then. You would get one seat.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: No, no. I have this made up. But it will be over there next time.

Sir, what this Government ought to be concerned about is that on their own figures there are 2 000 people out there applying precisely for this kind of financial assistance. This $2.7 million will only help 281 or 2 000 on their own figures at this time for 31/2 years. Where has the assistance for those 2 000 gone?

From time to time, Sir, the various ceilings had been varied. At one time, I think around 1984, if we have copies of the old Reports in here you will see there was a time when the maximum wage was $200. It is now at $300 a week. And as people's circumstances improve, the basic minimum has to be increased. Presumably they go to $400 and $500 and so on, Sir. It is $300 now.

But I am also concerned that the Honourable Minister of Health told this House this afternoon, yes, that this thing has been in the pipeline since May. Do you understand, Sir? That it has taken seven months for this Government to come and help 281 people, poor people. And it did not take that time for them to buy foolish ugly coaches that two of them are damaged, for over $1 million.

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

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

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

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The Honourable Member has given way, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, order.

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I thought the Honourable Member had given way, Sir, but apparently he is talking up and down. He is down and he is still talking.

I did say that the request was made in May. But the fund was not empty. It was still continuing. So there is no need to rush...

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: - He said that. - ... from here to now. Unlike like you who stopped lending for 3 years. The difference between May and now is months. You stopped between 1981 and 1985 lending anything.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: There are two things wrong with that response (a) his powers of understanding are even poorer than I had thought. I gave him high marks for being able to speak and speak the English language well, Sir. But in matters of understanding he has scored very poorly.

I made it very clear that even though we had let that fund remain dormant, something else that contributed $20 million in 4 years had been put in place. I had finished with that one.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The other thing wrong with the point of order reply, Sir, is that the Minister is telling us that the Government of which he is a Member runs its business in such a way that it waits until the kitty is dry and the pot is empty and there is then a crisis.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. Michael West is on a point of order.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You said that.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: No, Sir. He is misleading the House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. Michael West is on a point of order.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I made the point that there was money, still an amount of $1 million in the fund. It has never run dry.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: What he ought to have been telling the House is that this Government ought to have been monitoring the operation of this fund. And you could do projections. There would be people who are competent in the public sector, to project over a period of time what kind of funding you would need to keep this thing ongoing. I am only responding to his own words, Sir.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. It is precisely as a result of the monitoring that we are here. It is still 30% full. We are getting the money now to make it 100% full again. But it is 30% full now.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: One million dollars.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Member has 2 minutes to conclude.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members on this side have already expressed the reasons why we will support this matter. Because even though we think that the Government has handled it very badly we understand that 281 people are probably in dire need of assistance. We all have social consciences in here on all sides and we are going to support it.

But we would counsel, Sir, that Government, before the close of this debate, ought really to tell us what is its policy in relation to housing. Let us hear, Sir. They have been filibustering. The Honourable Minister of Health read «* everything that the Leader of the House had said in his opening to filibuster. They do not want us to deal with the other matters in this Resolution. So I want to stick on housing.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Filibuster is such a bad parliamentary word, Sir, in relation to another Member that I wish to repeat that I was not in any way filibustering. It is that the responses which the Honourable Member had got were so far removed from what he had said that it was necessary to bring the debate back to the centre so they could understand what he had said. Surely they could not have understood what he said to have gone on in the cock-a-mamy way they went off, Sir.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, what I am driving at is that we are in a serious position in respect of low income housing in Barbados period. Mr. Chairman, Sir, you should know that there is great difficulty in getting any house spots in any part of Barbados. Try through the National Housing Corporation and you cannot get any.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Not thanks to us. You had 3 years to develop a land bank. Since July I have written the Minister of Housing who made an invitation in here to me one day and given him 6 days that I was available to meet with him and go and look at areas in St. Thomas for

housing. He has not gone with me yet. I reasonably believe he does not have any intention. 4.40 p.m.

You have a lot of houses in Husbands under the Venezuelan project which cannot be bought, which are not tenanted.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: How many do you have people in? With the present mortgage situation the people will not be able to buy those homes.

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, elections are really round the corner, so they think. The fundamental point which has to be made is that low income housing has always been a problem in Barbados and successive Governments have tried to address the problem with more or less success.

Our policy is quite clear. We will take the effective steps possible, Mr. Chairman, to ensure that adequate provision is made to facilitate availability of housing, particularly for the low income earners, and all the song and dance we hear about money not being made available is pure hot air.

We have come to replenish this particular fund, It will be abundantly clear that the Barbados Mortgage Finance Company will have funds available for mortgages, the point which the Honourable Member for St, Michael Sooth Central raised. Arrangements have already been made for the Barbados Mortgage Finance Company to have funds at its disposal for the provision of mortgages for the people who need them. We will hear these comments, but in essence we have already addressee! the problem. We know that a problem was possible and that ha:.; already been addressed.

I have risen specifically, Mr. Chairman, to deal with some misrepresentations which came from the Opposition, originating with a statement by the Honourable Member for St, George South about squandermania in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Mr. R. P. B YER: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I never talked about squandermania, I never used the word. I talked about the increase. If the Minister wants to confirm that there is squandermania, he is free to do that.

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, the implication of what the Honourable Member for St. George South said was clear. If I interpret what he says as squandermania, it is only putting it in a nutshell, but the point he was making was that there was a substantial increase in the expenditure in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Certain remarks were ordered by Mr. CHAIRMAN to be expunged from the record.

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, I am not going to get into any lot of argument, I became aware of some publication in the Press about this matter after I had returned from an official visit overseas and I promptly asked the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to investigate the matter.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir. If you have struck a matter from the record, I cannot understand how the Honourable Members can be responding to a matter that you struck from the record.

Certain remarks made by Dr. R. C. HAYNES were ordered by Mr. CHAIRMAN to be expunged from the record at this stage.

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, an unwarranted attack has been made on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs about the level of its expenditure and it was started by the Honourable Member for St. George South. Surely I must be able to respond to that, 3r»d I want to give the figures which we have in the Minisu}' of Fo^.^n AH«urs.) aidicaicJ lhat i had asked the officials in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to get the figures for me that I could get to the bottom of the mailer.

Certain remarks made by Dr. R. C. HAYNES were ordered by Mr. CHAIRMAN 10 he expunged from the record at this stage.

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for St, Michael South Central does not want me to state what the figures arc, but he is not going to inhibit me ^d 1^ ' lus; iaow *t*y he u t*of slop me f^n s^jsng fci 1 have » say. Bertci :;«pie Utwi you rave Uicd and nave not succeeded. 4.50 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, the figures on current expenditure I am going to give for a number of years to show what the position is. Firstly I will deal with 1986-87. Current expenditure of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was $9 787 069. In 1987-88 current expenditure was $11 366 359, so that in 1987-88 the increase was $1.5 million. In 1988-89 current expenditure was $11 406 491, an increase of $40 132. You will find, Mr. Chairman, that the expenditure was largely a result of the increase in wages and salaries and rentals and things of that kind. So there has been no unusual expenditure in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs over these years. Don't ask me to explain anything else; I am telling you what the position of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is.

The Central Bank, as I understand it, uses a calendar year in compiling its statistics, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs like all Government Departments use a fiscal year.

Now we have asked that the matter be looked at with a view to having the issue clarified.

Now if we went back a bit further beyond 1986-87, in 1985-86 the expenditure of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was $9 735 556, in 1984-85 it was $8 277 135, in 1983-84 it was $7 488 837, so that these figures, Mr. Chairman, clearly demonstrate that there has not been any dramatic increase in expenditure by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as has been indicated certainly over the past three fiscal years. I am telling you what the position in the, Ministry of Foreign Affairs is; I am telling you what the facts as indicated in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are. If you are on a point of order, I will sit. It is not a question of making a ministerial statement An allegation has been made against the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and I think all of you would wish me to sit down and let it go abroad that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is expending an excessive amount of money. It would be useful to the Opposition if I sat and said nothing. So don't tell me to make a ministerial statement.

Mr, CHAIRMAN: The Honoumble Member has two minutes.

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, I hardly had a chance to say anything.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You can come back again.

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, as I was indicating, the major areas of growth in expenditure over the years have been in those areas over which there has been really no discretionary control, and those areas to which I refer are the statutory emoluments and allowances and rental of property, but you will discover if you look carefully at the accounts of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that there has been relatively careful budgeting certainly over the last three financial years. One has got to look at the statement I am interesting in finding out what the Central Bank figures are myself, and as I said....

Asides.

Hon. M. A. KING: I have seen the figures; don't ask me if I want them. There has been a lot of discussion in relation to the expenses.

Mr. CHAIRMAN ordered that certain remarks made by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central be struck from the record.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will give the Honourable Member one minute to wind up.

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Leader of the Opposition gets up and fulminates. I said that I had directed the officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to look into this matter of the expenses of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. What is wrong with that? Don't I have a responsibility. Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Leader of the Opposition cannot put words in my mouth. I have asked the officials in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to look into the matter with a view to getting the accurate position. What is wrong with that I have a responsibility to do that. In fact I would be failing in my duty if I sat and did absolutely nothing about it. What we are striking from the record is the nonsense which you have been speaking.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your time has expired. Just before the Honourable Member for Christ Church West makes his intervention, I made a point a little earlier that when reference was made to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that I was of the opinion that we were drifting. We are having now a total debate on Foreign Affairs on a matter relating to housing, and I am not going to allow it to continue.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I will guarantee that I will not speak on the question of Foreign Affairs and worry the Minister about the difference between his figures and those cf the Central Bank, but until I see a correction I would have to accept that the Central Bank's figures must have some accuracy about them. Why I really intervened in this debate is not to repeat the very clear statements which have been made from the Opposition benches on this matter of low income housing, but really particularly to .speak about my own constituency and a disturbing matter which has occurred there only yesterday. During the afternoon in Bonnets where there are fifty rental units, a molotov cocktail was thrown through the window of one of those units, and the result has been that one unit has been destroyed and two others have been affected with the result that nineteen people are seriously inconvenienced.

Now, Sir, we go to a lot of trouble in this country to spend money from the taxpayers on low income housing, very necessary housing since there have been no new constructions by the Government in the last few years for housing development of this nature other than the limited amount of construction occurring under a different scheme, but not this normal scheme, nothing on the basis of the Bonnetts or the Husbands whichever you like. You will find that Bonnetts is perhaps the last major construction of this nature taking place, and even now Bonnetts is not <* completed. I am concerned that after three and a half years, almost four years, Bonnetts Housing area has not been completed. There are still some units that have no water or electricity and therefore the people who have been discommoded cannot go over, although I am satisfied, and let me say it here, that all of the authorities at the National Housing Corporation who have the responsibility for attending to these matters have given utmost cooperation to these families in order to get them resiled. 5.00 p.m. *

I am not going to go into the event too far, Sir, because I believe that Police action is being taken but I want most strongly to deprecate this type of development. I think it is a very bad sign in our social structure when this type of act could take place, particularly in an area which is the residential quarters for people who are not economically well off in the society and J think that as a responsible Member of Parliament I speak on behalf, I am sure, of everybody in here, who would want to say that this type of act cannot be allowed to continue in our society.

Now, Sir, I have two housing areas within my own constituency and the room for further development of housing in the area of Christ Church West is extremely limited.

We are a very densely populated part of Barbados. The housing needs of the people of Christ Church West remain many and I am probably one of the Members of this Parliament who frequently refer to the National Housing Corporation several persons asking for loans under the General Workers' Loan Scheme.

I would expect that at any one time I have on an average of 30 to 50 people whose applications have gone through and whom I have assisted in some way in filling out their applications with a covering note.

I think I want it to he noted for the purpose of the records that I always do the correct thing whether I am a Minister, or a backbencher, or on the Opposition or Government and I have always correctly made every proper application to the authorities and no other way have I dealt with Housing Authority and I have always found that the officials have always correctly dealt with my own applications.

I cannot speak for the other members although if somebody comes from the adjoining constituencies whether it is Christ Church South Central, Christ Church South or Christ Church West Central where I sometimes get the people from, I send copies to the Honourable Members of Parliament if I act on their behalf.

But I would like the Minister to know that I am concerned about his stating a figure of 2 000 applications outstanding. In my estimation I think there are many more than 2 000 applications that have been outstanding. What has happened is that sometimes people do not follow up on their applications.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Well, the Honourable Member's own publication. I have the report for 1986/87. From the inception of the scheme there were something like over 6 000 applications, I think, that had been made before the Board and if he looks at the figures...

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Well, I am talking from 1973 from whatever they have but if the Honourable Member looks at the figures he will find that it seems to me that there are probably .more applications than those that would be outstanding and I am enjoining with the other Members in saying that the amount of $2.7 million which is being asked for this particular scheme does not seem to me to go anywhere towards assisting the very serious problem that is existing.

Now, Sir, I think the Honourable Members have accused the Opposition of seeking to use the Resolution to debate the general state of the economy. I believe that that accusation is now well founded but on a Resolution such as this one has to emphasize that mortgage funds have virtually dried up in Barbados and they have dried up for this significant reason except, perhaps, in the areas of lending for commercial enterprise because whatever little funds are available, the major institutions are not going to lend them at 9% if their prime rate that they have from the Central Bank is 13.7% or whatever percentage it is today.

They would be borrowing at 13% and on-lending at 9%. Now, there is no compulsion on them to lend so whatever funds they have they are not using in this way and I regret very much...

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: They are borrowing from the Central Bank.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Whether they are borrowing short-term what the Honourable Member must recognize is that they are paying on persons' Saving Accounts 10% for long-term or medium-term so that nobody is going to lend them at a lower percentage to lend for mortgage.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The Honourable Member must know that they are paying 10%. The Honourable Member does not hear what I hear in town every day. He must know that there is a bid going on so that you are not getting money going and I could have said to the Honourable Member both in the insurance companies as well as in the trust companies, as well even in Mortgage Finance, if you phone Mortgage Finance you have a difficulty in getting any loans from them.

Now, I want the Government to let me know whether they are replenishing the funds available and how soon the

funds available to Mortgage Finance will be replenished so that they, at least, in that sector that they lend, will have funds available.

The Opposition has already asked and I repeat the question, what is the status of the Housing Credit Loan Fund? Has the full $20 million, the initial tranche been drawn down and what is the revolving state of that fund? Has the Government yet taken any further initiative to make sure that further funds are available?

Now, Sir, we also had, when we were in Government, under the Tenantries Freehold Purchase Act, recognized that there were another category of persons who were of low income, who would not even qualify under the General Workers' Loan Fund and these included pensioners as well and people who were in receipt of incomes below $15 000 and there was a special scheme established by us in order to make available to them monies for repairs and home improvements.

In fact, Sir, I do not know what has happened to that whether there is any money in it now but there was a series of measures taken by us at that time to ensure that there would be enough funds available for the different social layers of the society.

For instance, the Housing Bonds. During the period 1976-86 we issued Housing Bonds, as far as I remember and that is shown in the White Paper which was laid in this House. It has become a document of the House and it is part of the records of the House.

We renegotiated the loan from the Commonwealth Development Corporation at the time that we bought out all of the shares of the Mortgage Finance Company, because the Government only had a small amount of share ownership in there, and we renegotiated the loan over a 20 year period.

I remember myself talking to the Chairman of the Commonwealth Development Corporation to find out why they were moving out of Barbados in circumstances where there was still a need and his making the point to me that Barbados will have access to funds in this area and, in fact, at one stage they had one million pounds that they had and were not allowed to repatriate immediately and that was used for this purpose.

Likewise we made from the National Insurance Funds available at the time something like $16.5 million in funds and undertook on an annual basis to make available to the Barbados Mortgage Finance an additional $1 million a year.

We also changed the rules, Sir. Formerly if a husband and wife or common-law spouse lived together, you could only take the husband's income and one half of the wife's to qualify. We have changed those to allow the full incomes of both to count for the purpose of qualification.

That has been advantageous but I have also seen in my experience in dealing with my constituents a disadvantage that has occurred, particularly to people working in the hotel sector. If couples are working in the hotel sector by the time the bonus that they get, the trunk money, is added at the end of the year although at the time the application is ^ lodged to housing they qualify, when they come at the time for disbursement at times they find that they have gone over that $300 limit. Therefore, there is an urgent need to raise the limit and to have the rules in such a way that those special circumstances can be taken into account. 5.10p.m.

I have had people from St. John, I remember a particular case where I helped some persons from Gall Hill, St. John in their applications and from my own constituency where persons have found themselves caught by that limit and when they go to Mortgage Finance or indeed to the bank, they find that they do not qualify because they are not as high as possible.

Likewise, Sir, we set up the Trust Division at the Barbados National Bank and to allow the Public Workers Housing Loans to be transferred to this institution which has been beneficial -to the Public Workers Housing Loan. «•* We also provided various incentives for private builders and lowered the rate of tax in order to have joint ventures between private builders and ourselves. One of the areas we attended to which was most important was the provision of the Tenantries Freehold Purchase Act because there is no point talking about people improving their housing unless you make sure that they can own their house lot in the long run.

What has been significant to me is that since that Act has come into being particularly in the plantation tenantries, and I can speak from the people who live near me in Society, I live at the end of that village, Sir, and I can talk about Colleton and I can talk about other areas, but you have seen that the experience has been, and this is documented by the research in the Ministry of Housing, that they themselves have been taking steps to upgrade their surroundings. The beneficial aspects of that legislation should never be lost on persons in this community because it was a form of enfranchisement of the lower socio-economic groups in this country giving them the right to own part of the land.

And the final point, if you would allow me in my last minute, Sir, to make the point that we adverted to. We recognize that you cannot have a sensible housing policy unless you dealt with the problem of the inputs into housing, construction materials and that sort of thing.

One of the reasons when we went into the joint venture with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago was to use the natural resources of our two countries to produce cement in the expectation that we would have a long term type of and a strong form of building material and at the same time control the cost. If you look at cement cost during that time, it has not skyrocketed particularly in relation to what was happening when we were bringing in the cement from Columbia and elsewhere.

And also at the Community College and in the national training programme that we were having, we were making sure that we were providing enough skilled artisans. So the housing problem was being tackled under the Barbados Labour Party Government on several fronts. The time that I have in this segment does not allow me enough time to go into some of the other measures in more detail. But those were some of the far reaching measures in which a proper overall housing policy was developed and was being executed under the Barbados Labour Party.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Mr. Chairman, this debate allows to some extent a comparison of track records between two political parties, the question of low income housing. And I would therefore expect as the Honourable Member who just spoke, the Member for Christ Church West, that h^ would want to expand on the policy of his Party when it was the Government of this country.

We are looking at a Resolution that seeks to put $2.7 million into the general workers scheme controlled by the National Housing Corporation. Both sides of the House would agree that this is a positive to that is being taken and I am sure that support for it would be widespread. But one would expect that it would generate some debate on the whole question of housing, mortgages, et cetera.

But I think that generally speaking we need to concentrate on that General Workers Scheme and I believe that some discretion must flow also to the question of the Housing Credit Fund. I am not clear quite frankly of the Barbados Labour Party's policy in these two areas, what it used to be, and therefore I would expect, well all of the Members have spoken so far and I certainly wanted the Member for Christ Church West to address some of the questions I want to point to there because I believe there are several'questions to be raised.

In terms of the statistics, what the Report says about low income housing requests and needs, no party can get up and claim that they had been satisfying all of the needs because the statistics are replete with the wide divergence between the demands and the ability to satisfy those demands.

When the Barbados Labour Party took the decision in 1981 to discontinue the scheme, it would have had access to information which suggested that between 1973 and 1983, 1973 when the scheme was started and 1983 that in fact there were 15 441 applications for loans under this scheme. The amount requested was $30.5 million. In fact approvals had been given for only 6 423, less than half of the applications. The amount disbursed had been $12.3 million. So there was a vast gap. Even when they were moving away from the scheme there was a vast recorded.gap between the applications and the ability to service those applications. So do not let any of us think that it is an easy job for any Government at this time or in the past servicing the demands for loans for housing for the poor people of this country.

But what did the Barbados Labour Party do? In 1981 they discontinued the scheme. In 1983 they started another scheme and they put in $20 million into the scheme. That is at a time when as I said the request was for $30 million. But they went ahead and they got $20 million which was put into the Housing Credit Fund.

Aside.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: The demand for loans between 1973 and 1983 at the General Workers Scheme was $30.5 million. That was the accumulated demands for loans from that scheme. These are the records of the National Housing Corporation to which I refer. There were 15 441 accumulated applications, 6 423 were approved out of the 15 000 and only $12 million were approved. That was up to 1983. You had abandoned the scheme in 1981 and in 1983 you started the Housing Credit Fund.

Now the Housing Credit Fund when it was started, I am sure we are all aware, had a number of difficulties, i think there would have been some conceptual difficulties in the scheme. My question to the Barbados Labour Party was, why did you move away from a scheme that was controlled by a non bank financial intermediary controlled by Government with which the people had built up a certain familiarity, a certain and gone to the NHC, poor people making an application for a loan? Why did you move it away from them and take it back to things like banks and so on, Mortgage Finance Corporation for which the poorer people were not familiar basically in approaching? I know the credit unions were also brought into the scheme. I am looking at....

Aside.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: What is not true?

Aside.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Pardon me.

Aside.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: I am not saying not. I am not saying that is not true. I am not saying that. I am saying that the people are more familiar and feel more comfortable, the small people are more familiar and would have felt more comfortable going down there to the National Housing Corporation and making applications for loans than they would be comfortable going to the banks and so on. I want to know what is the rationale for moving it away from the NHC and putting it into Mortgage Finance, putting it into the commercial banks and some into the credit unions.

Now I know the difficulties in getting the scheme started. One of the major difficulties in getting the scheme started as the Honourable Member for St. Peter would be well aware was that the banks did not feel that it was a viable venture for them, so for the credit unions. You were borrowing the money from the fund at 8% and you were lending at 12% and the 4% was not considered a sufficient margin to cover your administrative costs for the loans. So for a while you did not get much activity from the credit unions,. In fact I do not think the c^dit unions would be a large contributor to the scheme.

Aside.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: You come with the facts then. There are no facts you can bring to contradict what I am saying. None whatsoever. The credit unions are not structured in such a way, and there are only a few credit unions that could get into that kind of scheme, 5.20 p.m.

In fact you were basically back to the Mortgage Finance Corporation and the commercial banks as lending the money. I have the facts in front of me, I can bring them to you. What you have to explain to the people is why, having decided that you were going to continue the scheme in 1981 and you started the Housing Credit Fund, in 1986 you put $3,1 million back into the same General Workers Scheme. Is it a coincidence that that v^s an election year? Something that you discontinued in V)&i and you set up an alternative scheme, why were you back pumping $3,1 million then, in an election year, back into the General Workers Fund if you were not playing around? Because if you were telling me that you set up a Housing Credit Fund in order to redirect lending of money to poor people, why in 1986 did you come back and put $3.1 million into the same scheme? That is what you have to answer when you are talking about playing around with money for political purposes. Justify that.

Now you are asking what is our policy towards that Fund, the same one that you undermined by putting money back into something that you had discontinued. You arc to answer that, not the Democratic Labour Party.

Aside.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: I would never say that. You should have kept on putting it. I am criticising you for moving away from it from 1981. Of course we are carrying both schemes at this time. You are aware of that. The Democratic Labour Party has both schemes in operation, and what we are doing is putting more money into a scheme that now has $1 million in, because the General Workers Scheme still has in $1 million, we are putting in an additional $2.7 million and I cannot see how anybody could be criticising that particular development. If we are serious about social and economic policies for the working class people of this country, how could you be criticising that? Let us understand that at the present time the Housing Credit Fund is still there.

Let me say very clearly that I am aware that 75% of the funds disbursed from the Housing Credit Fund has gone to people with loans below $16,000, so it has performed a function in terms of getting money to the low income workers of Barbados. What is germane to the discussion is whether or not we are satisfied as a party in terms of our policy tha: the National Housing Corporation through its General Workers Scheme has the capacity to deliver to the workers That is very important, and if we can put the funding there and we are satisfied it will get to the workers for whom it is intended, I see no reason why we should not continue to use that methodology. It is one that worked very well until you discontinued it in 1981 and started it back in 1986, and as far as I can see we should try to do the best we can for the workers of this country by putting that money into the General Workers Fund.

There is really no criticism of the Resolution. There can be no criticism of the Resolution. It is a positive Resolution which has nothing whatsoever to do with elections, because we continued from 1986. There was no hiatus. We have a track record of continuing with things that we start.

I am not going to be extraneous, Sir, but we started to give back some money to the Civil Servants at Christmas and still people are asking if it is coming, as though we have a policy of backing off from these things. It will keep coming, because that is our policy. When we can put money to the working class people of this country, we will do it and do it as efficiently as possible.

So, Mr. Chairman, I would like to suggest that this is a very positive Resolution and I think all of us would wish to see this particular step further. I for one would like to see, and I am sure my Government would be pursuing it at some time, perhaps raising the limit from $15,000. In 1983 I think it was about $12,000 and I am sure that once the funds are available that some time in the future we will be sending it to a level that is more acceptable to the masses of the people in this country.

I want, Sir, to address the question that was raised too by the Honourable Members for Christ Church West.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You have four minutes in which to do that.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: The language he used bothered me a little bit. He was talking about a Housing Area and he talked about molotov cocktails. Is that what was really used? I do not know.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: If the Honourable Member will give way, the information that I have from the area, and which I understand has been given to police sources, is that someone did throw what was virtually a molotov cocktail through one of the housing units in Bonnetts. That is my information and the police are investigating. That is why I have not gone much further, but that is the information. I will not use alarmist language. I have checked it out and the police are investigating. I think that information is available to the Housing Authority sources. I will put it that way, Sir.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: I like this kind of information to have solid foundation, because when I hear about molotov cocktails, from my limited knowledge of these things it sounds like war to me. I would not want to know that there is some little domestic problem in Bonnetts but we are hearing in the House of Assembly that molotov cocktails are being used.

Aside.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Is that all it is? There is a certain familiarity on the other side that makes me a bit wary.

The Opposition speaks of molotov cocktails with a familiarity.

Mr. R. P. BYER: On a point of order. It is not rny fault that the Honourable Member does not understand the language of terrorism.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: But it is not only the language that bothers me, it is the methodology that some people are very familiar with.

Anyhow, the question of housing and house spots and so on, building up land banks, again we become very emotional about these things. We ask if the Democratic Labour Party has been in office for three years how come it has not built up this fantastic land bank, and most of us in here know the intricacy and the details necessary in terms of purchasing land. If you as an individual go about to buy a house spot, it takes such a long time before you can complete that conveyance. If you are thinking of purchasing spots in every constituency, as I understand has been the policy of the Democratic Labour Party, the Minister of Housing has said from time to time that that is his intention, that he would like to be able to identify spots in various parts of the Island and he would like to be able to acquire these spots and put in the sites and services for the people of this country, but do not let us get on as though this exercise is one that can be done very simply and very easily and that all of a sudden these things will become open. Let us understand that we are talking about a very complex socio-economic development, the whole planning of that exercise. We know that that is the policy of the Government and the Government has shown that it is willing to live up to its policy proclamations, its Manifesto proposals. The Government has been faithful in following these things, but we have to understand that these things take time, and once we are aware that Government - and the Minister of Housing representing the Government in this direction has adumbrated that policy - we need to follow through from time to time to see that the housing becomes available and that the spots of land become available.

• But I can understand the pressure placed on individual politicians and I can understand why sometimes they become less than rational about these matters, why they become afraid, because when they sit down in their offices somebody comes and says I want a house spot or I want a house and all of a stuiden they become very cannibalistic? iff a sense. They want to tear down the one man whom they consider to be the focus of their demands. So the Minister of Housing becomes the target of everybody, because they want house spots and they want housing.

Why don't you address the situation by being factual to the people? We have to tell the people,"look when you brought your acknowledgement from National Housing Corporation for a rental unit it was marked No. 28,685," because you do get them to bring in the letter of acknowledgement, "and if you have that number you have to wail in line," but we cannot as parliamentarians be afraid to tell people what fkc facts are. The question is that ihay see the people who clejire housing and it is extremely difficult to meet that demand. 5.30 p.m.

We cannot promise people what we cannot deliver because the whole integrity of the system, the whole integrity of politics is about being faithful representatives which is not creating dreams for people, seeing a piece of land that we would like to see sub-divided in our constituency, and because it is not done immediately getting concerned about it. We have to be realistic; we live in a small country with a small economy, not one that is big or flexible, and whatever our social position is, whatever our philosophy is, there is only so much that we can deliver, and we really should not try to fool people about these things. This debate is putting into a scheme what we can afford at this point in time. In terms of the demands that are being made, we are trying to meet them, but we cannot perform miracles, and I think we should be applauded as a Government for making the effort.

Thank you, Sir.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Chairman, first of all let me lend niy support to this Resolution for the injection of $2.7 million to the General Workers' Housing Fund. Now housing is always a very emotional issue, and as you go along every succeeding administration is going to find it more demanding and more difficult to meet the needs of housing. The background figures for this are very simple. First of all one of my colleagues drew to this House's attention the fact that the family situation in Barbados is changing. No longer are boys and girls prepared to live at their parents until they are 30, 35 and 36, they are now getting into the housing market. They go into the housing market for two reasons, Mr. Chairman. One is that the income level over the years has continued to rise and therefore they are now in a position to go to the mortgage market a lot earlier. The second one deals with two big piece^ of legislation and the first was the Tenantries Freehold Act. Now let me state as a fact that from the time that the Tenantries Control Act was put into place, there was an upward movement in the quality of housing inside the tenantries, so this had started long before the Tenantry Freehold Act came in, which gave them the ability to purchase. The ability to purchase at a reasonable price, plus the fact that the incomes have got higher, plus the changing family domestic situation have put tremendous pressures on the housing stock in Barbados.

As a matter of fact the last time we looked, it was my opinion that there is something like 64 000 houses in Barbados or units and if you take the situation that we have approximately 252 000 people, you will see the ratio of housing to people is an extremely high ratio of something like 1:3.5,1 think one of the highest housing ratios in the entire world, and we have to acknowledge that over the years the quality of that housing has continually been improved and you are going to have continuous pressure on any scheme.

Now the Honourable Member for St. Peter alluded to the fact that the Barbados Labour Party had moved away from the General Workers' Fund and they had started the Housing Credit Fund in 1983 with an injection of about $20 million. The fund got off to a relatively slow start. First of all the administrative section had to be put in place, then there was some difficulty. The banks contended for a very long time that the spread between borrowing and lending was too small to meet the administrative cost, and the third thing was that there were not many credit unions that were structured enough to take care of the funds, they had to be properly staffed etcetera, so the fund had a relatively slow start.

The present position of the fund from the injection in 1983 of $20 million with the present level of activity is some $39 million which represents some $19 million of inflows over the past six years into the fund. Of that amount of money, some $16 million has gone into mortgages to the Barbados Mortgage Finance Corporation, and the Caribbean Commercial Trust, and $21 million has gone into improvement loans to commercial banks and credit unions.

What is of importance is that approximately 75 per cent of that sum of $39 million which would be approximately $13 million has gone to households below the $16 000 per annum bracket. Now I am in agreement with Members who said that we have to extend this, and I know the Minister of Housing is actually looking at that and I am of the view that there is a recommendation for the Housing Credit Fund limit to move to $20 000 because of the difficulties we now have. If you have a bus conductor and a bus driver in the same household and they apply, they are disqualified because they go above the $16 000, and therefore we have to re-examine it, but this is something you have to do as incomes continue to rise. You have to re-examine it. I am certain the Ministry of Housing is looking at the situation.

Now there is a remainder of $2 million at the moment remaining in the Housing Credit Fund, but the demand on the fund *x* approximately $5 million from the Barbados Mortgage Finance Corporation and I am certain that the Ministry of Housing is looking at that situation.

Now the General Workers' Fund which we restarted in 1986 with an injection of $3.1 million to date has a remaining amount of $1 million; so the injection of $2.7 million into the fund will give them about $3.7 million now to work with; so the statement that the fund has run out is not true. What is to be noted is that under the Democratic Labour Party we have both going; we have the Housing Credit Fund going as well as the General Workers' Scheme going, so that both of them are operating at almost the same income level.

Now as I said earlier, this is an area that you would never be able to satisfy with the limited resources that we have, but this Government is deeply aware of the demands and the policy is one that could be easily followed.

Now I have always contended in Barbados that if you provide a household with land, that household would get a house on it, so the Ministry of Lands' emphasis over the last two years has been building up steadily areas throughout Barbados that would make house spots available. I am sorry the Minister is not here, but I know for a fact it is his policy that in every single constituency he would have at least 100 to 200 house lots available for people. It takes time. The moment that the Government gets involved in the acquisition of any land, it is a long drawn out procedure which has caused the Government to almost continuously use the route of compulsory acquisition, because it is very difficult for the Government to get a free enterprise situation where you have an agreement on the price of land. As long as the Government is involved, they

always find it very difficult to arrive at a price outside the compulsory acquisition. So they are doing that, but it is against the back prop that we have to find suitable areas that the Town Planning would allow, and those areas in order to make the development cost as small as possible should be areas where the infrastructure is readily available or close to things like water, electricity and proper roads, so they are presently working on that, providing essential house spots. As well as keeping the Housing Credit Fund and the General Workers' Fund going, we have to rely heavily as well on the banking system to provide that backup that is needed. I know a lot of discussion has gone on on that which I would not get into at the moment, but the Democratic Labour Party realises the tremendous importance of proper housing to the community; it is the back prop for stability in the community because the time a person is the owner of property in this country, it gives him a stake in the country, and they act a lot more responsibly as citizens.

There is also a situation where you find that it is one of the good areas of investment in this country, and it is very much to the educational system of this country under the Democratic Labour Party that the young people are becoming a lot more conscious of getting involved in mortgages a lot earlier, because the mortgage payments depend on the length of the payments which depend on the age of the person and the ability to service the mortgage.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, I am agreeing with almost everything that the Honourable Member is saying. It is really a savage indictment on the Minister of Finance's policies.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Chairman, let me make it quite clear that this present Minister of Finance is acutely aware of the requirements for housing in this country. 5.40 p.m.

Things like 100% mortgages, Mr. Chairman, I know have already been discussed. We have a situation in this country where many people in Barbados were able to service a mortgage but the 10% initial downpayment plus the cost which could easy amount to another 7% was proving a problem and most people were not able as a result to take the opportunity of mortgages when offered because of that and I know for a fact that the Minister of Finance has already discussed with the Minister of Housing a procedural arrangement that will allow those persons who normally could service a mortgage but would have that difficulty to be able to have money to bridge that gap.

We have also looked from this end of it to include the cost in the mortgage and amortising the entire thing including costs so that you would not have the initial expenditure in the mortgage situation so from this point of view the housing policy is very well thought out and I can say that the Minister of Housing very shortly will be announcing all the initiatives necessary to get low cost housing continue in this country.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, this debate ends at 6.00 o'clock. I would like to wind up.

Aside.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: That is wanting to. You would have to interrupt me.

Mr. Chairman, this debate ends at 6.00 o'clock. I must be able to wind up. I am rising to wind up. These are no bullying tactics.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There are three Honourable Members on their feet.

Aside.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Anyone moving a motion, Sir, must be able to wind it up.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: If the Honourable Members expect a final response and the debate on the Resolution concludes at 6.00 o'clock....

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: The Honourable Member had his 15.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Michael North.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I am winding up this debate, Sir.

Aside.

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

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: He is questioning your ruling. Unless you are on a point of order I am not sitting down.

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

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, you have given me the opportunity to wind up and I am speaking now, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN stands.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Both members sit.

My ruling is that the Honourable Member for St. Michael North will wind up debate.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of privilege, Sir.

There is no rule in this House which can deprive an Honourable Member of the right to speak because somebody wants to wind up a debate. There is no Standing Order that amounts to that Under the Rules of the House and I speak under privilege because I think the privileges of a member is being trampled on at this moment, there is no rule that is constructed in that way.

The Leader of the House is inventing a rule that does not exist and he knows that perfectly well. The House can pass any Resolution it wishes at any time but he cannot trample on the rights of the Opposition and this is what is happening here now.

With all due respect to the Honourable Member's usual sense of appropriateness in these...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member must conclude now. The Honourable Member for St. Michael North will speak.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: But, Sir, I rose on a matter of privilege.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I do not know where the question of privilege arises because you have spoken already.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael North.

Will the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central take his seat.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I think I am getting very disturbed by these situations. I believe a grave injustice is being perpetrated in respect of the parliamentary system and...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central take his seat.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I am speaking on a matter of privilege.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You will not speak... *Mr.*

CHAIRMAN stands.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The point is that I have said that you are out of order to speak at this moment. It is my ruling that the Honourable Member for St. Michael North will speak.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I cannot trample on the Opposition or anybody else.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order.

The Honourable Member is misleading the House. This conduct is trampling on the rights of the Members of this House. I can rise on a million points of order.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, there is a rule, Section 64,1 think it is. Anyhow, Sir, I am not getting into that one at this time.

Thank you Mr. Chairman for giving me the opportunity to respond, as is mine under the Standing Orders of this Chamber, to wind up on a motion that I have moved in this Chamber and that is my right and that right I intend to exercise irrespective of whoever wants to deprive me of that right. I intend to do it. I do not see any problem.

Mr. R. P. B YER: On a point of order.

Nobody is trying to deny the Leader of the Government Business the right to speak. It is just a simple matter that this side wants to speak and I thought that I had caught your eye and that is the rule that is normally followed, Sir.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I am grateful to the Honourable Member for St. Philip North and the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central and all other Honourable Members who have spoken on this in defence of this particular Resolution.

The facts simply are, Sir, that we have had a fund for housing to assist low income people for years. This goes way back for many years. I thought I had said this in my presentation.

Aside.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: It may have been instituted under your regime. I do not remember. When I became Minister of Housing in 1971 there were two funds in existence.

Aside.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I say I do not deny that.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order.

The Honourable Member is repeating himself. He is saying the same thing that he said when he introduced the Resolution and that is against the Standing Orders of the House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is no point of order.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: There were two funds. The two funds were merged when I was the Minister in 1973 when the Housing Authority and the Urban Development Corporation on which the Leader of the Opposition was a member. I made the Leader of the Opposition a member of the Urban Development Corporation and today the Honourable Member stood up here and talked about this Government turning away millions of dollars and touting this Resolution here as a revolutionary scheme. 5.50 p.m.

In the first place we are not touting this as any ' revolutionary scheme. This is a scheme that has been in existence for years. There is nothing revolutionary about something that is ongoing. When I made the presentation, he was the first person to have spoken, the Honourable Leader of the Opposition was the first person to have after me when I sat down. And if anybody had touted it as a revolutionary scheme, it would have to be me because nobody else has spoken, apart from someone who seconded the Resolution.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir. You see it is very dangerous in this Honourable House even to be complimentary when you are speaking about Members on the other side. I was most particular to congratulate the Honourable Member on the contributions that he made when he was Minister of Housing. And his response to this now is to try to distort what I said,

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: No, no, no, no, no, no, no, no. He said that too. But you also said that it was a revolutionary scheme and I never said it was a revolutionary scheme. So you can laugh as much as you like now. You can sit there and smile at yourself. But that is what you said. Nobody touted it as such.

And you are talking now and you talked about millions of dollars that were turned away. My assumption is the Honourable Member was referring to what was said in here last week about the Government refusing funds from the World Bank because they were insisting that we charge commercial rents as a condition for lending those funds. But the Honourable Member did not say that.

He was a Member of the Development Corporation that turned away the same millions of dollars.

Aside.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: That Member. Yes. He was a Member of the Urban Development Corporation that turned away the millions of dollars on similar grounds, Sir, in 1968 or 1969. Yes. Go ahead.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir. I do remember what happened at that time and I do recall that there was a Ministerial directive to that effect.

Laughter.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: No Ministerial directives. And what is more, Sir, the same Honourable Member sat in this same Honourable Chamber here a year or two or three years ago and boasted how he among others turned down the millions of dollars that were being lent under that IADB scheme. He boasted in this Honourable Chamber.

Aside.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Yes. You said it in here, that you were a Member.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: In the first instance, he conjectures that when I spoke about money being turned away that I was referring to World Bank money. That is purely conjecture. The second point he is making, Sir, is this that I certainly have always tried to avoid commenting on decisions or matters discussed in the Cabinet when I was £ Member. But if he wishes to start talking about those things, then I consider myself relieved of that responsibility.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: You just said that you heard me on the Floor of the House talking about,...

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: For 1968? Fair enough. If it is 1968, it is alright.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Yes. That is what I said. So you must understand me when I speak.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: It was a Ministerial directive.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: It was no Ministerial directive. You know that too.

Asides.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: No, Sir. He would not get away with this, Sir. But let me say this. There are problems in housing. I am going to say it. There have always been problems in housing. The problems in housing multiplied when I left it in 1976. That is a fact. That is when the problems multiplied when I left it in 1976.

The Honourable Member for St. Thomas rose.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I know you have to get up. You go ahead.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Sir. The Minister obviously is referring to the fact that in 1975

Government built 169 houses and in 1979 under us we built 483. You can check them in the records.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: That is absolute rubbish. It was the manner of reporting because until the keys are turned in whether the house is finished or not, they will never be stated as finished. And there were several houses, several hundreds of houses, Sir, finished in 1973. In fact from 1973 housing took a different turn altogether. A completely different turn from 1973.

We had about three different schemes. First of all, there was one scheme operating that was the low income building terrace houses. But I should not be at this time defending that when in fact the record is all there to be seen.

Let me get back to this particular matter here, Sir. There is a housing boom in this country.

Aside.

Hon. R M, GREAVES: In this lime, this year 1989. More funds have been lent out in mortgage in 1989 than has ever been lent in any single year so far.

Aside.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: More monies have been lent out for mortgage purposes, Mr. Chairman, in this country in 1989 than has ever been lent out in any single year. Drive around the country and you will see.

Aside.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: No crisis. You drive around the country and you can see that.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Let me say this, Sir. The year is nearly ended but the banks and the trust companies....

Aside.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Do you know how trust companies get their money to lend?

Aside.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: No. Not from deposits. That is the whole point.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Can we have some order, please?

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, most of the monies lent from the trust companies have been monies put there by insurance companies. Lots of insurance companies now, Sir, are lending their own....

Aside.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: They are not deposits. Come on. They are put there for a specific purpose. The insurance companies are now doing their own lending. Take the Manufacturers Life Insurance as an example. The Manufacturers Life Insurance used to deposit money with the commercial bank's trust companies, Royal Bank Trust Company. Now the insurance companies are going to lend their own funds. Barbados Mutual, Sir,...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Because of....

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Sir, he is misleading the House. I think that Royal Bank....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On what point has the Honourable Member risen?

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: What I am saying, Sir, is even after 6.00 o'clock, even after the trysting hour he has still continued to mislead the House.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I have never been misleading the House.

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

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The monies that the trust companies have been lending are not now available to the trust companies generally speaking to lend for mortgages for the simple reason that the source of funds available to them, that the insurance companies like the Mutual, like Manufacturers are now doing their own lending.

Aside.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: And some of them like the Mutual are doing their own building as well.

Aside.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: The Mutual has no money?

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Can we have some order?

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, put the question. I cannot deal with this any more.

The question that Head 79 stand part was put and was resolved in the affirmative without division. 6.00 p.m.

Order No. 3(c) - SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, 1989-90, No. 8

A Resolution for the sum of $1,711293 was called.

HEAD 85 - MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND SPORTS

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Sir. I thought the Clerk called a Resolution in the sum of $1.7 million, and that is Head 43.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The item that was called was 3(c) on the Order Paper.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: That one is Head 43 though, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Members wishes to proceed with the original 3(b).

Order No. 3(b) - SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1989-90, No. 7

A Resolution for the sum of $145,825 was called.

HEAD 85 - MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND SPORTS

Hon. W. W. HALL: Mr. Chairman, after the turbulence of the last six hours I suppose we can now go to calm and safe waters. The sum of $145,825 is required to meet the revised cost of projects and to continue the work of programmes of our sports facilities.

Sir, this is required first of all for repairs done to the National Stadium to the tune of $109,349 and the cost of building two courts at Gall Hill, St. John for an additional $36,476, making a total therefore of $145,825.

Mr. Chairman, 1989 was a year of a lot of activity in sports and it was felt by us that we should do something to upgrade the National Stadium. Indeed, Sir, it was getting to a point where we were somewhat embarrassed at the condition, as it had deteriorated over the years. As a matter of fact, no major work had been done at the National Stadium since 1970 and I think that only in 1987 when the roof of the Stadium was replaced was any major work done. To be honest with you, Sir, our objective in the Ministry is to have some measure of preventive maintenance done yearly so as to avoid the rather embarrassing situation we were faced with this year.

It is really incomprehensible, as you approach the Stadium and look very carefully at the damage done by the sea spray and the corrosion in those massive stands....

Aside.

Hon. W. W. HALL: Yes, sea spray comes through the St. George Valley, Sir, and there is massive corrosion.

Aside.

Hon. W. W. HALL: That is no problem with me, I have all night. The problem is, Sir, that we had problems with corrosion and it was necessary to repair these roofs. Four stands - Stand A, Stand B, Stand D and the Louis Lynch Stand - were in dire need of repair. As a matter of fact, we attempted to repair all four roofs and also to give some new support columns. After dismantling the roofs the engineers advised that some of the steel structures could not have been replaced. It meant then that we had to put in a lot of work that we did not particularly budget for. The four new columns were in Stand A, Stand B and Stand D, and there was some new roof sheeting for the Louis Lynch Stand. There were also four new columns and one beam for the Louis Lynch Stand, and there were new trusses.

Anyone who has been to the National Stadium in the last three or four months cannot help but be very proud of the fact that our National Stadium is now a very lovely stadium. Not only have we renovated the stands and put on new roofs, but we have done a lot of work to the field itself. Indeed, the football field has been regraded. It is true to say that we attempted to do one year's work in five months, and at the beginning of the football season it meant that the footballers were a little dissatisfied because they believed that the new terrain would not have stood up. 6.10 p.m.

I am pleased to say that at the end of the Shell Games three or four months later, there was great praise not only from the Barbados team but from those visiting teams who were very pleased with the service at the National Stadium, We have also done complete drainage around the football field, Sir. Now this is important because everyone knows that as soon as you had a cloud burst at Waterford, there was some measure of flooding especially on the track and the western side, and, Sir, the drainage done around the football field has given a lot of relief to those players who use the stadium. Drainage was also done around the cycling track, and that too has done a lot to help conditions at the stadium.

One other improvement was the installation of the public address system and the electrical works. There have been times when we have been embarrassed at the National Stadium when the P.A. system did not work and the National Anthem could not be played. Indeed it did bring out a bit of Barbadian solidarity in us because we were very proud to see that whenever the Anthem could not be played, those football and athletic enthusiasts would sing the National Anthem, so that was a good thing.

The irrigation system is now in, Sir, and that alleviates the problem of us having to place men at night in order to water the field before the game the next day, because as you know football is played in the dry season and cricket in the wet season, relic of the plantocracy of course, and in the football season the ground cracks seriously and I can say, Sir, that now that the irrigation system is in that it will be a welcome relief to all the footballers who play at the stadium.

The lights in the lower level of the stands have all been put in, in the canteen, in the courtyard, in the toilets. They are all replaced. By and large I would say that the renovations at the National Stadium which really total some $1 million has been a great thing and all those people who have been to the National Stadium in the last four or five months have been very warm in their praises at how well it looks.

A visiting cyclist only three weeks ago, the great Carpenter, from the United States of America was rather impressed with our facilities. We have been privileged to host tbe CARIFTA games this year, the Texaco games and indeed the Shell game, the football championship of the Caribbean, and so I ,am very grateful for the extra money that will be voted today so that we can indeed pay for the renovations that have gone in.

In the Louis Lynch stand we have put in new seats in the entire stand, all painted in their Barbados colours of blue and gold and we have now built a VIP box instead of the *ad hoc* facility that we had when Her Majesty the Queen came here a few years ago. All in all. Sir, I think this has been a great improvement of the facilities at the stadium, and these facilities cost some $109 349, The other $36 476 is occasioned by the fact that we had an estimate for $48 524 for the resurfacing of two courts at Gall Hill. You may recall that there is a tennis court on the western side and a basketball court on the eastern side, and the original work planned for these two courts to be resurfaced were all ready, when in using the jackhammer it was discovered by the contractors that there was no solid foundation. Only heaven knows how long they have been playing in Gall Hill, and in the area on which they were playing on, there was a soil depth of two feet, four feet and in some cases six feet, and in scarifying the court it was noticed that we had these defects. It was therefore necessary to rebuild these courts rather than to resurface them, and the estimate of the rebuilding was $85 000, and so the additional funds that are required would be $36 486.

In submitting this figure of $145 825 for additional work done at the National Stadium and at Gall Hill, I now beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: I beg to second that and reserve my right to speak.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I should like to give my full support to this particular Resolution particularly the part which relates to the provision of improved sports facilities at Gall Hill, St. John. Now, Sir, this project took I know a considerably longer period of time than the Minister had anticipated, because when initially the project began, they discovered certain defects that had to be rectified, and therefore I should like from the outside to compliment the Minister on his commitment to the project to the extent that when he discovered those defects he did not fold his arms and say let us wait until later, but he carried through the commitment to complete the refurbishment of the hard courts and indeed extended the facilities that are now available at Gall Hill to the persons who are involved in sports in St. John.

Now, Sir, the facilities that exist offer some new games like volleyball and I believe road tennis as well as the existing ones, basketball, netball and lawn tennis, so they are multi-purpose courts and they have found great attraction by the young people of St. John. Only recently at the Independence activities, not only did we have first division teams coming to play in St. John, but the young people of ii. John who are involved in these sports carried out their own sporting competition, and have shown a renewed interest in netball and volleyball which is to be commended. The real point about it is, Sir, is that we hear a lot of talk about the-rural sector, we also hear a lot of talk about the improvement of agriculture and this kind of thing, I don't want to deal with that now, Sir, because I do not think you would permit me to go as widely into those areas as I would wish, but I want to say that if we do not demonstrate some commitment to improving and modernising the rural sector and providing the kind of recreational facilities and other forms of social facilities for the people living in the rural sector, it is pointless for us to continue to talk about the growth of agriculture. People would simply not want to live in those areas. The factor of their aesthetic beauty and the fact that you are breathing clean fresh air is not enough; there must be some kind of economic viability for them as individuals and there must be also the commensurate infrastructure. Now this Government has not only demonstrated its interest in providing that infrastructure in the rural sector through for example the recently announced tenantry road programme which will be a tremendous boon to the development of the rural sector, but in isolated areas, particularly at Gall Hill, substantial development has been carried out within recent times to improve the existing facilities.

The Ministry of Community Development is refurbishing the Community Centre. They have also built a new Welfare Centre, and the polyclinic that is being built in the Glebe is also new and there is also provision for a new housing project at Gall Hill in St. John. I think that this improvement of the sporting facilities has caused the young people in those areas to once again believe that people are interested in their total development, and it is this <

Democratic Labour Party administration that originally put in these facilities, and for a long period of time they were neglected, but once again very swiftly we have come back and have improved considerably as part of our development plans for St. John the existing facilities at Gall Hill.

As I understand it, the Minister has intentions of opening these multi-purpose courts shortly. 6.20 p.m.

I wish to say that there is one factor that relates to the provision of these multi-purpose courts in the rural sector that is critical. Because of the nature of the transportation system, a lot of these young people on leaving work do not get home until after 5.00, sometimes 6.00 o'clock in the evening and, therefore, they cannot make full use of the facility unless, for example, they are unemployed and, certainly, there is no basketball team of all unemployed people or netball team or whatever.

But the point is that they cannot always get to use the courts because of the time at which they get home and, therefore, consideration should be given, and I have been given the assurance by the Minister that he is looking at it, to the provision of adequate lighting facilities in these areas and I believe that this too would be a considerable boost to the development of sporting activities in the constituency of St. John and in the rural sector generally.

It is not possible for a Government to build hard courts in every district. It is not possible for a Government to provide playing fields. In fact, in the rural sector there is so much criticism about the subdivision of land that it is almost impossible now in the constituency of St. John to earmark any areas as playing fields because there seems to be this very careful approach towards the subdivision of agricultural land, perhaps, prompted by unjustified criticisms from the Opposition which means that some of the developments of a private and public nature which would normally he accepted as being important in the rural sector are being neglected.

I will give you an example, Sir, of a development that was perceived opposite the St. John's Church which would be a considerable...

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: That is not in St. John.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Well, you know about St. John. I know you came up there and defended particularly these kinds of developments so well that I know that you would wish to give full support to this particular one and others that will be coming shortly.

But the point is that a development was proposed for opposite the St. John's Church and the provision of a car park and some other handicraft facilities and I believe that the Town Planning Department felt that it was unwise to subdivide agricultural land (a) and (b) to earmark it for purposes other than agriculture.

Now, I want to say, Sir, that I think that one of the positive things about the area of Gall Hill is that firstly, were the Town Planning Department to permit the subdivision of land in that area, it is not obvious that the persons who would go to live in an area like Gall Hill would necessarily buy a half an acre or one acre plot to put a large house on it.

In fact, in the context of Barbadian development, those kinds of terraces and houses do not develop right next to tenantries. The aim really is to ensure that this land gets into the hands of those people, particularly young people who are interested in agriculture and I feel that we should consider the development of Gall Hill as was expressed in the Development Plan 1988-1993 which singles out in its preface that Gall Hill is an area that will be in for considerable development and I would not wish to think that the Town Planning Department would consider that the only kind of development that can take place in a rural constituency is development that springs from the Government but that they would also consider giving an opportunity for the purposes of the subdivision of land for other purposes including private agricultural development.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I know that constituency well.

The point is that I am really concerned and I hope that we will, in due course, be able to have an extensive debate on the question of rural modernisation because it must go hand in hand with the question of the development of agriculture.

We cannot expect generations of young Barbadians who have left secondary school to want to be butting their foot against big rocks as they walk home on evenings without street lights, running 50 and 60 lengths of pipe to a main road for water, without any kind of recreational facilities, without the provision of schools which were allowed to be run down for a considerable period in the rural area.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Not now because every single school in St. John, as the Minister of Education will tell you, was recently upgraded and a new one is being built at Mt. Tabor.

The point is that I believe that this Government has really demonstrated a commitment but I think that, perhaps, we should try to see those linkages between the development of agriculture and the development of cottage industries etc. in the rural sector in relation to the modernisation of it because you cannot expect a person to want to remain in a constituency like St. John unless you are going to provide adequate facilities, at least, certainly, the basic facilities that are necessary. You could not expect them to pass through urban areas and see people with facilities and then expect them just to return,home to St. John for the pleasant breeze and the lovely surroundings. That is not enough for young people leaving school and wanting to be given an opportunity to develop themselves.

Now, the whole question of the modernisation of the rural sector is an important point that we have to consider, as I say, not only to agriculture but to a number of other factors of development and I think that it would be wise for us to consider having a central agency to look at this question.

I know, for example, that my own constituency branch will shortly be presenting, after extensive discussion, proposals to the Democratic Labour Party for consideration relating to rural modernisation for the widest possible discussion, not behind any closed doors, but hopefully for incorporation into its Manifesto as one of the major planks of carrying Barbados into the 21st Century.

In the interim the steps that have been taken by this Government to improve on some of the existing facilities are part of that commitment to the development of the rural sector and this particular feature in terms of the development of Gall Hill which is a central area in St. John has considerably enhanced the image of the rural sector and, particularly, the constituency which I represent.

In that regard, Sir, I should like to give the fullest support to this Resolution and to this particular measure as an indication of part of the policies that have been enunciated in the St. John Development Plan which are now seeing fruition and I am certain that most Honourable Members on both sides of the House would wish to join with me in congratulating the Government on the achievement of these particular proposals.

Mr. E. BOURNE: Mr. Chairman, I have listened very carefully to the Minister of Sport and the Honourable Member for St. John.

Hon. W. W. HALL: Mr. Chairman, on a point of elucidation.

The Ministry is the Ministry of Tourism and Sports, not Sport.

Mr. E. BOURNE: I am saying that I have listened to the Minister of Sport.

Now, Sir, three years ago I asked some Parliamentary Questions to the said Minister of Sport concerning Christ Church East. It would appear to me that Christ Church East is not part of Barbados. I can hear all this wonderful talk about St. John. There are hard courts in St. John. Every school in St. John is being upgraded. There was even a question asked to the then Minister of Education about having St. Christopher repaired and if you ask at St. Christopher's Girls' School the Headteacher will tell you the floors are not good. The same thing goes for St. Bartholomew but this is Christ Church.

Aside.

Mr. E. BOURNE : You know it is not repaired? When are you going to repair it?

Aside.

Mr. £. BOURNE: I have been waiting three years now on you. It was 2 years, 1 month and 18 days ago the Minister of Sport visited St. Christopher with me and his team of nitwits and he has promised me...

Hon. W. W. HALL: Sir, on a point of order.

I did not go with any big team of nitwits. The only nitwit on that team that day was the Honourable Member.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Now, now.

Mr. E. BOURNE: Mr. Chairman, I was not on his team. I said I accompanied him with his team.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let us try and see if we can keep some level of decorum in the debate.

Mr. E. BOURNE: I would never be on his team, Sir.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order.

I think it is despicable that an Honourable Member could come in this Chamber and describe public servants as nitwits. I think that is uncalled for. 6.30p.m.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir, the Honourable Member has never referred to any public servants.

Mr. E. BOURNE: Mr. Chairman, I think it is the Manager of the sport facilities...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Now, now we are getting into problems.

Mr. E. BOURNE: Wait a minute. You do not know what I am going to say.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the Honourable Member understand what my...

Mr. E. BOURNE: Allow me to speak first before you tell me now, now. You do not know what I am going to say.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Just after you referred to nitwits....

Mr. E. BOURNE: But I am making another statement.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Go ahead, make the statement.

Mr. E. BOURNE: You must wait, Mr. Chairman. Before you jump to conclusions, you must wait.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Make the statement.

Mr. E. BOURNE: The Manager of Sport on that day, Sir, told me in the presence of the Minister when I asked to mould....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Now I am making the connection that the persons who accompanied the Minister on the lour with you included....

Mr. E. BOURNE: I did not include, I never said the Manager...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am going to ask you to withdraw the comment related to nitwits.

Mr. E. BOURNE: I never said the Manager came with him, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am going to ask you to withdraw the comment related to nitwits.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Sir, the nomenclature Manager of Sport does not exist in the Public Service or any of its quasi governmental agencies. There is no person called the Manager of Sport so you cannot make him withdraw something that does not exist.

Mi-. E. BOURNE: And I was told, Sir, if you would allow me to speak. Can I speak now, Sir?

Aside.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Go ahead.

Mr. E. BOURNE: I was not talking with you. I know when I am going to deal with you, when I get in St. Lucy.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You are not going to deal with me.

Aside.

Mr. E. BOURNE: I go all around the country.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What I would like us very seriously to do is to have some level of decorum in the debate. One of the last things I want to do is to intervene. But it is my duty to make sure....

Aside.

Mr. E. BOURNE: I am saying that the Honourable Member must not be speaking when I am speaking. I am saying that I hope that we can have some level of decorum in the debate. Let us continue.

We are going quite well without this kind of acrimonious behaviour.

Thank you.

Mr. E. BOURNE: Mr, Chairman, if you want some level of decorum, you had bcit&i speak tr, tne people on the other side.

Mr, CHAIRMAN: Would the Honourable Member press on with the debate.

Mr. E. BOURNE: I would. But I hope you speak to the people on the other side. It is a warning.

Hon. W. W. HALL: Mr. Chairman, on a point of elucidation, Sir. Just to clarify the matter, Sir.

I went to St. Christopher with the Director of Sport, the Superintendent of Works in the National Sports Council, the Senior Administrative Officer in the Ministry of Tourism and Sports. Those were civil servants that I went there with. So I think that that would clarify the area. I think it would clarify the whole question. Those were the people that I went there with.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your point is made. Would the Honourable Member continue.

Mr. E. BOURNE: Mr. Chairman, I was told when I asked to have St. Christopher moulded that it will not be done because mould is only taken to areas which are in a two mile radius. Now I am a man with lots of patience, even more patience than Job.

I want to tell the Minister of Sport that there is mould being excavated at Sayers Court Agricultural Station, mountains of mould which is just 3/4 of a mile away from

the said field. I would expect the Minister of Tourism and Sport to mould the St. Christopher football field, as I have been asking. This team which must play at this time on rocks was so good that they have won the competition I think this is the umpteenth time. So I am asking the Minister not to give me any more promises like he has promised the lights. The lights have been promised 2 years, 1 month and 18 days ago by the said Minister of Tourism and Sport. And every time he comes in here and he looks over to my side he is telling me, next week. Next week when, Mr. Minister?

I want Christ Church East to look like St. Michael or better. I want to go in my constituency and talk like the representative for St. John about the hard courts -

Aside.

Mr. E. BOURNE: I know you can talk - the good playing fields and the pavilions.

Now I passed Passage Road the other day and an area which I feel should go for housing in Bridgetown, because there is a housing crisis in Bridgetown, a pavilion is going up. My pavilion, Mr. Minister, was promised 3 years ago, a pavilion for St. Christopher, a pavilion for St. Patricks.

Aside.

Mr. E. BOURNE: The Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central will bear me out on this because he represents half of St Patricks.

Hon. W. W. HALL: Mr. Chairman, that is not true. On a point of elucidation, Sir. I never promised him a pavilion for St. Patricks Any Member of this Honourable Chamber would tell you that, the Honourable Members that I promised to have facilities upgraded or pavilions put down, Sir, they have been in place. It is totally untrue. It is alright to get up and make people laugh.

But it is another thing to be serious and doing the people's work in this place.

Certain remarks made by the Honourable Member for St. Michael West Central were ordered, by Mr. SPEAKER, to be expunged from the Record.

Mr. E. BOURNE: Mr. Chairman, that promise was made in the year 1987. I cannot remember the date. I am sorry I did not bring it.

Aside.

Mr. E. BOURNE: It is written down. Yes. It is in Hansard when he promised the pavilion.

Aside.

Mr. E. BOURNE: I do not want your pavilion. You can have yours. I am talking about mine.

I am sick and tired, Mr. Chairman, with these bold promises from the Ministers on the other side. I want to know if the people in Christ Church and when I say Christ Church now I mean all of Christ Church because I think I can speak for all of Christ Church, why are the people of Christ Church mistreated? From time immemorial we got the rough end of the stick. It was only recently when Christ Church had only l[!]/2 playing fields, one was Dover and the other half was Sargeants Village. And then the Barbados Labour Party brought one. It is a disgrace that we who represent almost 70 000 people in this country have to beg and crawl for recreational facilities.

Aside.

Mr. E. BOURNE: You have a lot of playing fields in town. Yes, about 70 000. You used to be a Christ Church man at one time. You know what I am talking about. 6.40 p.m.

He bJiaves like he does not belong to Christ Church, but whenever there is a crisis and he is in trouble he will shout "I am a Christ Church man too." Have a conscience, have a heart, treat your brothers like human beings. Do not promise me any lights, come and put them down. Are you coming next week in truth? Can I tell them that?

Aside.

Mr. E. BOURNE: Mr. Chairman, since he is a Christ Church man and he has promised me, and I think I will take his word this time, because he was promising me long before I got up, I think I will rest my case.

I thank you, Sir.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, when the Minister began he said that he had hoped to keep this debate at a very mild level following the previous acrimony at times in the earlier debate, and I did not think I would be called upon to speak.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, I am going to claim all this time that I am keeping silent while others talk.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have not heard them.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I do not want anybody to listen to me, I want them to be silent in accordance with the rules, Sir.

Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Minister said, and I quote: "To be honest with you, there has been no major work at the Stadium since the 1970's." I really did not think that I would live to hear this Minister be so honest with the House to make such a grossly misleading statement. The Honourable Minister was a member of the National Sports Council between the period, I think, 1976 to about 1984-1985 and between 1981 and 1985 I was Chairman and the Minister served with me with distinction, Sir. He was a very outstanding member of the Council and contributed greatly.

In fact, in 1982-83, the year running April 1, 1982 to March 31,1983, the Honourable Minister was a Member of two Special Committees which were set up by the Sports Council. He was a member of a Special Committee to consider and report on the importation of sports goods. There were two members, himself and Mr. Winston Johnson. He was also a member of a Committee headed thusly " Repairs to Stadium, CAC Games - Senator David Simmons, Senator Wesley W. Hall, Mr. Clarence Jemmott, Mr. Elridge Dixon."

On page 15 of the Report of the Sports Council for that year 1982-83 the following appears:

> "National Stadium. Major work was carried out on the Stadium for the Central American and Caribbean Junior Athletic Championships which Barbados was requested to host at short notice. The work involved....

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: He is talking about the Stadium, not the track, he says, but he will not listen. I want him to listen.

> "The work involved repairs to the athletic track, lighting system, repairs of chairs in the VIP Stand, repairs to the public address system, dressing rooms and the painting of the stands and rooms.
>
> Towards the end of the financial year repairs were also carried out on the roofs of the stands."

That is 1982-83. Pick up the following year, 1983-84, April 1, 1983 to March 31, 1984. On page 3 his name appears fourth on the list of Council Members.

ASide.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: He says he was one of the top men. I agree with that, Sir. Page 21 of the Sports Council Report for that year:

> "Maintenance. National Stadium. Major repairs to roof, lights and parts of the steel structure."

Now, Sir, I just want to explain. The Minister's memory was on holiday when he spoke, because he will recall that the Sports Council was put in a bind in the previous year, 1982-83, by the then President of the Athletic Association who went and committed Barbados to the hosting of the CAC Games without first getting the approval of the Sports Council, or indeed intimating to the Sports Council that he had planned to bring all these people here to a Stadium which needed upgrading.

The Minister will recall that a special project was undertaken to have the Stadium upgraded in a hurry to accommodate the event. That involved taking off at least two of the roofs of the stands, as I remember. The contract was given to Structural Systems to take off the roofs and put on new roofs on the stands and paint them in pale green, like these windows. That is the colour that was used. We had to close down the Stadium for months to effect those repairs. We had to lay a completely new rubberised track. Jle knows that I went in my short pants with a paint brush and helped paint the actual lines on the track to ensure that the Games could open on time. 6.50 p.m.

All of us must live, Sir. I am not saying he did not do anything. This report does not show the extent of the money involved. These reports are short on how much money was spent in respect of building this, building that, even playing fields. They were major repairs, to take off the roofs and replace them. He remembers that the lighting system was changed in the eighties before I left. In 1985 they were being changed, so much so that when we changed the lighting system, I committed the re-using of such lights as could be used to those hard courts that needed flood lighting. Only last week the Minister replied to my question in relation to Holy Innocents to say that consideration was given to the electrification of hard courts including those at Holy Innocent using lights which were formerly used at the National Stadium prior to the change of the lighting system there. They were changed in 1985. However many problems such as the short life and high price of the tubes, low output of light, high consumption of electricity were associated with these lights necessitating their replacement. In the circumstances reuse of these lights to electrify hard courts including those at Holy Innocents is not being pursued. Alternative lighting systems are being considered.

What the Minister said that was truthful was that we suffered terribly at the stadium from the effects of salt spray. It may seem impossible, but the location of the stadium, just out of the drift of the valley, and the heigh[1] >f the pylons that hold the lights, and the stands suffered terribly from corrosion, and there were times when all of the lights could not work because the connections were corroded and they would blow and we had to change the whole system. The Minister knows that ADeB Consultants did the work and recommended a completely new system

which he inherited. I don't remember the money, about $500 000 to $600 000, but it was a lot of money for changing the roof. The Minister knows that a lot of work was done on the stands to buttress and shore up the stands because some of the steel had suffered from corrosion and in the joints had become dangerous, and we were advised that we had to do work as a matter of necessity and he remembers that the stands were all rewelded and repainted. By the time Sir Linden Pindling came here the first trip he made here accompanying the Bahamian team, we had already done two stands to my certain knowledge, rewelded them and repainted them.

Sir, I believe that the records of this House will show how much money was spent, because I had given the figures at one time, and I will undertake in future, perhaps by next week, to give the figures in respect of the maintenance that was spent at the stadium between 1981 and 1985 when I was Chairman. I just want to correct that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has two minutes.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: In two minutes I can wind up. What we did not do was to build all these pavilions that we built and keep them closed up; they were opened every day of the week. Under this Government and under this Minister playing pavilions which ought to be meeting places for the young people to get them off the street and put them in a sheltered situation where they can play their games like dominoes and cards and what not are open three days a week. I charge that on bank holidays pavilions in the parish of St. Thomas, and I speak only of what I know, are closed, and I also know that a young group from Bagatelle, Redmans Village who made an overseas tour to St. Vincent this year have applied to help themselves raise funds to go up next year to the Sports Council to hold a dance on Old Year's night, was turned down. They can't raise their own funds. Why can't you hold a dance there on Old Year's night?

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: With proper security? They will go and pay the police to send two policemen to help them keep order. I was at one Saturday night before last in Bagatelle and there was no problem. There was no vandalism, no bad behaviour. Why are you going to deny those young people who are trying to help themselves, and not have to come to us and the business people and everybody to make a contribution? They say, we will hold a dance, we will make a few dollars and we will have the lour again next year. But no, they can't have it.

It is not right that those pavilions should be under-utilised. What does building a new pavilion at Bridgefield have to do with the need to open the pavilion constantly on a daily basis? What does that have to do with it? Bagatelle should be open every day. There are people who look after them as caretakers.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am not getting into the nitwit talk, Sir, not even nincompoops. I am not getting into that kind of talk, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You have no time to do that.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, before I sit down, you would like me to offer my congratulations to the Parliamentary Secretary in the Minister's Ministry whose husband, a former Secretary of the Democratic Labour Party was given the Barbados Silver Star in the recent honours.

Hon. W. W. HALL: Mr. Chairman, there is no Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Tourism.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I mean the Honourable Member for St. Joseph, Sir. She used to be in his Ministry. I have to personally congratulate her husband through her on the recent honour.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, you have been a long time in that Chair and I think you deserve a break; I think I deserve one.

I am therefore moving that Your Honour do now report progress to His Honour the Speaker, and ask for leave to sit again.

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.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until 7.45 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. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly. 7.00p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed. When the suspension was taken, the House was in Committee of Supply. To that it shall revert.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House resumed Committee of Supply, Mr. BRATHWAITE in the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY (RESUMED) Mr.

CHAIRMAN: The committee has resumed. The

Honourable Member for St. James North. Mr. J. J.

PAYNE: Thank you.

Mr. Chairman, I want just to add a few words to the ' debate on this Resolution.

First I want to indicate that when we come to spending money in this direction, we have to recognize that despite whatever criticisms or remarks we may have, it is money well spent. Here we are spending money particularly on the young people of the country and I think it is an aspect of the development of our youth which must be highlighted.

It is something which we owe to our young people because sporting facilities are an aspect of their development which I believe is very important. It prepares them for the competitive world in which they will have to live as they grow and develop and it prepares them for the challenges which they will have to face in society a little later down the road.

I as a young man was very active in sport and I can remember the days when I participated. I enjoyed the opportunity to represent my country and there are many of us who might not have had that glorious opportunity to represent their country either here or abroad but I am sure that the Honourable Minister of Sport would tell you that it is a glorious occasion when you get an opportunity to travel and you are able to hear the National Anthem of your country and know that you are standing there among those persons representing your country. I believe that these facilities will help prepare our young people for those kinds of opportunities which can make an indelible mark in their development and can only augur well for their future development.

Of course, I know there are many other Honourable Members in this Chamber who can lay claim to that boast. The Honourable Prime Minister himself had been notable as a sportsman from school days. I have heard of his contribution at Coleridge and Parry and the Leader of the Opposition is indicating that he made his contribution by watching the game.

But, indeed, Mr. Chairman, those of us who have had the opportunity to participate will be able to say what glorious moments we got out of it when we were young and in those days we were not provided with the kind of excellent facilities which are available to our young people today.

In particular, I think that in those days even though we were not fortunate to have the kind of facilities, we were able to make much out of what we had at the time and I want to go on to say that by giving these young people this opportunity, I think we are providing them with the kind of springboard which they will need later on in life.

I want to make a very salient point here because the Honourable Member for St. John was talking about the development in St. John, particularly at Gall Hill, and while he was speaking it came very forcefully to me that there has recently been some attention being focussed to the country districts of this Island.

In particular, if we look carefully at sport around the country now we will recognize that many of our great sportsmen come from our country districts. In Sion Hill, if I can come closer to home, we have a second division team which was able to win the competition and this was something that would never have happened years ago and I believe it is because of the kind of contribution which this Government is focussing on the country districts of this Island and sporting development.

I am pleased to say *in* response to a prompting from the Leader of the Opposition that the Minister of Sports has been able to give some assistance to the youth in my constituency. Only here at Holder's Hill we have recently had the opportunity to get the playing field levelled again and I hope that the young people there will shortly be- able to start playing again.

This playing field at Hoyte's Village is one which they have been clamouring for a long time and since the Ministry of Housing has taken the necessary steps to acquire the land, I am pleased to say that the Honourable Minister of Sports has moved in with officials from the Sports Council and has taken the appropriate action to have that playing facility available to the people again

I know, for example, too that they have spent some money on the hard courts at Holder's Hill and at Folkestown in Holetown.

Mr. Chairman, I can also mention that as a result of an invitation from the young people of Sion Hill the Minister visited the area and they have indicated plans for levelling the playing field at Sion Hill and providing better facilities for the youth of that area so I do not want to give the impression that we are not grateful for the assistance which is being granted.

Many of us will recognize from time to time that we might appear not to be getting the assistance which we request but what is important is that the Ministry will be unable to touch all of the districts at one time and this is an aspect of the whole programme that has to be considered when we are looking at development of sporting facilities.

I think that if there is an aspect of sport in Barbados on which we need to have some focus, it is also this question of lighting facilities for these playing areas. I know that particularly in the country districts, where many of the young some of whom work, some may not be working, but despite that, they want to be able to participate in the game after 6:00 p.m. at which time the sun has gone down.

I believe, therefore, it is important for us to work out some sort of policy and some sort of programme where we can cater to this particular need of the young people.

Mr. Chairman, for example, at Weston. We have a volleyball team there which has been doing very well in the national competition but one of the setbacks is the fact that after the sun sets in the afternoon, they are unable to continue their practice and I believe that if we can have some programme of lighting, this would improve their opportunities to participate in the game and, perhaps, to even do better in the competition so we cannot sidetrack that particular issue because it is one which the young people are looking to the Government to set the trend.

Now, I know that lighting is a very expensive exercise. In some instances, the young people may probably practice for three or four hours, and the kind of lighting that is required, as the Leader of the Opposition will tell you, is very expensive so, therefore, it is important that a programme be worked out to cover the cost whether the cost will be borne by the community or partially by the community and partially by the government, but we have to be able to work out some kind of policy or programme in respect of payment for lighting. 7.55 p.m.

I know thocc are some districts like, for example, I hear that at Deacon's the youth there have been able to get a system where they pay their own cost of lighting. But we have to work out some mechanism for dealing with that particular matter.

So, Mr. Chairman, in making my contribution to this particular Head, I have to say that I can only support the vote for this sum of money. But I must conclude by saying that I was very disappointed to hear the Honourable Member for Christ Church East refer to those persons in the Ministry and particularly those who accompanied the Minister as nitwits, because I believe that the Ministry of Sports....

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The Honourable Member never said that the persons in the Ministry accompanying him were nitwits. He said that the Minister was accompanied by nitwits. And as he continued to speak, the only clear, rational, reasonable and truthful inference could be that he was accompanied by nitwits and people from the Ministry, as his speech evolved.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Mr. J. J. PAYNE: But, Mr. Chairman, the Minister clearly indicated that the persons who accompanied him on that visit were officials from his Ministry. And to refer to those persons as nitwits I believe is an indictment really on the work which the Ministry is seeking to perform in this particular area. Because it is my view that this particular Ministry is one which should be complimented for the work which is being done on a national basis.

Asides.

I found it particularly strange that the Honourable Member....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Can we have some order, please.

HIS HONOUR J. J. PAYNE: .... should take that opportunity to make that particular reference.

So with those brief words, Mr. Chairman, I give my support to the Resolution which is presently under discussion,

Thank you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. George South.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Sir, I want to take a slightly different approach in my contribution to this and just raise one or two matters to see if I can get some response from the Minister on these matters.

There is a group of sportsmen in Barbados who have for some time now been torchbearers of Barbados on the international front apart from our cricketers. The group of sportsmen that I am referring to, Sir, are the bodybuilders in Barbados who for some time now have carried the torch and have been able to put Barbados on the bodybuilding map. Recently we had Mr. Bernard Sealy being the first native Barbadian representing his country being Mr. Universe in his particular weight class, that is the middleweight class.

Now over the years, other Barbadians representing other countries have reaped significant benefits and have achieved significantly in the area of bodybuilding but they were representing Canada, United Kingdom, United States of America and so on. They were never representing Barbados, albeit that they came from Barbados. And as a very small country....

Aside.

Mr. R. P. BYER: No. I said Bernard Sealy representing Barbados as a native from Barbados.

Aside.

Mr. R. P. BYER: But then you had Roy Callender represented Canada. You had Albert Beckles representing the United Kingdom. Earl Maynard I think he represented the United States of America.

Aside.

Mr. R. P. BYER: England as well? Good. And there were others who achieved. Darcy Beckles represented Barbados but he won the Mr. World Tall Class and so on.

Now there must be something peculiar about Barbadians that they have been able over the years to achieve in this area of athletic endeavour. I should like the Ministry of Sports and Tourism and the Government to reexamine its whole approach, its whole thrust in the area of sport and sporting development with a view to giving some assistance to bodybuilders in Barbados.

For some time now, many people have been advocating the removal of duty on sporting goods and sporting equipment. One of the most expensive items that a bodybuilder has got is in the area of food supplements. Protein, especially when he is on diet approaching a competition.

Aside.

Mr. R. P. BYER: At the moment, Sir - I cannot resist this one - we cannot even get a little fish to supplement our protein and so on.

Aside.

Mr. R. P. BYER: I am told that very soon we would conclude a fishing agreement with Trinidad and we would be able to do some more fishing.

Bui apart from food supplements, the actual equipment is very expensive. Bodybuilding equipment is very expensive in Barbados because the duty on it carries up the price significantly. It almost doubles what you would gel it for in America.

1 believe that if we were to carry out a survey of prices in Barbados we would see how, not only in the area of sporting goods equipment, Sir, but many areas, we will see what a fortune businessmen in Barbados arc making on the kind of prices that they charge. If I may crave your indulgence, Sir. For example you can get a very good computer, as the Minister of Education would tell you, for example a 286 Turbo for about BDSS3 200. If you had to bring it in with duty, it would come to about S4 700. But then when somebody is selling that to you, they want to sell it to you at about $15 000. That is true. With a monitor and so on.

In the area of bodybuilding, Sir, the food supplements are very expensive, the equipment is very expensive. And if we are to encourage our bodybuilders, I would think that we have seriously got to look at making these necessary aspects of their training accessible to them. But having said that I believe it would be important also to look at the whole range of duties that are charged on sporting goods equipment with a view to see if you could reduce that duty.

Government may find it difficult to give a subvention to the Bodybuilding Association. I have checked the Estimates for 1989-90 and I cannot see anywhere in here that a subvention was given. Now I am not criticizing that in any way. I just mentioned it in passing.

Aside.

Mr. R. P. BYER: I know that. But the grants of subventions, if you look at the Explanatory Notes, page 164 of the Estimates 1989-90 you will see that the Grants and Subventions under Subhead 3 only cover the Caribbean Tourism Research Centre and the Barbados Board of Tourism. These are under your Ministry, and not anything for sport.

I do not know. I stand corrected but I have been checking the Estimates, Capital and otherwise to see if there is anything like that. I think that we should, as a responsible Government, do everything to encourage our sportsmen. This year so far we have achieved significantly, always in cricket.

Aside.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Okay, last year. Lawn tennis as well, bodybuilding. Some other areas as well.

Aside.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Yes. The marathon and so on, in the area of athletics. 8.05 p.m.

I think we need to sit down, Sir, and look at the whole range of athletic endeavour in Barbados with a view to seeing if we could make it a little easier for our sportsmen to be able to afford the equipment that they have to purchase, and the food supplements and so on.

I want to move on to another area, and that has to do with the Gymnasium. Provision was made in the Estimates under Subhead 5 for carrying out the initial infrastructural work and commencement of construction of the gymnasium project. I would like if the Minister could give me some information as to the progress of that work.

It is also significant that in 1988-89 the Estimates allowed for $2.6 million in expenditure in this area that we are now voting a supplementary, but in 1989-90 we only voted $565,000 and we are now coming for a further $145,825, so that there was a reduction in expenditure in this area by some $2,035,000. I do not know how far that reduction would have gone in allowing for the development of other areas of sport and sporting in Barbados.

Overall, Sir, over the past year I have been very heartened by the progress we have made, by the achievements our sportsmen have made in the area of sport in Barbados. One area that continues to trouble me is in the area of table tennis. It is a long time now that we have not done anything in that area in terms of achievement. I know that a tremendous effort is being made in the schools to develop a class of players, and in this regard I must pay particular congratulations to the efforts that are being made at St. George Secondary School. I think they have about two of the best players in Barbados at the moment, Robert Roberts and Farley.

As the Leader of the Opposition said *sotto voce*, it is a very new game now, the approach is completely different, and we have started in the right place, that is, we have started in the schools, and I would hope probably in another five years that we would reap the benefits of the efforts that are now being put into this area of development

Another area I would like to see developed is the area of swimming. We have had quite a lot of human hours put into it. For several years now, spanning both administrations, we have been asking for an Olympic size pool, but that has not come about.

Aside.

Mr. R. P. B YER: I mean we, the people of Barbados. I think the myth that black people cannot achieve in swimming was exploded at the last Olympics. It has been blown to powder by the swimmer from Suriname who won a gold medal at the last Olympics when he beat the favourite, Matt Bionde, of America, and I think that exploded the myth that has been held for some time now that black people will never be able to achieve in swimming because of their body weight, some foolish theory that has been thrown around. It is just that blacks do not consider swimming maybe to be a glamorous event. It is not an area that would help to bring them out of the ghettos in America and so on.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You have two minutes.

Mr. R. P. BYER: I think that if we continue to put money, expert training and so on into swimming in Barbados, eventually we will achieve in that area.

Those are some of my concerns and I would hope that the Minister in his winding up would respond to them. You have indicated to me that I have two minutes, but overall I have voiced my concerns in some of the areas of sport in Barbados and I would hope that the Minister gives me some response to the things I have raised.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, this Resolution raised some very interesting comments in the debate so far and I think the staff in the Ministry of Finance can go home, because we will want to discuss matters relating to economics and finance in the light of day, not late in the evening....

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: ... when the Press is here. If there is any feeling that there is any possibility of such things being discussed this evening, I think we can allay the fears of all right now.

In that spirit, Sir, I shall make my first contribution and address the general aspects relating to construction and equipping of sports facilities, noting, Sir, that this Head is designated in the plural and gives ample opportunity for discussion on the question of sports in Barbados in general, and I am very glad to see that the debate was taken on that complexion so far.

There is no question whatsoever that just as the green revolution is overtaking the world, best perhaps headlined in the industrial countries in respect of the environment, to the same extent sport is assuming an increasingly important place in the communal and individual lives of the human race. I therefore believe it is important that we should have a very clear view of what our objectives are down the road in respect of sport.

Whilst it is right and proper that members should raise their concerns in respect of their individual constituencies, which I shall do when I speak on another occasion during this debate, in my second 15 minute period, I shall take this opportunity to deal with the wider aspects of sport. As I see it, Sir, sport has a very special significance to Barbados, both in terms of the overall development of Barbadians and the contribution which sport can make in the services area of the development of the Barbados economy. 8.15p.m.

I believe that when one considers the twin advantages of sport in relation to Barbados, then one recognises immediately that one is making an important social and economic investment when sports facilities are developed in this country. For example, if we had had a well developed pavilion at Valery, or if the building that now houses the World Bank project unit had been handed over to the people of Brittons Hill as a community centre as was promised, when one considers the potential of that ground

which was extended, I can see that, Sir, as a very important area not only for that part of St. Michael, but when one looks around in the Caribbean and even beyond and sees the kind of persons who could be attracted to Barbados to participate in competitive sports on these playing fields located in communities, people who cannot stay in hotels, but may stay at the YWCA or the YMCA or stay in more humble accommodation, and when you get large numbers of these persons coming into Barbados, you are enhancing the competitive spirit of Barbadians whilst at the same time in a strange way sport is contributing to the economic development at the very basic level of dollar bills. And so, Sir, it is important for us to conceptualise what we are doing when we invest money in sport. I do not wish for one moment to detract from the importance of the development of these facilities for Barbadians as a matter that is of critical importance in its own right. What I wish to emphasise is that when you are so doing and you have a well integrated programme, that at all levels you can be influencing the development of the services sector and developing the whole tourism-sport operation in this country. That is why, Sir, I believe the decision was taken to link the Ministry of Sports with the Ministry of Tourism, but the Minister has not taken it seriously and is just making sport with the whole thing.

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: The only time you succeeded ever winning a domino game is when you played with me.

Now, Sir, we really have to take this thing very seriously. At the moment we know that even in cricket we are not exploiting to the full that potential relationship between tourism earnings and cricket. A start has been made. We have not started to utilise the potential of our cricketers who have reached the top and have become international names, people who are known throughout the cricket playing Commonwealth. We do not know how to use them; we have set about abusing them rather than using them.

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Do you know what abuse means? I don't mean cursing, you know. I mean not using them effectively and you know what I am talking about, and you would not use your influence to stop the nonsense that is going on. You have refused to use your influence, and that is why the horse would not win a single race; that is why it is blighted.

Hon. W. W. HALL: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I just want to explain that he is misleading the House if first in a jocular way; he said that my horse has never won anything. He was a champion horse; you are not a champion unless you have won. Secondly, on the statement that I am not using my influence to make sure that the cricketers are utilised and asking me if I know what is meant by abuse, I think that is ridiculous. I just want him to know that he cannot tell this House in any way that I have not used my influence to help cricketers in this country or in the West Indies.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, my apologies to the horse. However, what I have said in relation ....

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, the late lamented Mr. Darrell DaCosta Garner when he was Minister of Agriculture went to the Pine Livestock Station and saw some cows.....all right, Sir, I will talk that at about a quarter to ten, Sir. This debate will go on the whole night.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: The point I am making, Sir, having apologised to the horse, the further point I would make is that the Minister obviously does not understand the burden of my complaint.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I am not aware that a horse has spoken inside here, therefore I find it very difficult to understand how the Honourable Leader of the Opposition could apologise to a horse. I would respectfully suggest that if there is any apology that it should be made not to a horse but to some person who has spoken. I am quite serious because I think the Honourable Member is trying to introduce some kind of high level ridicule into this debate, and I would just want to draw it to your attention and respectfully suggest that you take some action.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I think the Honourable Minister probably misunderstood what I meant by abuse and failure to use his influence. By abuse I specifically meant inappropriate use, and in terms of not using his influence, I am not talking about using his influence in general in terms of ensuring that sportsmen are used in some way. What I mean is that the Honourable Minister as far as I am aware from discussions over the years understands that you cannot use these people as though they are civil servants. They are not 9.00 to 4.00 job people; they are people who have an image and it is that image and the projection of that image that could be of tremendous benefit, and you should be able to use that image of our cricketers for Barbados, and you cannot expect public servants and so on to clearly understand the magic that these people could hold in terms of assisting our truest effort. Very often people do not understand that, and they see these things as a matter of turf invasion and all kinds of petty things get in the way, and the bigger, wider objective of transferring and using that magic of communication which they have developed over the years by thnir contact with the wider world for the benefit of Barbados can be lost.

It is a very difficult concept to get across to people who are limited in their imagination. I am quite sure the Honourable Member for St. Thomas understands very clearly the kind of thing that I am talking about, and I am not pleading....

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: When I wrote the Sports Council Development Plan in 1982 as the Minister knows, one of the objectives was the marriage between tourism and sport and I made sure that a very prominent Barbadian came back to Barbados to assist in the development of that programme. When I speak at 9.45 p.m. I will explain all of that. 8.25 p.m.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: To continue. I just make this point because I believe that it is fundamental that we really need to sit down and brainstorm and see in what way we can further use sport..

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: With you, not for you.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I did not say so. The point is this that abuse can have several different meanings and I wanted to be sure that the specific application of the word was clearly understood in this case. It has several meanings.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The member has two minutes.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Two minutes? I have not started yet. How about the interruptions?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You may come back.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Now, there are several other sports in Barbados where the same kind of thing applies where there is room for a lot of development both to enhance the facilities for locals also bearing in mind that these facilities can also be used to enhance the tourism effort.

What is really fascinating about this whole thing is that it is vertically and horizontally capable of being integrated with your tourism efforts and it offers a tremendous amount of diversification of your source of tourism revenue because from a climatic point of view it adds a further stimulus to all year round tourism because of the peculiarity of our climate in relation to the climates of the countries from where tourists would come.

I am trying, Sir, in my first contribution, to deal with sport as a kind of global and at a conceptual level so that when I see investments of this kind I would like to know that they are just not made for political reasons, they are not just made to satisfy the needs of a community and to help the politician or something like that but I want to know that there is a wider view, a larger view, a recognition that what we are doing here is....

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: It requires vision and appropriate action. Vision is vision and then no action. This is the problem you have. But, Sir, we want to know then that the whole profile of investment in this area is being carefully thought out and being carefully linked, not on a piecemeal basis, not on an *ad hoc* basis, but there is an overall strategy, an overall conceptualisation of the extent to which these kinds of investments can influence economic development on the one hand whilst improving the sporting capacity, the livelihood and the personality of the entire community.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your time has expired.

Dr. K. C. HAYNES: Sir, one final sentence. This is a matter which I feel very strongly about and feel very personally involved in that when one sees multiple small investments of this kind, whether it be in St. Lucy, St. Peter, St. Michael, St. Joseph, the point is this that you are using Barbadian dollars in multiple small investments around the country which in a curious way has the possibility of harmonizing for the maximum the development of our local people whilst, at the same time, attracting economic activity that will pay for these same things over and over again.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am sure the House will agree that this afternoon we are discussing a number of very profound issues having to do with the fullest development of the Barbadian society, the manner in which we will integrate the social sector with the economic sector, the manner in which we will utilise recreation as a constructive and a creative avenue for the involvement of the young people of this society.

I find this debate refreshing if only because I know what it is to have had to contest an election where the case being put by my opponent was that the playing field and the playing facilities at Boscobcl should not have been so allocated but should, in fact, have been retained and planted in yams, sweet potatoes, etc.

I found it ironic, Mr. Chairman, to hear the Honourable Member for St. John this evening instructing his colleagues that they must not just see the development of the rural society as involving agricultural development, a

point of view which I, obviously, must subscribe, but that we must have a holistic approach to the development of our rural society and that just as you have had a course of development executed in St. John, in a similar sense and to the same degree the rest of the rural society of Barbados, including St. Peter and St. Thomas, are deserving of the same kind of intensive attention that, obviously, has been brought to bear in this particular matter.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I think I should clarify a small point here. I was referring to the change of lands belonging to Wakefield Plantation for which an application was made and subsequently turned down.

I also recall that the Honourable Members of the Barbados Labour Party opposition opposed this particular application for sub-division virulently and accused my learned friend and colleague, the Honourable Minister of Agriculture of conflict of interest and I was merely pointing out to them that rather than having those backward and particularly regressive approaches to the development of the rural sector, that they should consider assisting us in carrying out the kind of transformation in the rural sector that is necessary. That is all I was trying to say and I know that the Honourable Member for St. Peter agrees with me on that point.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, I do not know whether the Honourable Member for St. John wants us to go back into the agricultural debate. If he wishes we on this side would be happy to entertain him.

The essential point I am making is that the point that was made this evening in relation to rural modernisation is a point that was made with great force by the Leader of the Barbados Labour Party at our Annual Conference when we identified in October that the transformation of that rural society running from St. Philip into St. Lucy recommends itself as one of the most urgent tasks facing this society at this time and that it must have many various components including an agricultural component.

But this evening I want first of all to really compliment the staff of the National Sports Council for doing a really commendable job in the administration of sporting affairs in this country. I can only say that in my capacity as the Member of Parliament for the constituency of St. Peter that I have found them to be cooperative. 8.35 p.m.

I have found them to be people who are efficient in the discharge of their responsibilities and in every respect one senses as well in the manner in which the National Sports Council has undertaken its national responsibilities, a sense of continuity running from one administration to the next.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. Am I to understand the Honourable Member to say that he disagrees with the Honourable Member for Christ Church East that the officers of the National Sports Council are not nitwits.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member for St. Lucy is determined to put a false statement in the record. The Honourable Member for Christ Church East at no point said that the staff of the Sports Council were nitwits. He never said so.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: He said that the persons who accompanied the Minister on a visit to St. Christopher were nitwits, he was accompanied by nitwits. The Minister pointed out that the persons who accompanied him were members of the staff of the Ministry of Tourism and Sports and the National Sports Council.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: The logical conclusion therefore must be that the Minister called them nitwits.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On what has the Honourable Member risen?

Laughter.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. Peter will continue.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, I really want to make the point though, Sir, that there are aspects of our national life in which there must be a sense of continuity. It pleases me to be able to say to this House....

Mr, CHAIRMAN: Order.

Mi-. O, S, ARTHUR: I am going to ask for injury time. Since we are talking about sports, Sir, I am going to ask for injury time.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let the Honourable Member continue.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: It truly pleases me, Sir, to be able to say that aspects of a sports policy from one administration has been carried on into another administration, that there is evolving a broad national consensus. That sports as an activity in itself has implications for other areas of national life.

I am pleased as well that we can have serving as a Minister of Sports in this country a person who not only did credit to himself as a sportsman but who assisted one

administration and is now serving in another administration, despite differences in Party. I think that is a credit to Barbados.

But I also want to make the point that there seems to me to be developing an inverse relationship between the provision of sports facilities in this country and the efficiency of our administrative system for sports and our performance in sports at the national level. There seems to me to be developing that inverse relationship.

I despair, Mr. Chairman, for Barbados in some respects in relation to the question of our cricketing future. I am one of that perhaps generation of Barbadian who looked to our cricketers as the heroes of this society. I was part of that generation of Barbadians who tried to walk like Garfield Sobers and some of us even called ourselves Wesley Hall. Obviously I could not, by reason of stature.

But the essential point I am making here, Sir, is that there was a time in Barbados when we had a less well developed infrastructure for sports, a less well developed national system for the administration of sports but because of role models and because of the aspirations of people particularly of certain classes that we seem to have been able to attain a higher level of national performance in critical areas, particularly cricket. Having been part of that generation, it worries me. It worries me that our performance, particularly in cricket has been declining and that perhaps in our discussion of sports as an aspect of national development, we have to look just beyond the question of the provision of infrastructure and facilities, we have to look beyond the question of administrative capacities of the sports council and other institutions although those things are important arid have to dig and delve more deeply into the question, by what means do we want to go about developing sports in this society and what is the point and purpose of the efforts that we would make in this particular regard?

There is no question, Mr. Chairman, that when we come to discuss the whole direction of sports in Barbados that to some extent there has been an element of cultural penetration. That the decline of certain sports in Barbados can be explained by reference to the fact that the television revolution so to speak has exposed Barbadians to a wider range of sporting activities to which they were not exposed in our generation.

But it is also true that to some extent the young people of Barbados no longer see the traditional sports as a means of social mobility and advancement in the same sense and to the same degree as would have been the case, let us say in the 1960s or in the early 1970s.

I therefore want to make that plea that the development of sports in this society must be seen therefore not as a matter of our putting in facilities, these things are important, not only as a matter of our building efficient national institutions to manage sports, but our infusing our people with an ethos that would allow them to see once again sports as a means by which they can attain a degree of social mobility, as would have been the case in the 1960s and beyond.

I could not leave this debate without talking a little bit about constituency issues. I am very pleased to say that St. Peter is now rapidly evolving as one of the centres of sports in Barbados. It is evolving as a centre of sports in Barbados because we have in St. Peter allowed the administration of sports to be a matter left to community groups. There is a multiplicity of competitions taking place in St. Peter now at any given time in the year.

It is a development that, as Member of Parliament for St. Peter, there will never be a sports competition in St. Peter that carries my name, but I will encourage it because there can be no doubt, as far as I am concerned, that sports in all its manifestations is one of the most creative outlets and avenues by which the energies and the ambitions of the young people of St. Peter can be harnessed. I commend it. I commend what is happening in St. Peter to all my colleagues as one of the means by which we can begin to open up to the young people in this society who are in too many respects being attracted to very terrible forms of deviant behaviour, that we must look more and more to the promotion and support for these sports in order to help us to address some of the frustrations that the young people of this society are facing.

I should like to believe that we can also begin more effectively to inculcate in our young people in this society the notion that they can see sports as an avenue not just for social activity but for their own professional development. I am hopeful that the efforts that are being made by the various community groups in St. Peter to develop sports will lead to a larger number of young people in St. Peter eventually earning a living from sports. And that, Sir, allows me to speak to some of the issues that have been raised by the Minister of Tourism by the Leader of the Opposition as regards the links between tourism and sports. It is a link that predates the Democratic Labour Party. It is a link that I think all sides of the House would recognize is important for the development of tourism in this country.

But I really feel that we have now to see sports in a professional capacity, not just in terms of a linkage with tourism but that we have to see sports as a professional area that can offer a livelihood for the development of young people in this country who have talent. 8.45 p.m.

I will not, Sir, explore it in any greater detail at this juncture, but I would just want to make that point, that my perception is that a cadre of professional sportsmen in all the various communities in Barbados must be part of the

vision of the future that we offer young people as part of our effort today in improving the facilities at their disposal beyond the levels that were at the disposal of all of us in this House.

I would just want to say to the Minister that I have recently spoken to him as regards the possible use of the hard court facilities at the St. Joseph Hospital for competitions in the constituency. I am not asking, if you will recognise, Sir, the Government to spend any additional money, there are hard court facilities at the St. Joseph Hospital which are presently unutilised and I would hope that despite whatever may happen to the hospital that it would be possible for those hard court facilities to be used to the maximum as part of that general effort being made by the community groups in St. Peter to uplift the level of sports in the community.

I must also make the point to the Minister, Sir, that in the spirit of continuity, as part of the overall effort to develop the Speightstown area it was always intended that a playing facility would be sited next to the new Speightstown bus stand.

Work on that project has started, but there is nothing that looks worse than a Government project that starts and stops. We now have half of a playing field next to the Speightstown bus stand. It looks bad. To have half of a playing field is worse than having no playing field at all, because effectively what it means is that the money spent to give you half a playing field has been wasted.

Aside.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: The Minister would recognise that it is a half of a playing field, or perhaps not even a half. It might be a quarter of a playing field. I will not press the issue, Sir, but the Minister understands the point I am making. It looks bad and I am therefore pressing the case on behalf of the people of St. Peter, and Speightstown in particular, that once you have started, let us finish.

It has a history. The area that is now the Golden Mile housing development used to be the location of a playing area for the general Speightstown area and as a result of the Government taking over that area and transforming it into the housing development the young people of Speightstown have lost one of the few playing facilities they have had in the past.

As I close, Sir, and I know you are going to tell me to come home in a minute, I want, based on the St. Peter experience, to press upon the Minister of Tourism that one of the key links that he must also establish is a very close working relationship with the Minister of Education, because in my constituency there are two schools that have very good hard court facilities - Coleridge and Parry and Alexandra - that are very often not utilised on weekends in particular, and it must be within the capacity of us as people who govern our affairs not to replicate these facilities but to rationalise a relationship between the schools and the communities as regards the facilities that exist.

I therefore would want to urge upon the Minister of Education and the Minister of Sports that a wonderful opportunity exists in St. Peter, given the scope of sporting activities that are now taking place in the constituency, to rationalise in a very sensible way the use of the existing hard courts bordering on the Speightstown area at the Coleridge and Parry School and at Alexandra.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

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

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order.

The Honourable Member has spoken at least twice, Sir.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I said "Mr. Chairman". What is wrong with that?

Hon. B. M. TAITT: It is usual in Committee to allow other members who may wish to speak the opportunity to speak before those who have spoken speak again.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Only if there has been an indication of another member wanting to speak.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I was just drawing to Your Honour's attention that the Honourable Member has spoken at least twice on this.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. Thomas.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, how exceptionally untruthful is the Minister of Health! I have spoken once in this debate. He said twice, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: He probably has a different recollection.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: He had dinner and libations after, Sir. I understand.

Mr. Chairman, I have had a little involvement with sport at the personal level and at the governmental level in a public capacity. I endorse much of what the Honourable Member for St. Peter has explained and I can assure you, Mr. Chairman, that the future policies of the Barbados Labour Party in relation to sport and tourism will be truly exciting for particularly the young people of this country. It is too early to detail them. You would have heard me

restraining the Honourable Member, when he was about to trespass on the disclosure of new policies, to hold them for the time being, to be measured in what he said, Sir.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Not only the Press, we do not want to give them anything at this time, Sir. I think that it is recognised on all sides that sport has the great advantage of assisting and promoting the development of a healthy mind in a healthy body, and it goes hand in hand with intellectual and academic development. Indeed, it redounds in my personal opinion a person's total development if he can be shown to have had that rounded experience that had a bit of the academic word and also the practical experience of sport. I know the Prime Minister does of course meet the criteria which I just set out, a very good schoolboy batsman for a period of time. 8.55 p.m.

I did say in this House that I think he made more runs than any other schoolboy batsman in my time, something like 10 300 000 runs. He got 103 against Pickwick around 1954-55 and for the balance of the season he made nought, nought, nought, nought, nought. That would probably come to about 10 000 000. It is only the Prime Minister who could really deny the reliability of those statistics. He can't deny he got 103 and then a sequence of noughts that didn't do any credit to him thereafter and he faded out, Sir, until he then started to play for a team in St. Peter when he used to open the batting. He was then known as desert boots or just boots, and he used to open the batting for a team in St. Peter with Mr. Frank Arthur, the father of the Honourable Member for St. Peter. He remembers those halcyon days, Sir, and many of us in here have had those schoolboy and early youthful experiences in cricket.

The Honourable Minister of Transport and Works, who himself has been very quiet all day - and this is not to provoke him into the debate, was a great student of cricket and what was known as a "failer". In London in the early Sixties when we were there and we both frequented the West Indian Student Centre, he used to get into the most animated arguments with George Stahl and Mclntyre, Gerry Ward and all of us, and he was the only one that thought that Clyde Walcott was the best of the three Ws, but he held fast to his convictions. Indeed he was very scathing in his comments about the late great Sir Frank Worrell and told us many stories.

The Honourable Attorney General tried to bowl fast at one time for Empire. The Honourable Member for St. George South has played and has been recently playing, and the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East, from the medical profession, goes down in the history of schoolboy cricket in Barbados as representing Combermcre and receiving a beamer from Hughlcy Barker and he stopped it with the bat handle. It hit on to the bat handle. Of course the Honourable Minister of Education was a fast bowler about forty years ago.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This is the structure of cricket we are dealing with now.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am dealing with the sporting exploits of Honourable Members, "and I cannot leave out of my consideration the Honourable Minister of Health. I remember him going through the air keeping goal for Cable and Wireless, known as" Goalie"; pretty, Sir. One on the other side will get up and pay tribute to your exploits.

In a country which has given so much particularly in cricket and to a lesser extent in body building to the world and to the international sporting community, the politicians who have the responsibility to direct the affairs of Barbados and create the atmosphere for further development as we find ourselves today, must ensure that the traditions are continued. I will be speaking again at a quarter to ten, don't worry.

Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for St. Peter lamented an apparent decline in the prowess of Barbados as a producer and provider of cricketers at the highest level. I do not know if this is a cyclical situation, but I would say this: what is happening today had of course almost been prophetically foreseen by the late Sir Frank Worrell, because it was his thesis, and so far the thesis has not been unproven, that the more Barbados developed and became westernised, the more our brothers in what we call the LDCs, the Leewards and the Windwards would take over the role of supplying the best cricketers for the West Indies team, because development brought as a natural appendage much canned recreation. The proliferation of videos and development of cinemas and different forms of amusement - there was a time we had a skating club," Skate-on" I think it was called, discotheque, and those sorts of amusement centres, even the little amusement parlours, the bandits - provide instant amusement and instant recreation for young people who become consciously or unconsciously lazy about creating their own form of sport and recreation.

In my day, in the early Fifties, we had a Rediffusion set and a Grundig radiogram. I am talking about when I was a boy 12, 14, 15, 16. Castro came from a middle class family and felt empathy with the poorest classes.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Barrow came from a middle class family and you would have us believe that he felt empathy with the poorest classes. What I am submitting, Sir, that even the great Tom Adams tried to play cricket, but he was not good at all. His father was a distinguished wicket keeper, but he was not coordinated for that.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir, apart from the fact that he was not coordinated, his father bought him a bat, he went out to play; he got bowled out four times in four balls, picked up the bat and went inside. That is the last time he played cricket. His father used to beat him every week, but he would not go back out to play. The next time he played cricket, Sisnett was on the same team. 9.05 p.m.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: After Adams died, I think it was the year after that Mr. Sisnett got injured. The Honourable Member for St. Peter bowled very fast that day. He missed collecting behind the wicket and suffered severe damage.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I apologize for misleading the House. It was the year that Mr. St. John fell flat on his face.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Correct. That is true, Sir.

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

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. St. John ran in to bowl and as he was doing a Max Walker he came with a double swing and as he was double swinging his hand, his feet went completely from under him and he fell.

I have a lot to say but I wish to mention that we have still to develop the argument about the financing of sport. That is a separate issue and we are dealing with it later on tonight. How are we going to finance sport in Barbados?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You will do that in another intervention because your time has expired.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Yes, Sir, and I want also to deal with the question of leadership.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Sir, there is another aspect to what I was talking about which I would like to develop in the little time which I have. It has to do with the point that the Honourable Member for St. Thomas just made, the financing of sportsmen and out of this springs the payment of sportsmen, their financial security in the future and so on. It has to do with the marketing of sportsmen and that kind of thing.

Recently some of our sportsmen were lured to South Africa because they paid top dollar and the sportsmen felt at the time that that was the best thing to do given the limited opportunities that they had in Barbados.

Aside.

Mr. R. P. BYER: If you would listen to me you would understand what I am saying.

Now, I believe that sporting organisations in Barbados have to give serious thought - not only sporting organisations in Barbados but regionally as well - to payment to their sportsmen, how they may market them better.

I know for some time now the West Indian Cricket Board of Control, for example, was trying to get the Governments in the region to make some financial contribution to the betterment of sportsmen. Given the fact that most of the Governments are strapped for cash in the Caribbean, I do not know how feasible a possibility this is. I do not even think it is feasible at all so they have to look elsewhere with a view to developing themselves.

In America, for example, all of the professional organisations have been able to market their organisations and to a lesser extent the players of the organisation to a degree that the teams are able to pay their sportsmen top dollar with a view to recruiting the best sportsmen.

Right now, for example, in baseball there is a sort of madness where they are pricing themselves out of the market. Average players or just above average players are fetching sometimes upwards to $3 million, $4 million over a four year period.

Now, I am suggesting that some of the techniques that are used in America to market sportsmen can be adopted in the West Indies. We only have a market of 4 or 5 million people but I still think that if efforts are made, for example, to sell what in the NBA in America are called authentics, shirts with emblems on them of particular teams, shoes, autographs, bats, all of these things can go towards bringing in money that can help to support our sportsmen, that can help our sportsmen to earn a decent living.

Right now some of the major and foremost sportsmen have been able to attract sponsorship. One can think of Slazenger in cricket where some of the Malcolm Marshalls and those are able to advertise for those people but I believe that when they are playing test cricket and I would like if I am wrong in this area, maybe the Minister can correct me, that they have to, if they are advertising for Slazenger, for example, that they cannot do it when they are playing test cricket. They have to take little pieces of tape and tape over the clothing that exposes Slazenger or whatever is the brand name clothing that they are wearing.

Now, I think that is something that ought to be discontinued. It prevents the sportsmen from earning a proper deal. If an individual sportsman can work out a contract with a sporting goods manufacturer or a manufacturer of sportswear, then that sportsman should be allowed to do that. If he has an agent that is skilled enough to do it he should be able to do it.

That is in the area of sport A lot can be done to market our sportsmen. It just calls for a little imagination and it just calls for a freeing up, or a loosening, or a removal of whatever restrictions that hinder that kind of advertising.

This also brings me into another area that was touched upon by the Leader of the Opposition in terms of treatment of sportsmen. He spoke about abuse of prominent people in sports and he defined the word as in its appropriate use. Now, I think, Sir, that the whole concept of abuse may go a little further than that.

When Bernard Sealy won Mr. Universe, he came back to Barbados and his return to Barbados went unnoticed. Now, I thought that was a significant achievement on his part but we did not, as a nation, do anything to recognize his achievement.

Aside.

Mr. R. P. BYER: I am certain that I read in the newspaper...

Aside.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Well, I am sorry about that. I apologize. I thought that I had read that he had come back to Barbados.

Aside.

Mr. R. P. BYER: I am certain I read it in "The Nation". If it is true that he did not come back, I was not trying to mislead the House but I was genuinely misinformed.

But, certainly, Sir, the example that I gave might not be the best example but I would still want to make the point that I believe that we as a nation have to pay more regard to sportsmen when they have achieved. We have to recognize the achievements, not to give them a Barbados Service Star when we have New Year's Honours List or the Independence Honours List. I want that achievement to come when they have actually succeeded, when they have actually achieved.

The Barbados Body Building Team came second at the 1988 Mr. Universe Championships. I think that was in Australia and I do not think anything was done in terms of recognition of them as a team and we can go on like that. 9.15p.m.

I am certain that if that had happened in Trinidad or Jamaica... But maybe it is because we as a people expect our sportsmen to perform well and it is no big thing when they have performed well. They are expected to do it and therefore we do not feel the need and the urgency to throw accolades on them when this occurs.

Right now for example our youth team is playing football, it probably is finished by now, playing or has played in the finals of the youth tournament in Trinidad today. I do not think any effort was made to have that match televised so that people in Barbados could watch the performance of the youth team. I have to say this because every time the Prime Minister attends a cock fight or church service, CBC is always in attendance.

Aside.

Mr. R. P. BYER: That, Sir, is a euphemism. That is a figure of speech. We say that in Barbados.

Aside.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Or metaphor, whatever.

Aside.

Mr. ?v. P. BYER: You still cannot get away from the point right, Sir?

This is the point I am making. A lot needs to be done to promote sports. The Member for St. Peter spoke about cultural penetration in sports and so on. This is a point that was touched on by the Member for St. Thomas already.

I am still not convinced that in some sports in Barbados that there is not an element of racism. I am currently examining this thing in my mind, for example, in relation to yachting. I do not know if anything has been done, if it is at all possible, to make it possible for black Barbadians to obtain membership in the Barbados Yacht Club. I do not know if that is at all possible. I am certain that the Member for Christ Church East will touch on that being an aquatic himself. But it is a matter that I am still examining. For a very long time I have heard about the racial strictures that attend at the yacht club. I think it is about time that that, if it is a bastion of racism, that it be attacked and that whatever strictures there arc be removed.

I know that one or two black people over the years have joined the yacht club, but prominent blacks have been permitted to join the yacht club. But that was not so much so out of a desire of themselves to participate but more or less it was social mobility for them to be members of the yacht club. I think the last Chief Justice of Barbados was a member and one or two other persons were also members. I do not know if the Leader of the Opposition is a member. I do not know anything about that. I would be surprised if the Leader of the Opposition were a member of the yacht club.

Asides.

Mr. R. P. B YER: Well I do not know that. Mr.

CHAIRMAN: Order,

Mr. R. P. BYER: Now this is the area that I am concerned about. There might be other areas where racism is practised in sport in Barbados but this is the most glaring example where it might be practised.

I think as we enter into the 1990s that all of the last bastions of racism in Barbados have got to be torn down either through quiet use of pressure, judicious use of pressure or certainly through legislation. I know the Constitution speaks against discrimination but certainly it is difficult to prove cases of discrimination. And in the face of all the rhetoric that is going around these days in Barbados and how it ought to be treated and whether we ought to debate about race, 1 think we have got to put some mechanisms there to make sure that we remove these bastions of racism,.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member .....

Mr. R. P. BYER: I just want to complete, Sir,,... and that something be done to make sure that we remove racism from spori and from our life in general. At a further date, Sir, I should like to develop that aspect of my current thinking.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. Michael Central.

Mr. C. LeR. TROTMAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. 1 thought it would be a useful thing if I were to join this very interesting and exciting debate which has been extending itself for some time now on the matter of sport and sports and Ministries of Sport.

I would wish to make a few observations especially as they relate to facilities in this regard and I would want to make the observations first of ail that one of those very fast growing sports in the area of Barbados is the marine sport to do with surfing of one kind or another the Soupbowl which as you know, Sir, is an area in Bathsheba where I have had the good fortune to teach many persons how to surf.

Aside.

Mr. C. LeR. TROTMAN: No, Sir. In those days it was not on the fancificd board that we now have. You used to have to do it with the power of your left hand if you were a right hander and you had to be able to show how well you could surf or ride the waves without help of any bit of instrument or any other assistance that there might be and without causing any damage to your person.

When you graduated from that, Sir, you managed to get an old piece of wood that somebody used to make a door with, perhaps a door to the latrine or something else and you managed to use that again to ride the waves, It has now become a much more sophisticated sport which to our advantage is assisting in our tourist attraction as a country and for that we should compliment the Government.

But I should wish to say that in that connection, those of us who have come from that part of the country, especially where we are in the Soupbowl area and I know it is done in other areas as well but I am speaking particularly more of the Bathsheba area, it seems to me that there is enough attraction to the sport that by now we should have certain facilities being contemplated for the use of those persons who occupy the area. I know it is fashionable, Sir, when one is already in the water that one does not worry to look around for facilities. But I would imagine that the thousands of people who go to Bathsheba, especially when there are competitions should have some facilities, even if they are mobile facilities that might be available for use. So that when hey have left, those of us who are residents of St. Joseph and Bathsheba in particular might be able to continue to breathe the ether at the same level of purity that ii might have been before the competitions. 9.25 p.m.

Lunch facilities could help as well, Sir. It would be very good if we did have some lunch facilities in addition to the toilet facilities that I am referring to. I believe that what we might be able to do is to make some arrangement, in the area of the lunch facilities, for the hotel that is nearby to provide some luncheon arrangements for us in that region.

Much more specifically though, Sir, I would want to suggest that one of the problems that attach themselves to sporting facilities relates to the problem of vandalism. In a number of communities we are recognising increasingly that although Governments might spend large sums of money in upgrading facilities both for sports pavilions, sports facilities and community centres, increasingly there arc problems associated with vandalism. It might be necessary, Sir, if one were to examine the nature, the character and the origins of vandals and of vandalism with a view to appreciating what might be the underlying problems associated with this particular evil in our society we arc currently having. It is something devoutly to be deplored in much the same way as the increasing problems we arc finding nowadays, especially on weekend nights, from younger persons in our community with which we have to concern ourselves.

I am wondering, Mr. Chairman, whether we are not being faced with a community of younger persons, and sometimes not so young persons, who feel increasingly a sense of disbclonging - or if you prefer, a sense of unbelonging - a sense of alienation and disorientation and apathy. I thank you very much for the word, Sir, and I am

told that anomy is one of those words that we might use. In my ignorance I have pronounced it "enemy"; that is the way it was given to me, Sir, but I know it is anomy which is a cousin of apathy, which has to do with alienation.

Needless to say, these are problems which one gets in communities from time to time, brought about by several factors, not all of which are necessarily accurate denominators or signals that we can go by. But for all that, Sir, it might seem to be a matter of some importance and perhaps we should endeavour to do so wherever it is possible. It might be a matter of some relevance and importance if working wherever it is possible we endeavour to establish community councils that might be able to take responsibility for those sports clubs and sports centres, and endeavour, using those community councils, to have a body of persons that come within the district or districts concerned take responsibility for allocating the use of the centres, the times of use of the centres and the nature of the sports, and in addition to sports endeavour to have those centres used for other considerations, which are non-sport considerations, so that there might be a feeling of belonging and a feeling of integration between those persons who use the facilities for sports and those other members within the community who may not themselves be directly involved in the sport, but who can still feel a sense of belonging and association with the particular centres.

Aside.

Mr. C. LeR TROTMAN: Mr. Chairman, I do not suggest any concern for a local government attaching to this particular matter, I am referring to councils at that level that relate to the matter of the pavilions. The matter of local government is the subject for a bigger discussion in another forum, and if the Honourable Members on the other side wishes to have my particular expertise in this matter and he wants to pay fees for that kind of advice, then I would be quite prepared to give it in another place.

I would wish to make one more observation, Sir -* because I am very conscious that you, Sir, would be telling me that I am running out of time - and that is that when we look at sport and we look at that particular problem that we have spoken about before, we have also to look at the problem raised by the previous speaker, whether it addresses the question of the attitude of sportsmen to sports and sometimes the attitude of some politicians to sportsmen.

I think, Sir, that it is absolutely necessary that every effort be made at all levels for us to recognise that whatever assistance might be given to sportsmen by those persons who are able to render assistance from time to time, whatever sponsorship there might be that we contemplate helping to help people receive, that it is of urgent importance that we endeavour to inculcate within young sports persons and all sports persons, whatever the kind of sport is, the values of such things as self-reliance, self-pride and self-motivation. One gets very concerned when one does not recognise a society that is progressing on the basis of national pride and self pride, national reliance and self reliance, because if we do not inculcate those kinds of values in our community, and especially in our younger people, I am afraid that we will not be able to build a society on the kind of bed rock that will be a proper kind of basis on which the structure will be able to stand for time.

Given the question of time, Sir, I know I am running out of it, and I merely wish in this forum to add that I would wish the Minister of Tourism and Sports - I think the Sports has an 's' at the end of it, Sir - would recognise in dealing with his programme that he does have to look again at the sports facilities in Station Hill in the constituency of St. Michael Central, and that we are looking for him to do some work in the area of Hill Road, improving that facility there and they are looking for a hard court in that region, and assisting in the Buckingham Road area. It would be remiss of me if I did not let him know that my constituents in that regard are looking forward in the not too distant future to the assistance that his Ministry will be able to bring to the upliftment of those persons who are exercising a tremendous degree of self reliance and self pride, but who would wish to have his assistance in continuing to advance their programmes for them.

I thank you, Sir.

Mr. E. BOURNE: Mr. Chairman,....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister caught my eye first.

Mr. E. BOURNE: I am on my feet to speak. I have not spoken on this yet. I am speaking on sailing, something you want to know about.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Does the Honourable Minister wish to speak? I saw him standing and he caught my eye first.

Hon. W. W. HALL: Sir, they have asked a lot of questions and I would like to reply to at least a few of them.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I wish Honourable Members would understand how the rules govern the debate and how debates are conducted. The Honourable Minister of Tourism and Sports caught my eye.

Hon. W. W. HALL: Mr. Chairman,.....

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What is the point of disorder?

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I have been in this House since 1978 and today is the very first time I have heard the position taken that when the House is in Committee, that irrespective of whether another member wishes to speak that person has to give way to a Minister in order to wind up. I have never heard it announced. I have never heard that enunciated on the floor of the House. This is the first time I have heard it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I said the Honourable Minister of Tourism and Sports caught my eye.

Certain remarks made by Dr. R. C. 1IAYNES \vere ordered by Mr. CHAIRMAN to be expunged from the record at this stage. 9.35 p.m.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: It is perverse as far as I am concerned.

Mr. CHAIRMAN rose.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: That is a perverse ruling of the House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member would wish to withdraw that remark while he is on his feet, whether he walks out now or otherwise.

Hon. W. W. HALL: Mr. Chairman, amidst all the hullabaloo it is quite obvious from the debate that despite our scarce resources, there is very little wrong as far as I can understand with sports in this country. I would have liked to be given a little time.

It is quite obvious to me that the questions that were asked were just filibustering; they were just playing to the gallery or for time and were not serious in what they asked.

Mr, R. P. BYER: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, that is a totally unfair comment, a very contemptuous comment made by the Minister. I do not make sport. I am serious.

Hon. W. W. HALL: They accused you of doing it all day. Mr. Chairman, I would just like to close off this evening* by saying that there were few issues that I would like to clear up, and one was raised by the Honourable Member for St. Thomas. I want to say that in 1983-84 the major repairs to the stands referred to the balustrading of all the stands, and it is true when I said that there were no major renovations to the stands. I do not consider the individual attempts in 1983-84 to be major repairs. I would also like to say that as usua! one is always at the sharp end of the vituperous tongue of the Honourable Member for Christ Church East, but I would like to say to him that the tenders for the lighting of the hard court at St. Christopher will be published shortly and the delay was in obtaining the plans for the protect.

As far as the Bagatelle pavilion is concerned and all pavilions in Barbados, caretakers work four days a week from 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m., and they work four nights a week from 5.00 p.m, to 1LOO p.m., and watchmen work every Saturday and Sunday from 6.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. for cricket and football. At the pavilions where skills training is performed, for instance, Holy Innocents and Dash Valley, they work five days a week and five nights, with the watchmen coming in on Saturdays and Sundays for cricket or football as the case may be.

I would also like to say that Barbados Labour Party benefited immensely from my participating at an administrative level as a member of the Sports Council, and also the merger of tourism and sports was an innovative one never before seen in the Caribbean, and the only place that I know it has been attempted was in Egypt, and now I can say that all West Indian countries are thinking very seriously about it. Both tourism and sports were always hooked on to some other Ministry. The history of Barbados politics would prove that; they were not considered major Ministries.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, I would not want the Minister to mislead the House. If he is saying that a separate Ministry, marrying the two, was created, I accept that. But the concept and the reality of the marriage began before May 28, 1986.

Hon. W. W. HALL: f was in the Sports Council from 1979. You were not here, so you did not hear what he said. I would also like to say thai it seems to me as if Honourable Members of this Honourable House and perhaps the populace in Barbados might not be aware of the help given to sporting organisations by the National Sports Council. I will tell you something, Sir. When the Barbados Netball Team was going to Trinidad for the World Championships this year, two days before they went they came to the National Sports Council and to me, Sir, saying that they wanted $12 000 to go, and this Government provided the $12 000 for them to go and I don't think it has ever been reported, but that is true.

Again when the Body Building team was going overseas this year, the National Sports Council provided them with $5 000 to help them and, Sir, I can go on forever telling you about the assistance that we have given our sportsmen.

As far as the hard courts are concerned, I mentioned earlier that there is hardly a constituency that we have not really touched. One only has to look at Silver Hill, Gall Hill, the Garrison, Friendship, Eden Lodge, Holders Hill,

Checker Hall, Redman Village, Horse Hill, Drax Hall, Wotton, Belleplaine, Valery. And talking about Valery, when the Honourable Leader of the Opposition wanted to put down Valery as a little two by four ground, I was the expert who told him to move the basketball court over to the west and gave him a full size ground because I believe in community sport which he did not understand. As soon as he moved in, everything fell down.

There is also Oxnards, St. George V Park and Folkestone. We must never forget St. Barnabas. All these are grounds, and in St. George South you would know that at Drax Hall we have done great work up there.

As far as pavilions are concerned, Sir, there is the extension to Shorey Village, Dover, another extension, Checker Hall, a new pavilion, Passage Road, the new pavilion, Station Hill. As regards playing fields, there are Briar Hall, Cliff in St. John, Hoytes Village and Plumgrove.

I am saying that in the last two years that is the extent of the work that has been done. I would wish that I was able to elaborate on it. I can only say that the National Sports Council is responsible for 68 grounds in this country, and most times it is remarkable that the National Sports Council provides a lot of facilities for well-known clubs in this country, for instance, at the BCL at Blenheim, down to the very toilet facilities. At Trents in St. James we prepare the field and everything is given.

I would like to thank the Honourable Members who thought that the National Sports Council has done a great job. Most people never look at the social dimension in sport; they look at money, money, money, and I must say to the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, I am not blighted. I am one of God's chosen ones, and goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life. I am very much unlike him. I wish to say, Sir, that cricket is not declining. Just because we have not won a championship for three years, you cannot say it is declining. I would say without a shadow of doubt that the young cricket team in Barbados, the under 16s will beat any team in the world, but the truth is that of late I do admit that at the senior level we have not done as well. I would also like to make one other comment to the Honourable Member for St. Peter. With respect to the facility in St. Peter the Minister of Transport and Works has assured me that he will be looking at that very early in the new year and I think that will make him rather happy.

Mr. Chairman, just briefly to reply to the question of the gymnasium, the situation is that the final drawings are finished and they have arrived here only last week. The Chinese delegation will be coming in on the 10th December for further talks with us. Our engineers are busily now getting the infrastructural plans and things together, and Wildey with the swimming pool, the tennis courts, two hockey fields and a football field will be transformed in a sporting mecca befitting of the brilliant young people that we are producing in this country. I think that I have covered most of the things that were asked about.

The question that the Resolution do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 9.45 p.m.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I intend to move that Your Honour report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

I merely want to say this that it is amazing that some people may have the conception that all kinds of questions can be asked, all kinds of statements made and yet they need not be replied to, therefore, one must really and truly question the motives for asking those questions.

Aside.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: All kinds of statements have been made. You were asking questions for which, I assume, one requires an answer but then you must not be given the opportunity to give those answers?

Mr. Chairman, I move that Your Honour do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

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

I want to make the point that the Leader of the Opposition said that in all the time he was in here he never saw that. First of all in most of the time he was in here you could only speak once and then after that the Chairman of Committees always, always, always made sure that the person had a chance to reply.

When we were in Opposition there was no question about it and I think it is not fair for the Leader of the Opposition to give the impression as he did in relation to the Chair that the Chair was acting illegally.

Furthermore, Sir, even if all that he said was true the only issue was that the Chairman had said that somebody had caught his eye and it is not in his place or in the place of any other member to question the Chair if the Chair says categorically "X has caught my eye[11] and for him to use words like those he used, which I will not use, I think it is unfortunate.

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, at this point I think we have all exhausted our parliamentary day and I,

therefore, move that this sitting be suspended until 10.00 o'clock tomorrow morning, Wednesday, December 6,1989.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, I take pleasure in seconding that, Sir.

The question that the sitting be suspended until Wednesday, December 6, 1989 at 10.00 a.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the House accordingly. 9.50 p.m.

ON RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed. When the suspension was taken, the House was in Committee of Supply. To that it now reverts.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House resumed Committee of Supply, Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE in the Chair.

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

Just before we proceed any further, I wish to make a comment relating to a matter which surfaced last night just before we concluded the day's sitting. I have had some time to think of the matter, and I could come to no other conclusion than that it is quite unsettling to have the Chair treated in that manner. It is my intention to ask the offending Honourable Member to withdraw the remarks made before he could continue in this session of Committee. I am making the point that that will be my position during the sitting on this matter.

Let the Committee proceed.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Mr. Chairman, before we go on, I cannot pretend not to know what transpired. I was not in here, but I think I knew what transpired. In your statement I don't know if everybody in here knows whom you are talking about, and I was wondering whether you could be a little clearer for the record in terms of saying exactly whom you mean by the offending Member.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: If there is need for clarification, I wish to state that the words mentioned by the Honourable Member referring to the ruling of the Chair as being a perverse ruling, and his attitude in leaving the Chamber while the Chair was making an intervention I consider grossly disrespectful.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I was in the House yesterday afternoon when you kept referring to an Honourable Member, and I believe that it is that point of clarity that would be necessary.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The point of clarity is that the offending member is the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1989 -90 No. 8

Order No. 3(c) was called - To move the passing of a Resolution to grant the sum of $1 711 293 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1989-90, Part II - Capital as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1989-90, No. 8 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

HEAD 43 - MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND SPORTS

Hon. W. W. HALL: Mr. Chairman, this is a supplementary Resolution for $1 711 293, the details of which are set out in the Addendum to the Resolution. There is a sum of $1 million for tourism promotion and $711 293, a reimbursement of the vote for provision of revised salaries and wages due to the salaries revision in 1989.

Mr. Chairman, consequent on the 1988 salaries revision, the sum of $711 293 is required to supplement the votes of three statutory boards. Firstly the Board of Tourism to the tune of $333 994, the National Sports Council for $336 284 and the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation in the sum of $43 065. It can be broken down in this manner. For the revision of salaries in the Board of Tourism the sum of $211 000 is required and in addition to that, Sir, for salaries and personal emoluments to overseas staff of the Board of Tourism $120 944 is required, making a total of $331 994. As far as the National Sports Council is concerned, from the point of view of the revision of salaries, the sum of $246 991 is required, and to meet the increase in expenditure for travelling $23 287, car loans $12 000 and utilities, that is, water, $54 806.

Since the sum of $54 806 is rather large, I would just like to point out that between the years 1983 and 1986 a water leak developed at the National Sports Council and the inordinately high bills were questioned by the officials at the National Sports Council, and search as they did they could not find this leak at all. Then around 1986 it was (bund near stand "C". The problem v. . >, -, a,,,* the \WH seeped into the sewerage which is situa ,.* u,.ur thai, and it was more luck and chance that ' ^ found anything else. The National Sports Co" . »i wrote tc !'« Barbados Water Authority re the $85 ^ ° 49 -' ^rs ih,» had accumulated and asked for a waiver o - »e c *••, amount. Some time later, Sir, the Barbados Water Auu waived $31 043.27 and asked the Natk nal Sports Co^.u to pay the rest of $54 806.18 and t' a really is explanation ib that figure from ?' N..liona! Council. 5 * all in all I would think that he $711 293 be for the three Boards, Board of Tourism, the National

Sports Council and the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation to the tune of $711 293 and the other $1 million I shall now address.

In his 1989 Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals, the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs indicated that Government would be providing an additional $1 million for the marketing and promotion of tourism, and Sir, I think it would be rather remiss of me if I did not tell this Honourable House and the Honourable Members exactly what we are going to do with it, and to give some background so that we would understand the situation with tourism, not only in Barbados, since we have to look at the scenario in the Caribbean because it is rather important. 10.10a.m.

Mr. Chairman, I would first like to begin by saying that tourism is the backbone of the Barbados economy but it is the backbone of the economy of almost all of the Caribbean countries. It is a truism that it is the third largest industry in the world and, in a few years time, Sir, I daresay that it would probably be the largest industry in the world.

I just wish to point out that the dependence on tourism in the Caribbean and in Barbados too is large and growing and this dependence on tourism coupled with the radically changing and increasingly competitive tourism industry, Sir, raises the threefold question of our survival, our competitiveness and our sustainability of the whole Caribbean tourism product.

As the past Chairman of the Council of Ministers, a position that I vacated only a month ago, whenever tourism Ministers of the Caribbean met, and some tourism Ministers are Prime Ministers, Deputy Prime Ministers and Senior Ministers in their respective Governments, we found that marketing of tourism in the Caribbean was a problem.

We found, Sir, that we were spending more money collectively than other areas like Hawaii and the money that we were spending was not commensurate with the gains we were getting as a territory and when we considered that 10 million Americans came to the Caribbean area last year then you must confess that we are, indeed, in a big league.

The same 10 million went to Europe from the United States so we feel that if we are going to be competitive, we would need to look at the marketability of the product and I must say that we have our constraints in this area simply because it costs a lot of money and we have actually tried to get some help from the EEC and all this time like now we are busily engaged in determining how best we would market the countries as a whole.

Sir, I would humbly submit that it is a matter really of the marketability of the product. It is a matter of having the resources to do this marketing or lose our competitive edge. That is the problem. Contrary to what some people believe they know, or contrary to what some people say about tourism, it is not merely about tourists and hotels.

My view is that tourism has a lot to do with services. It involves the entire service sector including commerce, entertainers, health services, banking skills, personnel services and these are the things that will be very important as we forge towards making tourism the type of industry that all of us will be proud of.

It is fair to say that tourism has linkages that makes it central to the whole economic process. We can think of certain linkages like the sectorial linkages like agriculture and we must not leave out fishing. We need to feed the tourist as we need to feed our own. We need to grow more local food. We need to catch more fish. The environment is very important towards the development of tourism. Safety - we need to be safe.

There is so much talk, as you know, about jet skis. I can only say, as I have said before, and the Attorney General has actually said, that we are shortly bringing to this Honourable House legislation which we are sure will alleviate the problem. The recommendations of the committee that was set up have been in and the Minister responsible will be bringing it, I believe, under the ambit of the Port Authority Act and, therefore, all the people who have been screaming, and justifiably so - we would be very shortly bringing the necessary legislation and I think that the Attorney General also said that again we will have the Harbour Police with boats capable of apprehending wrongdoers. I just mention that in passing because I was speaking about safety.

Sir, we must also have development in all of those service areas before we can think about filling a large amount of hotels because it is my view that tourism is not particularly a numbers game. We do try to get as many tourists as possible to Barbados. We try to get the numbers up. We intensify our marketing thrust not only in the traditional areas but, certainly, in the non-traditional area.

But in the final analysis, Sir, it would seem to me that the quality of service, the quality of the product is important and as we strive, therefore, to refurbish our hotels and to get a quality of service that is commensurate with the money paid which would encourage people to come back to this fair land. That is the objective because your repeat trade in tourism is just as important because we never have the money to lure half a million people every year to these shores.

We depend very much on our quality of service here. We depend on value for money and, therefore, other people having come once will tell other people about it, hence this $1 million in order to intensify our marketing and promotion thrust is very important.

It is a complex thing, Sir. We need more attractions. We need not worry too much about this concept of the sea, sand and surf. That is as old as the hills and nearly outdated. We need not think that Barbados is the only place in the world that has 3 000 hours of sunshine.

We only have to look at the Latin American countries with just as much sunshine and where it is cheaper to go and the only thing that we need, as I said before, is to compete with them, not from a point of view of how cheap the package is, but from the point of view of value for money and I think that if we do that we would be in a good league.

We have done very well with our scarce resources. At times as we travel from place to place in our quest to improve the product to the state of the art, we find that Barbados has been for a very long time the envy of the Caribbean. 10.20 a.m.

I find, Sir, that many people from further afield, perhaps by our good reputation, our good image, have a great interest in Barbados. I always say, though, Sir, that the Bahamas has 18 offices in the United States of America, and in Grand Canada the type of mass tourism that you see is where they have gone to the point where they have blown off hills that ran perpendicular to the sea to an angle of 45 degrees, and on those slopes they have built hotels. They are very much into marinas and they go as far as importing white sand from the coast of Africa, which is 70 miles away, and put in Grand Canada which has predominantly black sand. That is the way some people have looked at their tourism, Sir.

We can even look at Aruba where only a few years ago they had an unemployment problem bordering on about 40% and today it is perhaps only 2%. The reason of course is that they have put all their eggs in one basket. They have a lot of hotels, they have introduced casino gambling in all of them and there has been some development.

There are many and various modules of tourism. You can choose mass tourism, you can choose a situation where you have allowed all the hotels to have casinos and therefore bring a lot of money into the country, or you can go down the path we have chosen, where we arc looking for a development in the tourist industry that will be considered to be wholesome, Sir, and one which we feel we can manage.

Now, Sir, I have said all of that just as a preamble to let the Honourable Members know how grateful we are in the Tourism Ministry to the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance for this $1 million for promotion and marketing. What are we going to do with it? This provision of $1 million will be used for advertising in the United States and in Canada, and it will be used as follows: We will spend $209,020 to pay for a new 30 second television advertisement. The estimated cost of the production and the necessary materials for this TV advertising is about Can. $526,000, nearly a half million American dollars, and we will spend $209,020 towards this 30 second television advertisement. The good thing about this, Sir, is that we will use the same advertisement in Canada and in the United States. For years it seemed to me that we would advertise in the States and then we would advertise in Canada, two different countries and therefore two different productions, but this time we are going to use this same 30 second television advertisement in the United States and Canada.

The media advertising in Canada will account for $399,300 and the media advertising in the United States will account for $391,680. The sum total is around $1 million. So we are going to spend the money in the United States and in Canada. Why are we going to spend the money in the United States and in Canada? It is because we regard the United States of America and Canada as key markets for the long term health of the tourism industry, Indeed, Sir, last year the United States of America and Canada contributed to about 52% of our visitor arrivals in Barbados. Out of our 451,000 visitors to Barbados last year, a record, we had about 52% of those arrivals coming from the United States of America and Canada.

That is not really including the 300,000 visitors that came here last year by way of cruise ship arrivals. We are very grateful for them. There has been a lot of criticism of cruise ship arrivals lately, and my view is that we try to convert those 3,000 cruise ship passengers to long term visitors in the future. What is more, the people who work on those ships love Barbados and will come back. I was at the function for the inaugural trip of the Viking the other day, Sir, and the 400 staff of that ship love Barbados so much that most of them indicated that that is where their holidays will be spent. Those are some of the areas.

As far as Canada and the United States are concerned, I would like to mention that the Board of Tourism considers it important to undertake the advertising in Canada and the United States markets at this time as a way of restimulating the market, particularly in Canada. The hurricane Hugo caused much devastation and dislocation in the Virgin Islands and Montserrat and Charlotteville, when it had long past Barbados, as indeed every hurricane for the last 34 years since Janet struck on 22nd September, 1955. But what has happened is that in America they are notoriously bad in the geography of the West Indies - and that is a fact, Sir, it is not a criticism, it is stark reality - the American populace is not really very cognisant of what goes on in terms of West Indian geography. If Hugo passes, say, 200 miles to the north of us and on a trail where it will probably knock down Montserrat, the Virgin Islands, Bermuda, Bahamas and Miami, when Hugo was causing great devastation in

the U.S. Virgin Islands, some 1400 miles at least away from Barbados, people in the United States of America and indeed some in Canada were still wondering if Barbados would be safe to go to this winter because of the fact that the hurricane must have knocked us asunder.

The point I am making is that we need therefore to sensitise the people to what is happening here, and to this end we have just run a four week TV campaign in the United States of America, which finished some time last week, and our media advertising will go on until the end of March. We were just looking seriously at that.

The geographic focus will continue to be in the north east. In other words, Sir, our marketing thrust will be in the traditional areas as usual, but we have recognised that it is necessary to market extensively in the non-traditional areas. In the mid west, we are looking at Chicago, Minneapolis and St. Paul. 10.30a.m.

In the West, Los Angeles and San Francisco, the South West Dallas, the South East Miami, Fort Lauderdale, Tampa, Atlanta and the Raleigh Durham area.

What I am saying, Sir, is this, that we consider the South East corridor to be the most rapidly growing area in the United States. When you look at Miami and Orlando, when you go a little north to Cincinnati and Atlanta and then you go to Chicago and anything west of Chicago including Los Angeles and these areas, we feel that those are the non-traditional areas where we should put our marketing thrust. And it is for that reason that this million dollars will allow us to supplement the expenditure for marketing thrusts in these areas.

I should just like to mention what the Ministry will do and the aims the Board of Tourism has for the coming years, let us say 1989-90 and beyond. The marketing plan of the Board aims at sustaining the high levels of tourist arrivals. That strategy will be informed by the following objectives. I should like to give you a few objectives, Sir.

Asides.

Hon. W. W. HALL: Mr. Chairman, I am sorry. I was taking it easy, Sir, and getting behind the ball. Sir, I would need to speak again. Mr. Chairman, in 2 minutes it would be impossible for me to talk about the marketing plan.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: We will just synchronize. You have 5 more minutes.

I would just wrap up at this time and I would come back later.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Five minutes.

Hon. W. W. HALL: Are you going to give me 5 minutes?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Yes. Hon.

W. W. HALL: Oh, Sir. *Aside.*

Hon. W. W. HALL: It is a lot of time, Sir. The marketing plan, Sir, in capsule is this, that we would like to increase our visitor arrivals. We would like to further reduce seasonality. And in so doing we would target the specific periods of the off season. We would like to increase the length of stay and overall occupancy in our hotels. We would like to increase visitor spending and we would also like to further enhance the cruise ship arrivals.

In order to achieve these objectives we would have to restore the US market to a growth position for Barbados and maintain a satisfactory share of the Caribbean traffic being generated from this area. We would also, as I mentioned before, be very specific as we go into Canada because w^ feel that we can restimulate that market. We will also depend, to a large degree, on some charters not only out of Canada, not only out of the United States, if we can get them, but certainly out of Europe. I have not gone to Europe yet, Sir, because one knows that Barbados being tied to the American dollar when the American dollar dipped, it meant that the European currencies strengthened and Barbados became more affordable. As the American dollar therefore strengthens, it is quite obvious that we will have to be equipoised to make important decisions in the tourist industry so that we will be in a position to do our thing. We need to have that done. We cannot sit down in a stereo type fashion on the rail. You need to be in a position that you can move either in or out. I think that is the art of getting things done properly.

As far as England is concerned, Sir, we have looked at the economic situation right now in the United Kingdom. We have also looked at what would be the ramifications, as far as we are concerned, when we have the European Common Market of 1992. We are not lost on that. We feel that we also have to intensify our marketing strategy in the other Caribbean Islands because you would find that as things get tighter in the larger developed countries, their inhabitants become rather inwardly looking and they do not travel. That is why it is important for us in Barbados to have some more attractions to supplement our beautiful sun, sand and sea, to supplement the fact that our people arc affable, they are intelligent, they arc trainable and we need therefore to improve our services.

I believe that this million dollars would go a long way towards helping us to intensify a marketing plan and strategy that we have for a long time been gradually getting into. We have not got the resources of the other countries,

in some cases, of some of the other Islands, but with what we have got I think that it can be truly said that we have done a creditable job.

Two minutes, Sir. I had a survey done in the United States of America this year. I wanted to find out what the tourists from America that come here think and I wanted to know what were their fears when they go to a country. It was simply like this. Their worst fear was the language barrier. Number two, were terrorists. Number three, being robbed. Number four, illness. And number five, getting lost. It can be safely seen then, Sir, that Barbados as a country would loom large in their minds because as far as the language is concerned, there is hardly a barrier.

As far as terrorists are concerned I am not going to make any big lot of pronouncements but as far as terrorists are concerned as I know it, I would say we do not have any. I would not really venture any further than that. I would also say, Sir, that being robbed is a social ill that all of us in the world have to try and combat.

As far as illness is concerned, I alluded to our medical services as a linkage that is important to the development of tourism as a whole. Therefore if one gets ill here and at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the other hospitals that we have, private or public, the medical services are good, we would find that people would be very satisfied.

What of getting lost? We would depend on the hospitality and the affability of the Barbadian people to make sure that if somebody comes up to them on the road and says that they want to know where St. Christopher is, well then, they would let them know where it is. That is the position. They would not be lost. So in those five areas, if you really look at it, you would see why people love Barbados because the people arc great interactors. We are people who can really let people know exactly how we feel.

In closing, Sir, if I have to come back, but that is basically how it is in tourism. As I say, we have 248 000 experts in tourism in Barbados. That is the population. Everybody is an expert. But I am not an expert but I am not a neophyte cither. Therefore I feel that with the help of everyone, all Barbadians, if we make tourism our business, then surely we can play our part.

I beg to move, Sir, that Head 43 stand part.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. George South.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Sir, I just want to make a couple comments on this whole area of tourism which I must confess is very new to me.

The Minister said that there are 248 000 experts in Barbados. I do not think that I am one. But I have had, over the years, one or two thoughts on tourism insofar as the area of marketing is concerned and I should like to try and develop these thoughts as we go along.

From time to time when I visit North America or other destinations that our tourism is aimed at, I take time out to follow the tourist advertisements on television and to compare the style and approach of one country or the other. For example the Bahamas advertise a lot in Miami and other parts of America.

Jamaica does a lot of advertising as well. Their advertising is very lavish, very stylish and so on. Even though the Minister said that advertising is very expensive what I have noticed is that the Barbadian advertising leaves a lot to be desired. So I am particularly heartened that a new approach is going to be taken to the style and level and content of the advertising that we are going to be doing in North America and Canada. 10.40 a.m.

All too often I just see one of the old and outdated maps of Barbados appear on the screen and nothing much more is said, and then it goes off. It is a short ad, and I believe that we need to do a little more than 30 seconds. Now constraints of money would not permit it at this stage, but I believe that if we re-order our priorities in terms of budgeting that we might be able to do a little more than we do at the moment in just a 30 seconds slot.

I think we need to do much more than that, especially at the moment when we have come to realise that North Americans are very ignorant of die geography of the Caribbean. I have myself had personal experience of that, and I can attest to what the Minister has said.

But I would also like to know what collective efforts are being made among Caribbean countries in the area of advertising. I know at one time there was some argument or discussion where one country was saying that Barbados was copying its advertising. I don't remember which country; it might have been Bermuda that was saying that Barbados was copying their advertising. I heard the Minister say that at the last meeting they had advertising was discussed, it occurred to me that I should seek a little more information about what collective efforts are being made in this area.

Now this brings me on to another area of tourism business which is the convention business. Up to this time we have not made up our minds as a country, as a Parliament as to what approaches we will take in terms of erecting a convention centre.

Now this is not a criticism, it is just an observation. I think when we realise the importance of tourism to Barbados, we should accept that we cannot be extremely

critical in this area, and any suggestions we make should be for the betterment of the tourist plant, and also for the promotion of tourism so that as Barbadians we can all benefit collectively.

I had a chance to visit Baltimore in the United States last year as a guest of the US State Department and I was amazed at the kind of development that had taken place there in the area of convention business. Those of you who follow the rise and fall of big cities in America will know that at one time Baltimore was in the dumps, that a lot of the industries had deserted Baltimore and had gone to other places in America. This is a fact of American life where an industry move from one state to another given certain variables and certain economic conditions, and Baltimore with its large black population had fallen on hard times. Efforts were made really to pull it around and one of the areas of concentration was in the area of attracting convention business.

Now in terms of tourism development in Barbados, a lot of our tourism is not centred around Bridgetown. This is where you come to shop, this is where the shopping centre is, and with the development of the mall and the mall fever that has now taken over Barbados, a lot of the business of shopping centres and a lot of shopping will now have to be done over the next five to ten years outside of Bridgetown. I was wondering whether in our development plan we could not look to see whether Bridgetown could not, because of its history and so on, be used as a focal point of tourism development in an effort to attract more tourists to Barbados, whether in truth and in fact we could not think in terms, if we decided to have a convention centre, of having it built in Bridgetown and not out of Bridgetown. I think the convention business is a very attractive business, it is a very worthwhile business and when so many people come here when companies have their meetings and so on, then we can have more word of mouth advertising once we are able to treat them properly and well.

I think that we would be able to manage a convention centre effectively. One only has to look at the great work that is being done at the Frank Collymore Hall in terms of the management of that institution, and as the Minister said, we are a trainable people, we are a very intelligent people in Barbados, and this would not be anything difficult that we could not handle. We only have the Dover Convention Centre and we can see the difficulties that we have when we have to entertain large numbers of people in terms of accommodating them all at the same time.

Now I want to move on to the area of sports-tourism and to see what efforts can be made in this area to further enhance its development.

The Minister, given the international sportsman that he is, has been able over the years - and I am not in any way detracting from the work that the Barbados Labour Party did in this area either - to encourage quite a lot of cricket teams to Barbados during the summer months and to have the Pro-Am festival and so on. We now have a golf tournament this month, but I wonder how much more has been done or how much more will be done over the next couple of years to get more sporting events of an international flavour. We have the surfing and so on it is true, we have the gold cup in January; those are about the ones that really come to our attention.

Now yesterday I was speaking about body building. I think Barbados is firmly established on the body building map of the world, and when the gymnasium is completed, I think efforts should be made to have Mr. Universe Body Building Championship hosted in Barbados. I think that should be one of our targets. I remember at one time the Minister had in mind to have us stage the Commonwealth Games in Barbados. I don't know how we might achieve that given our size and our limited resources. I have not given it any thought, but it was a very ambitious idea, but we could do other things, for example, every year you have in America basketball teams playing the finals; I wonder whether we could not explore it to see whether we could not get tho^e two teams that appear in the NBA finals to come to Barbados after that during the summer months, or to attract other teams here with that kind of flavour, to play a basketball match which would be televised back to America. We would'then be able to use that television time to further advertise Barbados. Maybe you could look at it in the area of baseball. It is not our game, but if you draw the fields at the stadium, you might be able to do it, or at the oval. I think we have enough playing field space in Barbados that we may be able to achieve that. Those are just some thoughts that I have in the area of sports-tourism. They need a lot more exploring. We know that basketball stars in America come at very high prices, but the lure of a vacation to Barbados all expenses paid might be enough to get them to come to Barbados to play a basketball game which would be televised back to America. Now it has not escaped my notice about the difficulty that Jamaica and Dominica faced after hurricane Gilbert visited them last year, and also the difficulties that other destinations in the Caribbean, Montserrat, the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, have had since Hugo, and I was wondering how prepared Barbados is. This is a matter for CERO but I was wondering how prepared Barbados is to rebound, how would we have managed if a hurricane of similar force had visited us, given our present economic difficulties and the fact that tourism is our mainstay. Even when we do not have hurricanes come to Barbados, when they pass 14 miles off us or whatever, we have problems because people then are wondering what would happen if we were struck by that hurricane. I was wondering how quickly we would be able to rebound should we be visited by a hurricane with the force of a Hugo or Gilbert. God forbid. We are in the path of hurricanes and these are things that we have got to think about. We cannot escape forever. 10.50a.m.

We must also wonder whether our tourist plant can withstand hurricanes of such strength. These are merely thoughts that I have and the experts in this area might be able to enlighten me as we go on.

Now, the Minister spoke about the areas of concentration...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Two minutes.

Mr. R. P. BYER:...that he would like to attack in America but if I have the chance I will come back to that since it has been indicated that I have another two minutes.

One thing I want to touch on at this stage is negative reporting and its impact on tourism. From time to time we get a lot of negative reporting in the Press and I often wonder how such reporting impacts on our tourism. I was wondering whether any study has been done in this area but I will come back later and develop my thoughts on that.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I intervene in this debate simply because tourism is our business, a slogan that was developed by Mr. Glyne Murray when he worked with the Tourist Board in Public Relations that has become a gripping slogan now, I think, in the tourist business.

Let me begin by saying that I agree with the Minister that tourism is now the backbone of the Barbados economy and, in fact, were it not so, the Barbados economy would be in a very serious position because we are now looking to tourism to provide the foreign exchange without which the economy cannot function and it has overtaken sugar and manufacturing and bypassed them in being the main provider of foreign exchange.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The Honourable Member for St. Michael North says *sotto voce* that it has been doing this for years. What he does not realize is that today, in fact, it is almost only to tourism in any significant way that we can look to save the country's dwindling balance of payments and because of its significance we, therefore, have to concentrate seriously on it whenever we get an opportunity and do not be lulled into a false sense of believing that all is well with the tourist plant.

In a way Barbados has been fortunate that the European currencies have held their own and, in fact, have even appreciated *vis-a-vis* the U.S. dollar, and that, therefore, as the Minister said, Barbados became affordable again for tourists particularly from the United Kingdom, Germany and to a lesser extent Scandinavia and Switzerland and if you look at the statistics you will note that the main area of growth in the last three years in the tourist arrivals in Barbados and I am not now speaking of the cruise ship industry, has been essentially out of Europe.

We have not done that well in the market where we traditionally rely on and that is the North American market. In fact, the statistics for last year show that instead of the United States market improving for Barbados, we had a decline of some 5 000 odd tourists.

The Central Bank's statistics for the month of October, 1989, at Table H9 on page 77 showed that the figure for 1987 was 175 093, in 1988 it is 170 773.1 have not worked out their percentage exactly but there has been a decline in real terms out of North America and if our statistics are looked at in the context of either the regional statistics or, indeed, of the world statistics, those of us who access the statistics published both by the United Nations and the World Tourism Organization, would recognize that Barbados' share of the United States Market has not appreciated in any significant way. It has either been static or declining and the clear message for tourism planners, the clear message for the Ministry, must be that something is wrong and has been wrong for some time with the manner in which we are aggressively accessing the United States market.

The same thing applies to Canada. It is only really in the period, perhaps, 1984/85, and I would not say any more about that, Sir, that we saw any appreciable effort there to push back up the numbers in that market and we have to recognize that if at anytime, as the Minister quite rightly said, there is a change in the currency alignments between the U.S. dollar and the European currencies, that Barbados could find itself, that is one reason, again in a very difficult position in relation to the growth area of tourism.

There is another factor that we must think seriously about. Our competitors are not only our traditional competitors here in the Eastern Caribbean or in the Western Caribbean, Jamaica, St. Lucia and Antigua. Antigua in particular has done extremely well in its tourism growth sector. But our real competitors in the future will be the competitors further in the Western Caribbean, the Dominican Republic which has made tremendous strides and has shown a good deal of initiative in the manner in which it is promoting its tourism plant and its linkages between tourism and other sectors of the economy, and likewise Cuba.

If anyone studies the projection of the Cuban plan for its economy over the next 10 years, you will see the tremendous concentration of its public investment portfolio on tourism.

Cuba has, obviously, been recognizing that with the changes going on in the world, particularly in sugar ar m Eastern Europe, it has to concentrate on other areas fo its foreign exchange. I suppose down the line it is looking at the fact that should its relationships with United States thaw, then the United States market will become easily accessible for it.

The statistics from Cuba also show that Cuba has been aggressively marketing the Canadian market and some of the persons who traditionally came here have found that it is easier for them, it is nearer to the Canadian border. They have been going to Cuba and, obviously, some of the other traditional areas like Mexico, so Barbados has to recognize this. 11.00a.m.

It also has to recognize that in terms of Europe with the falling of the Berlin Wall and the other removal of the barriers between Eastern and Western Europe that Eastern Europe will for some period of time become attractive and possibly cheaper for the European tourists. That is another area of competition for us.

And we must further recognize - the Minister touched on it very slightly - that the impact of the Common Market, although having advantages for Barbados and the Caribbean, if we can deal with the problem of the opportunities, also brings more into focus the competitive position of Portugal, of Greece and of course of Spain fully into the market. And later with countries such as Turkey and Malta hoping to become part of the European structure, those two will be the areas for competition.

Therefore I am saying, Sir, that one regrets very much the slow manner in which the whole issue of overall marketing has been attacked. The Minister is talking now about the $1 million which was promised since the Budget in about May. But I am wondering which season he will be using it for.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I am not saying it is the Minister's fault. He has to wait until the Ministry of Finance releases it. And furthermore we might pass it for him in this Committee here today but he has to wait until he gets the warrant signed a little later, if he gets it signed.

But 1 am asking what is it to be used for? When is it going to be used? It cannot be for the winter season. Because if you are promoting your winter season, you are gone now for any effective promotion for any tourists that you want to bring here for winter. So you are obviously looking either towards summer - well you are late for spring too - or you must be looking towards next year winter. The Minister knows that there is a time lag. He is not an expert but he has had enough exposure now. He is not as close to tourism as I am on other grounds but he must now have had enough exposure to see it.

I think we have to emphasize that really, if you are going to give money like this, give it up front at the time of the Estimates. Do not wait until the Budget to bring it as though there is a political fall-out for it when there is an obvious need. That is one criticism that one has to make of this way of marketing.

I am concerned too about the tremendous delay which has occurred in settling the positions of persons who are employed as the main managers of our tourist plant. We still have the situation where there are too many acting appointments and recently the Minister has also been faced with resignations of persons who have accumulated several years experience in tourism managing and tourism marketing.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: It is not only in Canada. The problem exists in the United Kingdom as well and this must be cause for concern. You cannot take so many years to make a decision about these matters. We cannot take all these years to make decisions. Tourists are not going to sit around until we can find out who we should put to manage the UK. I know there is now to be a transfer to the UK, but you cannot have people acting there for this period of time. We have lost persons in the North American market. But the Minister must know that the idea if he really must take -no quarrel, you have the talent, you have some good people in the positions as well. But you need an overall Manager for North America. You may have to make a sacrifice here, replace somebody -else there. But you need an overall Manager for North America who could then deal with his other persons effectively. But the point is that that is one of the areas that we really have to look at.

The remarks I am making to the Minister, I hope he does not think we are making them in a personal manner. I am tremendously concerned about the fact that staff appointments have not been settled because there is nothing so debilitating as a staff structure that continues to float. The Minister must be aware that it takes people who are - coming into marketing, particularly of the tourist plant, some years before they become familiar with the markets, particularly the tough market of North America and the tough physical and other conditions under which people are asked to work in that market.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: One minute more.

Hon. H. dcB. FORDE: And, Sir, another sign of what I meant has gone wrong is the collapse of Van Brunt & Co. the main marketing advisers for the Government in the United Slates.

I do not know if persons follow these things but with every change of Government there is always a tendency to try to change this person and what not. You have to be very careful with some of these consultants. The track record of that agency was not that good and in fact you would have found, not done for any political or other reasons, that they were changed because not only they were non-competitive

but they were non-deliverers. The trouble you would get, we got it, I am sure we would get it next time. The problem is that there is always somebody willing to come and tell you how they are supportive of you and what not in order to get a particular consultancy or something of the sort and, at the end of the day, they do not deliver the goods.

Now I am concerned that....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: ....Van Brunt has filed bankruptcy and the Government of Barbados is going to lose about $1/2 million out of that. We would have had that additional $V2 million to promote the industry in North America. And I want to know why this firm Van Brunt & Co. was paid up front such a large amount of money. That money now he has filed bankruptcy we are unlikely at all to recover because you have to get into the queue of those persons who are asking for two cents whatever they pay in the dollar. That is a loss in my view that we could have avoided. I am sure the Minister should have, if he has not already done an enquiry to find out what are these types of arrangements that we are having.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I am sorry, Sir. I am going to have to ask to intervene again.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Christ Church East.

Mr. E. BOURNE: Mr. Chairman, I must say that the presentation by the Minister of Tourism was very ably put. But, however, I want to let him know that spending these large sums on TV ads is not enough. There is no better way of selling a product as competitive as tourism, other than by the door to door salesman.

We have offices in North America and I can speak about the offices we have in Toronto where people just sit and relax believing that all they have to do is go into an air-conditioned office every day at all kinds of hours and that is that.

If you would take time out and go to some of the areas outside Toronto, places like Mississauga and such like, you would find that our salesmen have never visited any of these travel agents. The only way you can be in competition is by constant promotion of your product. We hear a lot about our several competitors, Malta, Bermuda, the Bahamas but we in Barbados are unique. People love to come to Barbados because most of them are happy being here, although from time to time you will get complaints of rip offs, high prices, et cetera, but somehow or other most of them will still come back. I remember once going back to Toronto and sitting next to a young lady. I could see she had a story to tell, because she was looking left and right, and then suddenly she broke the silence and she started to talk about her experiences here. Her tale of woes was not good on the ear. The last thing she told me was that the mini van which was supposed to take them to the airport, they all had to get out two miles down the road and push it to the gas station, and she was wondering whether it was done deliberately to make white women push a black man in a van. 11.10a.m.

Asides.

Mr. E. BOURNE: This is true, this is what was said. I continued the conversation with her, pointing out that any vehicle could run out of gas, whether it was a mini van in Barbados or a Cadillac in North America, but in the end she told me although she had undergone all those discomforts she still thought she would come back to Barbados at some time again. This speaks well for us.

One of the things I would like to see the Ministry of Tourism do is to make certain that we get understandable and readable up to date road maps. People in North America are accustomed to purchasing road maps and plotting their course for a particular destination. If one would venture to look at these things we call road maps here, it would take more than a genius to find their way after trying to read one of them. Mr. Minister, I think you should insist that we get proper road maps and then you would not have to worry about people getting lost when they come to Barbados because they would find their way quite easily. When they come to St. Christopher they will see a cross on the church door marked "St. Christopher" and they will know that is St. Christopher.

Sir, I would like to see, drawing from my Canadian experience, the day when we will be making provisions for camping outdoors.

Asides.

Mr. E. BOURNE: Yes, nature tourism. Many North Americans feel that when they come to Barbados, since it is a country of all sunshine and no winter, that there should be provision for this type of activity. I think the time is right when we should be looking at this very seriously. At one time in my North American life I used to make it possible every weekend to spend some time outdoors, because it was very cheap, and I think that this would further enhance us as a good place for tourists.

The last speaker, the Honourable Member for Christ Church West, was talking about managers and people with several years' experience who are acting, some of whom have resigned. I think what we really want are people who have Barbados at heart, people who are prepared, once they are given the job, to go out there and work very hard at it,

because there is no point having several years' experience and still you are lying down on the job. I think this is our problem in North America. Most of them seem to think that they are up there on holiday and that they cannot be transferred. This is nonsense. I am one of the people who believe that when you are not performing you should be put to lie down, you should be taken out to pasture. I think, Mr. Minister, this is an area where you should get tough and then I will sing your praises.

The Honourable Member for St. George South has suggested that we invite the top basketball and baseball teams to Barbados. I am in full agreement with this suggestion, Sir, and I think we will be able to make a lot of money on selling TV rights to the various stations in North America. I think you should give this a very hard look and see whether it is possible or not.

Every year we get yachtsmen coming from the Canary Islands to Barbados. Yesterday I wanted to say something on sailing, but I am going to say it now. I did not get the opportunity so I think I shall take the opportunity now.

People seem to think that the sea is a place made solely for people of another colour. The member for St. George South yesterday was talking about the shattering of the myth when a black man gained a gold medal in swimming. I think the reason most of us do not engage in water sports, especially sailing, is because it is a very expensive pastime. In order to sail you must have a boat, which is expensive, and it is not always thai a person after reaching adulthood will get involved in sailing. You usually start this life at a very tender age. One would imagine trying to take your son out there, you want to make him a sailor and the only thing you would come up with is a sill grass boat, which is impossible, so if you want our youngsters to be first class sailors you would have to think about providing small boats for them, say the dinghy class or GP.14 class, and start training them young, 11.20a.m.

The other day *I* happened to be reading an article written by I think the Commodore of the Barbados Yacht Club, and this was talked about yesterday, and he was saying that there is nothing in their constitution which states that a coloured person cannot be admitted as a member. Now I know that over the years people have been complaining about membership in this club and membership in that club, but I feel quite strongly that if you want to get involved in anything, if these organisations do not want you, you should get together and form something on your own; you start small and you expand. But the problem is that most of us in Barbados seem to be afraid to take that chance. That is all there is to it. There is no miracle in sailing or in swimming. If you throw any animal in the water, the first thing it will do is start to keep above water and start to swim. You throw a man in the water and the first thing he docs is go to the bottom. Do you know why? He has no confidence in himself. All we need is encouragement, and you will find that all these myths will be broken.

I will tell you one of my Toronto secrets. When I lived in Toronto, I was planning to represent Barbados in the 1976 Olympic Aquatic sports, there was no age limit, but as I said, the finances were against me, I wanted to sail, but the finances were against me. Sailing is not the type of sport that you can get into like cricket or football or anything of that kind. It costs some money and a boat calls for regular expensive maintenance. I hope that the Minister will divert some of his funds to a sailing class and get some expert tutors to start training our youngsters in the art of sailing. I thank you, Sir.

Mr. D. A. C SIMMONS: Mr, Chairman, I support what the Honourable Leader of the Barbados Labour Party has said in relation to the value of tourism to the economy, and since it is so essential to our very survival, it is important that the linkages between tourism and other sectors be carefully monitored and managed. Now there has been in my view too little concern with the environment and its relationship to tourism. It is my personal opinion --1 am not putting a party position - that the environment and its management will be one of the major issues worldwide in the 1990s. The Honourable Minister of Trade is saying it has become.

I think it behoves all the political parties, those ;.u power and those seeking to get into power to pay attention in the formulation of policies to the question of the management of the environment. Happily the Barbados Labour Party at the time we prepared the last manifesto devoted half of page 13 and a bit of page 12 to that whole business of the environment. This did not make any impact at all. This came out like the week before election and nobody knew about it. It was a far better document than the blue thing that I tore up in here last year. That is another matter, Sir,

I am concerned now about the deterioration in the environment particularly in the country areas of Barbados. I know that Government has put a lot of money into the NCC, $10 million or probably more, but those workers tend to concentrate on St. Michael, the border of St. James, the border of St. George. I can't find them up in St. Philip. I can't find them in St. Thomas. They have never been to St. Thomas. We have areas overrun and overgrown crying out for the deployment of some of these workers.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The park was there before the workers went. I have not been down by Three Houses. Look how I have got this House lively nil of a sudden; everybody has woken up.

Sir, the relationship between tourism, the environment and agriculture is also something the Government has to look at. If arable land is not being cultivated and is being allowed to run to ruin and become overgrown with bush, it must affect the aesthetics of Barbados. Barbados must become less pleasing to the tourists who will ultimately find it repulsive, and so when one calls for serious policies to be implemented in relation to agriculture and in relation to environment, it is because ultimately the neglect of these areas can redound negatively in terms of our tourism product. Certainly, Sir, I think that we all agree, the Minister hinted during his presentation, that the social stability or the reputation that we have had for social stability has been one of our great attractions, and we need to ensure that the social fabric of Barbados does not deteriorate further. The trends that we have been witnessing are disquieting. I am glad that the Prime Minister was able to address this matter, and he has now obviously come around to the view that it is a matter of grave concern, during his independence message last Thursday. But we have to arrest the trends quickly, otherwise again it will impact negatively on tourism. To that extent, Sir, I was very disappointed with the leadership that was offered by the Minister of Employment, Labour and Community Services in relation 19 vandalism of sports facilities. We have had that problem. There are one or two that have survived unscathed, but I certainly do not agree that persons in Government should be reported as sending the wrong signals, because persons in a particular district may be vandalising Government property, It cannot be right, and I think one has to be discreet in how one ventilates one's own disgust at the treatment of Government property. But I don't think it can be discreet to suggest that all of a sudden a Minister will become Samson and push it down, become a human bulldozer. You can't send that signal to the community. If it is the press that is wrong again, I have warned you in here already, this particular Minister, he is saying he was misquoted again, he has a duty to clarify it.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: That is a libel, that is not a mistake, and they should apologise for a libel. 11.30a.m.

The Attorney General seems to be understanding what is required in relation to the exchange of letters between himself and the former High Commissioner to London. The High Commissioner put the wrong position and the Attorney General beat him with some wallaba posts through the Press and he has not surfaced since.

I am advising the Minister of Labour. If the Press has told lies on him or made him look stupid, reporting something he did not say which, I think if you look back at it rationally, could send the wrong signal, I think he has a duty to clarify it and I am sure "The Nation", or "The Advocate" or whoever carried it would clarify it.

Now, Sir, the Honourable Member for Christ Church West regretted that this money was not given to the Tourist Board before. That is true. I agree to a certain extent with that observation except that if it had been given and disbursed before, perhaps, Van Brunt would have gone not for $500 000 but would have carried away a whole million so we have to be thankful still that the neglect in the Ministry of Finance that did not cause the money to be advanced earlier has still worked out as a kind of blessing.

I am concerned about the Crop-Over Festival and the way it has been organized this year and the operations of the National Cultural Foundation in relation to the tourism effort generally. It is time to reappoint the board or appoint a new board.

As I understand it, the Board has not been reappointed since October 1988 so I do not know how the NCF could be acting validly at all. They would be acting illegally if they have not been appointed since October 1988. That is a serious thing, Sir.

I am not going to spend any time in this debate on the conflicts of interest between WWB Productions and the Deputy Chairman of the NCF. I am not going to deal with that and the $67 000 business. I will talk about it another time.

I am going to deal with the Tourist Board because there are people in the Tourist Board in management who are not speaking to each other. We cannot have it.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: How do I know? I know a lot of things and I am always right.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I left CBC 10 years ago. What that has to do with it? I resigned and we still spoke. We are not so petty.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church West drew attention to the fact that there is a morale problem in the Tourist Board at home and abroad. We have the problem, as I say, of people at home not speaking to each other and abroad you have had the two resignations in the last two months. You have had the blunt refusal of that one person in Canada to move so that you have the difficulty. He prefers to stay with the bottles. I am not going to call any names in the debate, Sir.

The Minister has to take some decisions as a matter of urgency.

In London, I believe, for nearly 18 months - I believe I might still have a question on the Order Paper - there has

been somebody acting there in the Tourist Board and has been afraid to take decisions because he is not appointed.

He must move swiftly as Minister to make the appointments. Give die persons some sense of security and in strengthening the institution at the same time.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The member has two minutes to conclude,

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, before I leave, in case we do not get back to this today, I wish to make a plea to the Minister in relation to Sports now to try and ensure that the prizes for the marathon are substantially increased.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C, SIMMONS: I am saying that they should he increased even if the Minister is alleged to have said it. If he said so. Sir, I agree with him. Put it that way then.

Aside.

Mr. D. A, C, SIMMONS: If he said so before I agree with him because SI 500 - I heard Mr. Jerston Clarke the coach talking at the end when Brown won Sunday and was complaining.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East is telling me not to encourage people with that stupidness. It cannot be right for anybody to run 26 miles from the Airport to Heywoods and look at them and give them a piece of mahogany and $1 500 and in Trinidad they get $20 000!

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: What gold medal? You get a Gold Medal at the Olympics that would have a lot of worth and marketability but, I really cannot agree with that. Sport has become professionalised and we cannot...

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: No, Sir. Not for something as major as the Run Barbados which has done so much to bring people here at that particular lime of the year. Look at the entries that you had this year and I submit that the fact that there has been a substantial falling off in the number of people coming from overseas to run is directly related to the quality and quantity of prizes offered.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am finished now, Sir?

Aside.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Can we have fewer interruptions, please?

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: They are now criticising their own Minister. You know the truth about it, Sir? We are talking about Run Barbados. The truth about it is that they cannot get Barbados run. You cannot get this country ^ of Barbados run. That is the problem.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: Mr, Chairman, I rise to support this Resolution and I want to make some comment especially with regard to some of the things I heard the Honourable Member for St. Thomas raise.

First of all, let me say something. I want to compliment this Government for putting tourism back where it is and I am surprised to see that Members of the Barbados Labour Party can get up and talk about people in tourism not speaking to each other.

Il was under the administration of the Barbados Labour Pa^y that the then Prime Minister of the country. Torn Adarns; your predecessor for your constituency, who said that the Minister of Tourism in the Barbados Labour Party was worse than a hurricane hitting Barbados.

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

E. A. SIMMONS: Sorry, the Director.

Aside,

Dr, E. A. SIMMONS: By inference, as your logical argument goes.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There arc two Honourable Members on their feet.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: The Minister of Tourism should have gone too, so I am surprised to hear that Honourable Member.

Hon. H. dcB. FORDE: On a point of order.

Do not let the Honourable Member misquote the position but the position is that the Prime Minister of Barbados at the time always had the guts to say what he meant and, if necessary, to remove people.

Would the Honourable Member tell me that when in the diplomatic bag you found elope why did not the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Ambassador go at the same time? 11.40a.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is no point of order.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I agree with the Member for Christ Church West. The Prime Minister at the time always said what he wanted to say and that is why the Member for Christ Church West left the Cabinet, because the Prime Minister said what he wanted to say.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr.Chairman, if the Honourable Member would give way. I must not let a lie get away in here. I did not leave the Cabinet of Barbados.

Aside.

Certain remarks made by the Honourable Member for Christ Church West were ordered, by Mr. CHAIRMAN, to be expunged from the Record.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The point I am making, Sir, is that Honourable Members do not understand properly or they choose to misunderstand the position of Cabinet Government. I never left the Cabinet of Barbados. I served my term as a Minister of Government in Barbados for a period of five years, if I may blow my trumpet, in a most outstanding manner for those five years as Attorney-General and Minister of Foreign Affairs. The record speaks for itself. I went back to the Cabinet for a period of six weeks in 1983 in order to assist with the problem of Grenada.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your point is made. But I should like us to stay a little in control of the matter under discussion.

Dr. E. A, SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, as I was saying, it was under the administration of the Barbados Labour Party that tourism took some of its worst knockings. And we know that up to 1986 people in the hotel industry worked week off and week on, month off and month on and were not sure of where they were going. It was only after 1986 when the Democratic Labour Party again became the Government of this country that tourism has ascended to the heights which it has reached recently.

So I am surprised to hear Honourable Members can offer such worthy advice in such a short space of lime and when they had the Government they could not run the Ministry of Tourism. I am not saying that you should not be critical. That is why we arc here. We are here to offer constructive criticism. But if we are going to be constructive, let us be constructive.

I want to deal with a point - the Honourable Member for St. Thomas has left his seat - but I want to make a point about what he was saying about paying people money to run in marathons. J listened to the comments of the athletes and I am going to deal with those specific comments.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, 1 do not want the Honourable Member to mislead the House. On a point of order. I would not let this Member say that the Barbados Labour Party destroyed tourism in Barbados. And I would refer him to his Party's own Manifesto of 1986 where it is said:

"Today tourism is the mainstay of the Barbados economy." This is stated in the introduction to the Democratic Labour Party's Manifesto. It is a wicked piece of hypocrisy for the Member to tell this House that the Barbados Labour Party destroyed tourism in this country. Even their own Manifesto recognised the work that we did to develop tourism in the country. If at some time the sector had to face a strong US dollar and suffered as a result, then that is part and parcel of the cycle in the sector's fortunes. But it is a piece of wickedness to say it now, that the Barbados Labour Party destroyed tourism in this country, when in your own Manifesto you said that you left it as the mainstay of the economy.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, as I was saying, *I* am going to get on to the comment made by the Member for St. Thomas. I shall ignore asides that are not relevant.

I was listening to the comments made at the end of the marathon and one of the runners was saying that the Barbadian that finished first, no matter where he came in the race should be awarded $3 000. His reason for saying that, he gave the reason, he said it was because athletes had to buy equipment to run in and had to eat nourishing food, et cetera. I think that we cannot encourage that kind of nonsense.

When you get involved in sport, it is healthy competition. We have to discourage young people in this country from thinking that whenever they take part in anything we should award them money. And furthermore, if that argument is used; everybody runs a 22 mile marathon and you cannot pick out one person and give that person $3 000 on that argument and not give the guy who comes last $3 000 as well. It is a faulty argument. It does not make any kind of sense.

The Member for Christ Church West made a very interesting comment about Cuba and Canadian tourism in Cuba. But I want to remind him that Cuba has always maintained good relations with Canada and Canadians have always travelled freely to Cuba. So that Cuba has always had a major tourist thrust towards Canada. But I think that in looking at tourism that there are one or two things that we need to look at that are going to be very vital within the next few years. It has to do with what is happening in Eastern Europe. 1 think that we must be mindful of llu*, situation because with Western Europe opening the borders to Eastern Europe, the availability of money et cetera to the Caribbean and other parts would probably be very, very difficult.

I still think that with good marketing and good relations in Europe that some of the people who are travelling to Eastern Europe and having more money in their pockets with good targetting of that market we may be able to lure more tourists from Europe because once you have people who have been penned up, as the people in Eastern Europe were and unable to travel, once they get the spirit of travelling, that spirit of freedom, they would not only want to see Western Europe, but they would want to travel beyond Western Europe. I think that we should use that psychological air of freedom that is now pervading in Europe and look at those markets seriously. And just as the Minister of Tourism has done a study in the United States looking at the barriers to travel, we need maybe to look at a similar study in Europe finding out what are the fears, what are the strong points and use these as a method of targetting what we may look at as a negative market. I think that is very, very important.

The other thing that I think that we need to do in the area of tourism which has also to do with what is happening in Eastern Europe and the Common Market and the year 1992 is that we have to look seriously at our south south dialogue. We have to look at targetting Africa. There are a lot of rich people in Africa. And we have to look at how we can set up lines of communications. Because if the impact of 1992 is a negative impact, it would not make any sense to wait until that negative impact is felt to target alternative strategies. We need to look at the strategies now.

There are some dynamic changes taking place in Africa in terms of South Africa and Southern Africa. There are influential people in Africa who have got a lot of money who can travel. My experience has been that the Conferences that we have held in Barbados the EEC/ACP Conference and the CPA Conference, people travelling from Africa to the Caribbean have been very warmly accepted and are very favourable to travelling towards the Caribbean.

If we were to look at the geography, it is shorter to go from Barbados to the west coast of Africa than to go from Barbados to England. What I am saying is nothing new. This is something that Marcus Garvey was talking about in 1920 and it is something that we need to look at very, very seriously. Because if, as most people predict, the impact of 1992 with the European Common Market which essentially is more an economic revolution than a political revolution, if that economic revolution in Eastern Europe has a negative impact on the developing world, we would have to look at alternative markets. 11.50a.m.

Now that we have some time left, I think that we need to look at that aspect of tourism.

I want to say something else. The issue of what role models have to play in this country is very, very important, and I think it was the Honourable Members for St. Thomas who raised the issue of what we should say to young people of this country, and I think that we as adults have to be very firm in what we say to the young people in this country. I want to say that it is not only what we say that is important, but what we do, and I have to say this, that I have been very disheartened by seeing some of the behaviour that has taken place in this Honourable Chamber over the last 24 hours. I think it is disgraceful, and I think I must say that, because I think it needs to be put in the records that we are expected to be examples in this country. It does not make any sense getting up and playing holier than thou and then setting the example of flouting authority, because children do as we do, young people do as we do and not as we say. We need to set the examples and we must be always mindful of the fact that when we act on behalf of the people or otherwise, we are the role models in this community. I would like to see, therefore, whether it is in the area of tourism or otherwise, we set very good examples.

I will have a word to say about the newspapers of this country too in terms of tourism and the images that they send. I am very disheartened to see an established newspapei drop to the level of producing a paper you call *The Investigator*. I think it is a disgrace and an insult to the people of this country, and I do not think that an established newspaper is setting any model for young people in this country by plastering half naked women throughout the newspaper and writing the most lurid articles. That is a bad example to set. The bad example is not only set by politicians, it is a bad example for any decent country, and when we sink to those kinds of levels we are doing an injustice to the young people of this country. We cannot at one time talk about moral fabric and then lower the newspapers to the level where decent people have to hang their heads in shame.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: I thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I will come back again.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to make a very short contribution to this debate. My intervention has been sparked particularly by the contribution made by the Honourable Member for St. Thomas. It is to do with the connection which he indicated that the Government ought to establish between the environment, agriculture and tourism. He placed a lot of emphasis on the environment.

I do not think that there is any basic disagreement with that particular position, that is, that there should be some close connection between these three vital areas. Just let me say, though, that as far as I am concerned, and certainly as far as this administration is concerned, when we speak of the environment we certainly would want to ensure that we have as healthy, as clean an environment as possible in this

country not only for tourism, but for Barbados and for Barbadians, because I think it is something which we have to be absolutely aware of.

There is no doubt that this administration has been making a tremendous effort in trying to beautify the environment, and in trying to ensure that we have the kind of environment existing in Barbados that would be a credit to us as Barbadians in the first instance, and would be a joy to people who come to this country. There is no doubt that when you move around Barbados you begin to get the feeling that the society is getting cleaner, that there is more attention being paid to presenting areas where people can go for leisure activities, preserving them and building them up.

I think that it is very important that this ought to be considered, and certainly it is being done with limited finances. We know the position of both Opposition parties, the National Democratic Party and the Barbados Labour Party. They have taken a very strong position against the expenditure which this administration has been spending in the National Conservation Commission. The Honourable Member for St. Thomas indicated he does not recall seeing any of the NCC workers in the St. Thomas area, but certainly there is a lot of money which is spent by the NCC in St. Thomas at Harrison's Cave and in other areas, I am sure.

Each representative would like to see more being done in his constituency. I understand that. But at the same time when one is making appeals for more money to be spent, we are getting criticism on the other hand for the Government spending too much money. It is very difficult to win in this situation.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Sir. I was not criticising the money that was being spent in the NCC, I was criticising the deployment of the staff and the fact that there are inequalities or inequities in the distribution of staff islandwide.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: I am sure that is a matter which could be dealt with, but the fact of the matter is that they are doing a useful job in this country.

I think too, Sir, that it has to be pointed out, following on the point which has been made for the Honourable Members for St. Michael South East, but I am making it from a different point of view, that is, there seems to be developing in Barbados that everything that has to be done in this country the Government has to do it. If the Government is not doing it, then nobody would want to do it. That is why those firms in this country which have found it possible to identify with the beautification programme which is being carried out by the National Conservation Commission ought to be complimented for their efforts. I would dare say that this kind of community spirit should be demonstrated by a larger number of them, because in the final analysis this is a community in which we are all living.

I go even further to state the point that individuals living in this country should also pay greater attention to preserving and for beautifying the environment around the area which they live. I think it is somewhat of a disaster when one considers and when one sees the way in which the environment around some people's homes is kept, and I would like to think that (a) at the personal level that we respond in a positive way to preserving the environment around where we live, (b) at the level of the business community that they also become involved, and certainly that at the level of Government the Government would give, as it has been doing, direction in this particular area. It is a matter which should be dealt with at all levels and that one would |ind that there is total involvement in the community in this particular area, rather than people just sitting back, folding their arms and waiting on the ^Government to do everything.

I think we have to get out of this mind fix where people seem to have arrived at the conclusion that unless the Government shows the initiative, unless the Government does something, unless the Government spends scarce resources in activities from which we would all benefit and where we would do something to help ourselves, that nothing will be done. 12.00 noon

I think this is a very important thing, and I would want to further suggest that you would notice in the newspapers that an advertisement is out for the study on the whole question of the preservation of our coastline, and this is something which is going to take a very important development in this administration's programme, and I am sure that the west coast going right up will benefit from this because there are beautiful areas which have to be preserved and I would certainly like to indicate to the Honourable Member for St. Thomas that as far as this administration is concerned, we consider that the environment is very important, and not only for tourism, but more particularly for preserving it for those of us who live here and have our being here. Thank you very much.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I want to continue part of where I left off when in compliance with the rules of the House and setting the example I took my seat quite properly. The Honourable Member said that Honourable Members of this House do not set an example. I have always known the House to be from time to time fractious, but I have seen examples being set and the fact that some of us have survived in Parliament for eighteen years must indicate that we must have been outstanding examples to the country that this has happened, being among the oldest Members in Parliamentary life. The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, the Deputy Leader of the Party and myself came into the House I think some 18 years ago, and

the Honourable Member for St. Lucy. He had the unfortunate record which he is about to repeat next time.

Sir, I want to just make a comment in passing and not emphasise the point because I am not going to speak today on the environment and tourism, but the Honourable Member makes the point that there are people identifying with the beautification programme and the conservation programme of the National Conservation Commission, and I want to say that the Barbados Labour Party wrote several months ago on my direction to ask for permission to maintain one of the round-abouts on the Tom Adams aspect of the ABC highway. Well the Minister tells me he has not got it, so I will ask that the letter be sent directly to him. It was my understanding that the letter had reached, but I want to say that we are quite prepared to maintain one of the round-abouts if given the appropriate permission at the same high standard that I have seen it being maintained at some of the other round-abouts. There are still a couple of them that are not maintained in the way that some are being maintained, but I hope that this will be done. That was merely by the way. I do not intend to speak on that or other problems.

I really want to revert to tourism *per se* and to continue on some of the problems that I see confronting us, and to look at and suggest some of the solutions to these problems. I was dealing with the problem of marketing, Sir, and I cited the competition that is coming to us and cited areas of Latin America and here in the Caribbean and further afield in Europe. The Honourable Member for St. Michael South East suggest that we should be doing a study in Eastern Europe at the moment to see what are the negatives. I would say to him that whilst I would recommend a study for Eastern Europe being done particularly by our Caribbean Tourism organisation, it seems to me that that study would be looking at the nature of the competition that will face us from eastern Europe. The GNP of the eastern Europeans is largely below that of Barbados and they do not offer us much potential for inflow tourism, but they will definitely be offering themselves as centres of attraction for the tourism that will come from Europe. We have to be ahead of our competitors in this respect. Likewise I believe that the potential for us to have tourism inflows from Africa is very limited, and with the resources which we have we cannot therefore use that way. What we need to do with our African brothers is really cultural exchanges and deepening the cultural awareness and exchanges which have to be done at a different level through various other Foreign Affairs and other Ministries and to that extent we will get some inflow, but we cannot for the foreseeable future having regard to the GNP per capita in those countries, use the resources and the cost of travel in that way. That is a long way off, and that is why for different reasons I have had reservations about an individual Caribbean bi-country concentration on wooing the Japanese market.

It is obvious to me that the benefit on a cost analysis approach would be marginal and that Barbados tourism planners would be better advised at this time to use their island concentration on their traditional markets and if they are going to have a long term strategy for the 21st Century, then they could look at the other growth areas, but in terms of dollars and cents I think we sometimes go for every new fad without properly analysing what those new fads hold for us. I still believe, Sir, that we have to spend a higher percentage of our gross domestic product and particularly of the earnings from tourism on tourism marketing.

In my view the most important managerial person in the tourist plant must be the marketing manager and should be properly remunerated, because unless he and his people underneath him can deliver the goods, nothing else is going to withstand the position, and on that aspect of it I think that we have as a deliberate policy in the planning authorities at the highest level to take a decision to spend much more of the tourism product on our marketing thrust and impact.

I want to come nearer home, Sir. I think we will continue to bury our heads in the sand like ostriches. I am not going :o say like the late the Hon. Mr. Sukeran when he was a member of the Legislative Council of Trinidad and Tobago, that we must not bury our heads in the sand like oysters. But nearer home I think those of us in public life are rather scared of grappling with knotty problems because we are rushing and courting a vote very often than not, and because some of us really have not got the courage of our convictions, and because some of us believe that to speak in pejorative and pretty language is the answer to the problems of this country. I want to say that when it comes to dealing with the problems that have occurred, I have dealt with them in a manner that is definite and forthright. The Honourable Member will recognise that I have never shirked from saying what I think despite the misrepresentations that occur in other places as part of the public relations exercise to debunk. Let me put it this way, Sir. In the first place, the Minister has now said that legislation is still being drafted in relation to jet skis. I think this shows that Government has been slack in dealing with an urgent problem in an urgent manner. I myself have amassed all of the legislation from Hawaii dealing with this problem. I could make it available to them. I have the legislation from Canada, because you would be surprised that the Canadians have had this problem on the Canadian lakes, and they have dealt with it. There are precedents there for us to use if we need precedents. 12.10p.m.

Within a couple of weeks I was going to bring the Bill down myself, the necessary legislation, but Government might think that I am assuming their function ahead of the legitimate time in a couple of months or years, whenever they call the election but as part of the preparation that should not take us so long.

I myself with my family was bathing down at Gibbs Beach which I love, it is a beautiful beach...

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: ...Mullins Beach and saw how the problem can occur. Now, let us recognize. Nobody wants to stop our people from earning a living. You do not want to do that, particularly the small man who shows an expertise in a particular area in trying to better himself but it is possible to have some control without preventing the person from earning a proper living and we should not hesitate as people in public life to say so and to do something about it and I am not going to resile from the fact that the jet ski problem should be dealt with firmly, bearing in mind the necessity for these people to continue to earn a proper living.

It can be dealt with and it has been dealt with in other jurisdictions without a fall-out politically or otherwise for people but if we dilly-dally about these things we will eventually damage those people whom tourism is giving some upward mobility to in this community and I want to preserve their right to have the same upward mobility but we must not be frightened and we must not be scared to take positive but definite decisions in this community.

You do not always have to shout to do it. I hear a lot of people shouting but if we have one failing in the Labour Party it is that we have never shown how much we have achieved but we have that failing. I can say that for my party. And we allowed ourselves to be misrepresented as not having taken the sort of decisions that are called for when they are called for. That is one of the areas.

The other area is the tremendous noise problem in this country. I am not a doctor, Sir. I have to listen to the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East on what is happening on this. We are in danger of damaging our own health, not only the other environment and 1 think that we have to do something about it as legislators. I would not hope that this would be the area that divide the three parlies in this House because they are in the long term in public interest of the people whom we represent particularly those at the lower socio-economic ladder.

I say this that at any time that our party is called on to exercise this type of decision we will take them and take them firmly in the interest of Barbadians as a whole whilst safeguarding the legitimate interests of those people who make their living in this way.

The third area that bothers me and I again have seen it and seen it in my constituency, and I have had to speak to some of the young people from my own area when I have seen them doing it, is the harassment on the beaches.

We must be a mature society. Our beaches are open to everybody and there is no beach in Barbados now up to high watermark that you can prevent any Barbadian from going to. We must preserve that. That is something that we do not bargain about and cannot bargain about.

But having said so we must recognize that there are too many people harassing people and particularly women on the beaches. It happens in my constituency in Rockley. Sometimes they go up to the women, they do not know whether they are local or foreign, thinking that they may be foreign, and I believe that those few people who are using the licence to do things like that have to be dealt with firmly within the confines of the law. I am not asking anybody to deal with them otherwise.

We cannot hesitate in public life to make it clear that the society has to be conducted in a certain fashion. I am not catering to any tourists now. The harassment has got past tourists and it is harassment of local people. I do not want to put the lurid stories that I have seen and know about and have family and friends talk, particularly females, who find themselves exposed in this way on the beaches but we have to talk about it in terms to say that in the long-run we are killing the goose who lays the golden egg.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has two minutes.

Hon. H. deB, FORDE: Do not let us say there is not a problem. There is a problem of drugs. I am not going to get into the drugs debate in here but I would be less than candid if I did not say that I have seen it increasingly again in the constituency I represent on the beaches as well.

Unfortunately, there is a tendency that as soon as you begin to deal with the problem some of the offenders will say that you do not want the poor man, or you do not like the black person. They am only fronts for some of the people and we have to deal with it because in the long-run it does more harm to their own self-interest than it does to the person who might be somewhere in the background manipulating them.

I hope that the three political parties - certainly, my party has the courage of its conviction and we do not believe we are wrong to say and to act on these matters and I think that is the only way that Barbados could face the 21st Century with quiet firm determined leadership and you have to take a bit of flap but you have to have the guts to take the flap and to get through it, Sir. That is the only way I understand to survive in these countries.

I want to say that the tourist plant has those problems. There are problems that we must not shirk from and I think that they are problems that we can solve and deal with.

Having said that, Sir, let me go on and give the positive side. I have seen an improvement in the service and the attitudes of our people in the tourist service.

I remember when family planning was started years ago, the view was that you did not want family planning because the only person that it was going to affect was the poor black people.

The Barbados National Party in those days made that as a campaign position and, perhaps, doctrinally they had a view about this. I think people have now seen that family planning in some communities, not all, because family planning in a big way is not only increasing, sometimes you have to increase the family like France now wants to increase the family. It has had a pretty good effect for communities such as ours.

Likewise I must say that when we first started to promote tourism seriously one of the negatives that we had were people saying that you are being a slave. Trinidad and Tobago took that attitude. In fact, the most outstanding example of a leading statesman who had, in my view, a wrong astute view of what tourism meant as an industry was the late Dr. Eric Williams, one of our most brilliant leaders and one of the most farsighted people and he delayed, unfortunately, the development of the tourist plant, particularly in Tobago, that today Trinidad cannot stand on that foot.

Some of our people have the attitude that when you are giving service you are having servitude. It is not so at all and I am happy to see how the Barbados Workers' Union has participated in the effort and whilst fighting vehemently for the upgrading of the conditions under which people in industry work, has participated in the effort of educating the public as to the value of tourism and the service and I have seen in some of the hotels an increase in the awareness that tourism is important and what is more, I can see now that they no longer have an aversion to a black person as a tourist. That used to happen here too.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: If you would give me one more minute, Sir, just to finish the thought.

They understand the importance that you can give proper service in this country and what service means to everybody who comes into the hotel. So I want very much to say that that is a positive side of improvement in the industry and I hope that the Board of Tourism will continue the educational programmes and the public relations programmes that were so important for giving this positive image towards the benefit of tourism for our country as a whole.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, I will be rather brief. I want really to clarify one statement which was made earlier but before I do, I would like to say that when the Minister presented his request for this supplementary, *vis-a-vis* tourism, and we discovered that the whole mix of tourism has to deal with, in many instances, the NCC, the beautification of the country and the attraction of tourists to various points in Barbados.

There are the two points of which the Honourable Member for St. Thomas was speaking. I would like to state that I see the mix in terms of tourism, the Cultural Foundation, the Crop-Over as was mentioned by the representative for St. Thomas and, indeed the National Trust, and I would state that I happen to represent the area of Gun Hill which is now the most attractive spot for tourists and, indeed, the Trust will say that it is their biggest money earner. 12.20p.m.

And I should like to compliment both the Board of Tourism and the Trust for the beautification to enhance the tourism plant.

My main point of rising however, Sir, was to clarify the point made by the Honourable Member for St. Thomas. This is something I wanted to be sure that I had the specific dates because I have-heard this comment within the last few days, This had to do with the point made *sotto voce* also by the Honourable Member, for Christ Church West *vis-a-vis* the Board of the National Cultural Foundation.

Mr. Chairman, in June 1986 the then Board resigned after the change of Government. There were 6 months left on that term. People were appointed to complete that term. A new Board was appointed in January 1987. It was properly gazetted around February 12, 1987 for a 3-year term. That 3-year term expires in January 1990. There continues to be some confusion because of the 6 months from June 1986 to January 1987. I hope we can clear it up once and for all. We can check the *Gazette* of February 1987. They are there until January 1990.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have to settle this matter now before we go any further and it is in connection with the indication I gave to the Committee this morning.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central occasioned some discomfiture for the Chair because of his attitude on the one hand and a particular comment made which I consider unparliamentary and offensive to the Chair. As I indicated to the Committee this morning, it is my intention to ask the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central to withdraw the offending remarks which are constituted by the entire statement made on his last

intervention purporting to be a point of order. I would now give him the opportunity to withdraw those remarks.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, it would be customary at this stage to ask for the Record. However, in the circumstances, in the interest of prevailing peace, I unreservedly withdraw the remarks.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. The Honourable Member for St. James South.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I want to compliment the Ministers of Tourism of this administration for the wonderful job they have done in promoting the tourist industry in this country.

When we came into office in May of 1986, tourism was a seasonal matter. I believe the Ministers have devoted a lot of time and energy in trying to make sure that we have tourism year round. They have succeeded. I believe that July is now one of the busiest months. I can recall -

Aside.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: It is the busiest month I am told - when we introduced Air Tours to this country, there was a lot of criticism, not necessarily from Members of Parliament on that side but at least from Members of that side saying that we were bringing cheap tourists into Barbados.

What I can say is the small hoteliers, most of whom are Barbadians benefitted tremendously from that influx of tourists or visitors to this island. As a spin-off from that I could speak of the west coast. We have seen the emergence of a number of restaurants on the west coast now which have provided a lot of work for our people.

The Member for Christ Church West has mentioned the attitude of workers in the tourist industry. It is my belief that they have shown an improvement in the attitude towards service because they are no longer working week on and week off. It is very distressing for people to feel satisfied or happy in a situation when they are working sometimes one week on, one week off, sometimes two weeks off and one week on. They are not settled. But at the present time, they are quite sure that they can work. As a matter of fact I know at some hotels last season the workers were asked to put off their vacation because the hotels were so full. -

I was somewhat distressed by an article which I saw in this morning's papers about the hoteliers indicating that this season will be a disaster. Only last night I was at another hotel and they were bumping people. They had no room. A whole group came down, spent 2 nights at that hotel, was transferred to another hotel, could only spend one night and had to seek accommodation in private houses. So I am'very surprised this morning to find out that this is the case. I asked myself if this is preparing for negotiations which are pending because there is no evidence from my observation or investigation to indicate that the hotels are suffering any fall-off in occupancy.

1 want to look at some of the problems which the Member for Christ Church West mentioned, jet skis, noise, harassment. Only on Monday there was a meeting in the Ministry of Employment involving the police, NCC and the Board of Tourism looking at strategies to be put in place for the coming season to deal with some of these problems.

I think the House realises that the Ministry of Employment has some responsibility for law on all of the beaches through our ranger service and indeed we have responsibility for issuing licences for vendors who operate on the beaches. The meeting was convened so as to get all these agencies together to see how we can work together to solve the problem. I believe that some time this week, if not next week, they will be meeting with the hoteliers from the hotels at which most of the problem exists. They have identified I believe 10 hotels and areas, St. Lawrence Gap, Divi St. James and Divi Southwinds I think it is called, Paradise Beach, Heywoods, Mullins Beach. I think they are the areas generally speaking. There are about 10 areas in which there is going to be some sort of concentration in an effort to keep this problem down to a minimum. Of course in an effort to do that, we believe that all the persons who operate on the beaches should also be called in. And so next week as well, they are going to have a meeting with the vendors and the licence operators of the ski boats, et cetera so that they will be able to make some input into what action we are going to take.

It is one thing to have laws. It is another thing to have them enforced or have the areas policed. I believe some strategy will be devised to deal with these matters. We are very concerned about it. I think the whole of the country must be concerned about the attitudes of some people who use our beaches.

I should like to say that our own observations will indicate that the hotels which co-operate with the police and the beach rangers have very little problems. We must say that up front, that all parties in this industry must co-operate in order to get the problem under control.

So that, as I said, we are going to be talking with the hoteliers next week, the beach vendors and the ski operators or watersports operators so that they can make some input into what we are going to do.

As far as noise is concerned, I should just like to indicate that in the Ministry of the Environment we have a specialist who is trying to help us to train people in this area. We are very concerned and I should like to say that he

came here last month and travelled on one or two of our minibuses, I made mention of this in the House sometime ago. He is convinced that over a period of time a lot of those youngsters who use the minibuses will suffer some hearing defect because the constant noise over a long period will obviously interfere with their hearing. 12.30 p.m.

These matters are under consideration by the Ministries and I dare say that as far as the harassment and the use of beaches are concerned you will get some information in the Press next week, so that all and sundry will be quite aware of the steps which we are taking.

I want to have a brief look at this question of sports tourism. A number of persons, including the Honourable Members for Christ Church East Central and St. George South, spoke about sports as they relate to getting more people to this country. I think you must understand, first of all, that Barbados is but a small town compared with the United States of America. Two hundred and fifty thousand people are not many people, so that we have to look at the number of sports we want to play at any reasonable level from the point of view of the number of people we have to engage in those sports.

I believe that in setting up our National Youth Service we have looked at several areas, because we are accustomed to playing them and they have some attraction for people who come here every year. Every year we have cricketers, hockey players, in the main athletes coming to Barbados, and these are the areas in which I think we should try to excel rather than find ourselves going to other areas and realising that we cannot (a) present the number of people to play the sport, or (b) the spectators. Seven thousand people watching a sport cannot pay professional baseball players to come here. Most of our sportsmen would have to be amateur sportsmen in the main rather than professional, because we will not be able to pay them. There are professional sportsmen in the States on average, let us say baseball, who earn over U.S. $500,000 a year. We cannot collect at any sporting event in Barbados Bds. $300,000, so in effect it would be difficult to see us paying a team of baseballers to come here to play. We have to look at that aspect of it.

The other thing we have to look at is the question of facilities. Facilities are very expensive. Nowadays a lot of these sports are played indoors. Can we afford to build an indoor gym for baseball, basketball, netball, et cetera? We cannot afford it and therefore we have to look at special areas to develop before we broaden.

The question was raised about the Run Barbados last week. All of us who have been involved in athletics would have been disappointed at the number of persons who ran, or the lack of international athletes. All I would like to say is that the AAA at this present time is going through some changes and that in international athletics we need to have persons at the top of our organisations who are known at the international level if we are to attract international amateur athletes to our shores. I believe this is something which was missing in our AAA at this time and that is why we were unable to get athletes of a very good caliber running this year.

This does not in any way remove from Adelbert Browne the honour which he has bestowed on this country, having won the race. Adelbert Browne has been a very consistent runner over the last six or seven years and has done Barbados proud. I believe that people like him and Keith Cumberbatch should indeed find some job within some Government agency so that they could even do better than they did on previous occasions.

I want to look at the question of national conservation as it relates 10 the tourism industry. I believe the member for St. Thomas made mention of the work of the National Conservation Commission and I would like to say that we cannot work all over Barbados at the same time. At the present moment we are working in all the Government Housing Areas because we believe that we first must impress upon our people, especially people living in very densely populated areas, that they too can enjoy beautiful surroundings, and also that when they go out to other beautified areas they must treat them the same way in which they are treating their own surroundings. And jso we are concentrating at this time on Housing Areas, and incidentally I believe a competition for the most beautiful Housing Area will start next week. This is in an effort to get the people working to improve their own surroundings as well as keeping our own workers on their toes.

We have put down a number of recreational parks so that we can again train our youngsters, our children, in the correct ways of using recreational areas and appreciating our plants. We have trained our Rangers to work with these people so that the discipline which is essential to the maintenance of clean areas will be instilled from early.

I know, Mr. Chairman, that you have given me one minute, I will have to come back because there are other things I want to say as they relate to the environment.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, the Right Honourable Prime Minister is about to create ever further problems again, and deliberately.

Tourism, Sir, is perhaps the only area of the economy of Barbados that has been performing reasonably efficiently over the past year. It is therefore essential that at this stage we take stock and look and see where the strengths and where the weaknesses are in the tourism plant.

Mr. Chairman, I see two categories of problems; those directly under our control and those not directly under our

control. Those directly under our control relate to the domestic environment for tourism, and I believe that greater efforts must be made in all the areas identified so far by previous speakers to ensure that both for the benefit of Barbadians and for our guests, that we have a proper environment for them. This relates to the problems in vehicular use of the sea, because basically when you are dealing with issues such as jet skis and so on you have to reduce this to the concept of vehicular use of the sea, and just as vehicular use of the land and roads is regulated by various mechanisms, so should vehicular use of the sea be regulated in order to avoid the many problems which exist. 12.40p.m.

Now, Sir, I say that because I happen to know that in Hawaii, in Southern Florida, and in certain northern Caribbean Islands the same kind of problems which now confront Barbados in respect of jet ski users and of the persons who might be damaged as a result of their operations, a regulatory framework has been introduced in order to try and reduce the problems both for the jet skiers and for the bathers. The fact that you have accidents, - you also get accidents on the road - but that does not stop you from having a regulatory framework for the use of the roads, but we certainly cannot continue to allow these things to operate in such a way that they are a danger both to those using them and to bathers in the sea.

As far as die beaches arc concerned, I have put forward the view here and abroad that we should regard the beaches as not only a leisure but also an economic unit. If this concept is clearly understood, then here again it becomes evident that you have to have a regulatory framework which protects the position of those using the beaches for leisure to make sure that it is compatible with those who use the beaches for the sake of making a living, and not necessarily always at conflict with each other.

Sir, a lot of work has also been done. I was the Chairman of a panel at a recent Caribbean Hotel Association meeting in the Bahamas. Because of my perceived expertise in this area, I was invited. One of the points that clearly came out was that there is almost a built-in hostility between those people who have made a capital investment in relation to the beach (1), (2) those who use the beach for economic reasons and (3) the traditional people who have used the beach for leisure. So what has happened is that as the tourism activity develops around the beaches, you have three competing interests. The hotels do not necessarily welcome the persons who arc plying their wares on the beaches, the bathers do not necessarily welcome those who interrupt them from enjoying their leisurely rest on the beaches. Therefore some arrangement has to be made which is articulated and understood by all that it is the Government's policy that the turf known as the beach in Barbados has now taken on a different economic arid social significance. We want to enhance it for those seeking leisure, we must recognise that there are many small people who have a right in an orderly and regulated manner of access for the purpose of economic activity, and at the same time to find some means in satisfying the hoteliers to make sure that their investment is not in any way compromised because of any new type of developing activity. It is something that has been analysed and what it ne?ds is for a coordinated effort. The Ministry of Tourism can't do it alone because they don't have jurisdiction in all these areas; it has to be almost a Cabinet Committee of those Ministries that are involved in the exercise to come up with a plan for the effective peaceful and productive uses of the beaches of Barbados.

Sir, I will wind up in a matter of a minute because I think as a matter of courtesy as has always been the case, if a Minister indicates that he would like to intervene in these debates at a particular point in time, then it is usual to give way and that has been the practice over the years. The Honourable Prime Minister is making out a case that we should not be courteous, but we shall be courteous.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: You were discourteous yesterday afternoon to the Chair and now came in today to apologise.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Who apologised? I withdrew a remark.

Mr CHAIRMAN: Let us have some order please.

Dr. R, C. HAYNES; Sir, I was not in the Chamber for long enough to withdraw last night, I was out of the House, so I withdrew first thing this morning.

If I may continue, Sir, the one final point I want to make is that I think there should be a review of the new mechanisms for estimates of tourist expenditure in Barbados, Like some of the international agencies, I too am concerned with the sudden change in the methods of assessment of these estimates. At best they have always been guestimates, but I think that over the years I have shared the view that there were probably undcr-estimates, I think what has happened now is that they have gone the other way, because all of a sudden you are seeing levels of reported tourist expenditure which certainly does not relate to arrivals, length of stay or any other factor in the economy. So I think what has happened is that in order to correct the under-estimates over the years that the same type of error is now being made by correcting the under-estimates by over-estimates, and that has an important implication for planning your debt management, your foreign exchange flows and various other things, and I think it is a matter that should be taken up with the Central Bank. Certainly if I were the Minister of Finance, I would certainly discount any estimates of tourist expenditure by between 6 per cent and 8 per cent for effective planning. All ol a sudden there has been a tremendous change around in the estimates.

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I have said that when I was Minister of Finance that I thought that they were underestimated, and I think there has been a correction, but I think it has gone the other way. I can't be sure because they are guestimates, but that seems to me to be the case. It is important, because if you make an error based on an over-estimate, it is likely to be more serious than one based on an under-estimate. That is the whole point I am making. It is a constructive point I am making.

Sir, I wanted to finish two minutes ago, the Honourable Member for St. Lucy, the Honourable Prime Minister and the Hon. Attorney General kept interrupting, and occupied two minutes of that time. I thank you very much, Sir. 12.50p.m.

Hon. W. W. HALL: Mr. Chairman, I am glad to see that the same fate of yesterday has not befallen me when I only had five minutes to reply and my view is that 10 years from now when one reads Hansard and one sees a sketchy and rather galloping type of reply one would cast aspersions and probably wish in my old age to tell me that I was not an expert.

Sir, I just wish to reply for 10 minutes on what the Honourable Members say and ...

Aside.

Hon. W. W. HALL: Sir, the Honourable Member for St. George South enquired about the collective nature of advertising. Yes, as I said in the Council of Ministers we have looked at advertising and to marketing collectively but it is an exercise that is a very expensive one and even though we are looking at it now we are thinking about going ahead collectively at a reduced cost. It is not satisfactory but it is better than nothing.

You mentioned about a convention facility. Right now it is at the stage of CPC where we are doing a feasibility study on a convention centre because convention centres bring a lot of business people in and we are aware that Dover Convention Centre would not be enough.

You talked about sports tourism. Yes, there is cricket, golf, racing, hockey, the ARC race, surfing, basketball and you need a gym to have basketball. Great sportsmen do not like performing in inadequate surroundings. I can tell you that and, therefore, we would need that.

The Run Barbados situation - I can only give you my position on the Run Barbados. A marathon is 26 miles 385 yards and the history of Run Barbados is simply this that when we had Run Barbados for the first five or six years, no-one ever thought that a Barbadian would win. That is the truth, so the Board of Tourism in collaboration with the sponsors and, indeed, with the Athletic Association, would invite some world renown runners here and they would come for a week's vacation. That is what they got, a week's vacation in a lovely paradise island and there were no great emoluments. That was the attraction, a week in Barbados and, maybe, the mahogany that some Honourable Member talked about, they are lovely pieces of mahogany for the tourists and that would be a good thing.

As far as Barbadians are concerned, last year it was won by a Barbadian, Mr. McCollin and this year by Adclbcrt Browne. Now, Sir, to run 26 miles, 385 yards for chicken feed is not my idea of marathon running and I feel that we have to look at the prizes. I said so on Sunday at the presentation and I will say so again.

Last year we sent two runners to the Boston Marathon and again this year we will send the winner and another runner with an official to the Boston Marathon.

You mentioned the 1998 Commonwealth Games. I need to tell you that while the Indians were proposed for the 1994 Games Victoria, B.C. in Canada got it. They are now renewing their challenge as are Perth, and Sydney (Australia). Now that Sydney are successful with the Formula 1 Racing Circuit, they are in the race. So if money is going to come, I do not think that we are going to be in it, but we will try.

You mentioned baseball. Baseball is a serious game. It is a hand, eye coordination game like cricket or any of the other games that we know but it is a culture. Santo Domingo produced, I would say, 20% or 30% of the baseball players, not only in Canada, but in the United States of America. Therefore, I feel yes, we can play it but it is a culture and we would need to start from very young and with a population like ours I do not know how we would be able to do so many sports.

Now, the Honourable Member for Christ Church East said that he thought it would be the best thing to do it door by door. We think that sales representatives should be sales representatives not only to go necessarily door by door but, certainly, tour operator to tour operator and travel agent to travel agent, of course. That is what we believe should happen.

You made a good point about getting a road map that is understandable and readable. Thanks, for that. We do not mind that. You also mentioned about yachtsmen and sailing. Of course, you would know but you would never know half as much about sailing as I do but that does not necessarily mean that you do not know more than everybody else in this Chamber but I would say that it is an expensive sport.

The Cruising Club, may I say, has a youth team and all the profits from the ARC Race go to the youth team of the Cruising Club.

We have also produced two world champions in Barbados in Jackie Hoad and Bill Tempro and Barbadians are known to be pretty good sailors but, Sir, it is a very expensive sport.

The Honourable Member for St. Thomas supported the Honourable Member for Christ Church West's assertion. In fact, he confirmed what I was saying that tourism is the backbone of the economy. He said that the linkages should be carefully monitored. I do agree with that.

I would only take issue with one thing. He said that at the Tourist Board there are people down there who are not speaking to each other. They are not bosom friends as far I understand but they do speak to each other.

I want to say, too, that the refusal of someone to move is not really true. That is not a fact. The fact of the matter is that if you transfer...

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

I meant that the male nurse who is said to market tourism in Canada is giving difficulty in moving from Barbados to Canada, Sir.

Hon. W. W. HALL: Oh, I see, that one! Let me reply in like vein. If you apply for a job and you are already holding a job and that job seems to be mofe lucrative or you perceive it to be more lucrative than the future job, then, I think it is your prerogative to choose and that is what has happened. I was not aware that was what you meant but now that I know, that is the position.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church West said that we must not have a false sense of security that all is well. Exactly. He must have read the Debates of 1983. Those are exactly the words I used in the Other Place about the Ministry of Tourism. All is not well at the end of the tunnel. That is a famous speech and he should know it.

He said that the area of growth was in Europe. That is true but it has only been so because of the fantastic marketing thrust.

Aside.

Hon. W. W. HALL: Yes, I will tell you why. You may remember that I came in here a year ago when our friend had predicted gloom and doom for the winter and I came to this Honourable House for a supplementary for $2.8 million. A lot of it was channelled into Scandinavia. Sixteen thousand Scandinavians came here from April to December and pumped $30 million into the economy.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Sir, if the Honourable Member would really give credit where credit is due and really praise young Mr. Nehaul who has been our Honorary Consul in Scandinavia and who is a very aggressive businessman has always seen the potential. He is married into a Scandinavian family. Give him his credit, he has been the main thrust of the Scandinavian success.

The Honourable Member, if he reads back the files, will see that when the BLP took over in 1976 we started -1 am not going to interrupt you too long - to lay the framework of having Honorary Consuls and other people in Scandinavia in order to lay the foundation for you.

Hon. W. W. HALL: Mr. Chairman had the Honourable Member waited...

Aside.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

Hon. W. W. HALL: Sir, if the Honourable Member had waited only 60 seconds, I would have moved on to that. I was building up. I would have moved on and given credit wherever it is due but since it has come from the Opposition, so be it. 1.00p.m.

It is the first time that we have had any praise, I must say. So thank you.

Sir, the share of the US market has not appreciated. We know it has not appreciated. That is the reason why I was at pains to tell you that we would use this money in the American and Canadian markets.

You talk about Santo Domingo. Look the Canadians have gone to Santo Domingo and they do not like it. That is the reason why we are going with the value for money concept. Cuba, well the Canadians have been going there for many, many years. The Americans cannot go. I do agree with you that they are intensifying their marketing thrusts throughout the world.

Let me talk about the transfers, lest it be said that we skipped it. We feel in the Ministry of Tourism that we should have some upward mobility. For instance, for many years, let us say 20, in the Ministry of Tourism, you found that you had a Manager in New York, a Manager in Toronto, a Manager in London. And do you know, Sir, that if that man stepped out, or lady stepped out for half hour or for an hour, do you know what happened, Sir? Nobody knew who might be in charge because you may have two people in there of equal seniority.

My position is that you should have some measure of upward mobility. My experience in personnel management tells me, Sir, that you should have upward mobility in the job, you should have job satisfaction and you should have a scale whereby you could have senior sales reps so that you can bring them back on transfer into good jobs. For instance instead of the Z10-3, if you had a scale with a Z16, you would find that you would be able to bring back people from overseas not only in marketing but certainly in public relations, product development and in advertising. It is clear to those who understand.

And, Sir, the reorganization of the entire workforce in the Tourist Board will obviously completely obliterate all of those tantrums and problems that we have had.

But I say that if you go to London or to any country for 13 years or 10 years, you must never assume that you cannot be transferred. Two members were transferred because in Canada we felt it was sluggish, we felt that we should get a new advertising agency, we had done some transfers, got some new blood into the market. We thought this was commendable. But now I hear that you cannot transfer people. You transferred two men, they came back down, one spent 4 days to get his 10 years qualification, got a pension when he qualified and resigned. That is what happens, Sir. I do not want to talk about it any more but that is the truth.

Sir, I should just like to take the 8 minutes to say, that $1 million or no $1 million, the Ministry of Tourism and indeed the Tourist Board had gone on in our marketing thrust in Canada and in the United States fully cognizant of the static situation there. We had seen so many things that can be termed weaknesses.

We saw American Airlines discontinuing their non-stop flight to Barbados. We saw the demise of Eastern. We also saw the demise of Fly Fare, the wholesalers who were in bed with them. We saw Hugo exacerbating the problem in the entire Caribbean. What did we do, Sir? I went to Miami with my officers. We talked to the management in Eastern Airlines. And now it is Eastern Airlines who came out and say, not Wes Hall, that because of our discussions and the case that we put forward that Eastern Airlines have restarted their daily flights out of Miami on December 2. It was simple. It did not take any Solomon to know that Eastern Airlines were always strong in Miami. The other airlines would hardly have the equipment to challenge them.

If you came out of Miami at 5.00 in the evening, collecting all of the visitors from the other areas, and there arc about 26 cities from which you can actually come in a hub from Miami, if you did that, you could get into Barbados at 9.00 o'clock. You could then turn around with the same staff and you can leave Barbados at 8.00 o'clock in the morning and get to Miami by 11.30 and then you could go on to the other places. Sir, it is so simple. They have said that we did it. Fair enough. We are not boasting. Any time you want to read in the papers anything about tourism, the press asked the hoteliers, they do not ask the Ministry. So therefore if they had asked me I could have told them.

Sir, the major co-op advertising, we have got some arrangements with PAN AM, first time in a few years for advertising in New York, Boston and Miami. American Airlines and their wholesalers LIPGO, we have an arrangement with them for the New York area. Co-op advertising with BWIA for the Baltimore area and the Washington area. Arrangements with American Airlines to exploit the hub out of San Juan. That is what we are doing, Sir. I have spoken to officials of Delta Airlines in Atlanta. Delta has a problem, a problem like some of us in here. They want to be successful. They are not interested in Barbados simply because they can do a domestic flight *"" from Atlanta to Orlando, to Cincinnati, to Chicago and come back with the same staff the same evening and make a lot of money. To come to Barbados is a long haul of 2 000 miles. The only thing that can do it would be a 727 stretch aircraft and they seem reluctant to do it. I am convincing them in due course. Do not worry about it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Minister must conclude now.

Hon. W. W. HALL: Do I have to sit down now? In one minute, Sir, may I just say that the 4 week television campaign that I alluded to that is one point that we would have gone on without the million dollars. We are very glad for it. We are also looking at the print advertising until the end of March. In 30 seconds just let me say in Canada, the most important thing is the lack of seats, especially out of Montreal. Barbadians were complaining that they have to pay $600 to come to Barbados. They were saying that even if they went to Toronto, it was nearly $200 from Montreal % to Toronto. What we have done is that we have encouraged some charters, Odyssey and Crown Air started two days ago and we are still having ongoing discussions with Air Canada and BWIA.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Hon. W. W. HALL: So we are repositioning ourselves by promoting Barbados as a quality destination which offers value for money.

Lastly, Sir, in Canada we have made arrangements with the 3 major tour operators, Thompsons, Touram and Sunquest, Sir. We have made arrangements to intensify all our marketing programmes. I am sorry I have not got much time to talk about it, Sir, but there is another time.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Hon. W. W. HALL: Sir, just let me for the sake of the use of English, end by finishing the sentence. I do not talk in paragraphs, I talk in sentences. Let me just be short. I would just say, Sir, that the Ministry of Tourism, the Board of Tourism and the people of Barbados are grateful for this $1 million given to us for promotion in Canada and the US. We are very grateful for it because it will help in no small way for the already impressive campaign that we have embarked on in the Ministry of Tourism.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let me just say that on reflection I omitted to direct the expulsion of those offending remarks which the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central has withdrawn and I now make the ruling that those remarks be expunged from the record.

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

On the motion of Hon. P. M. GREAVES, seconded by Hon. M. A. KING, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress to Mr. SPEAKER and asked for leave to sit again. Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly. 1.10p.m.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I move that this sitting be suspended until 2.15 p.m. this afternoon.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly. 1.11p.m.

ON RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed. When the suspension was taken the House was in Committee of Supply. To that it shall revert.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House resumed Committee of Supply, Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE in the Chair.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Committee of Supply is resumed.

Order No. 3(a) - Supplementary Estimates 1989-90, No. 6 - A Resolution for the sum of $229,080 was called.

HEAD 13 - PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, under Head 13 - Prime Minister's Office, Subhead 4, Economic and Social Planning, Object No. 10, Supplies and Materials, the sum of $600 is required to supplement the provision that has been approved in the 1989-90 Estimates. The sum that has been voted, Sir, is $1,950 and a further $600 is required to supplement that provision. The amount provided is committed and the balance remaining under the vote is inadequate to meet the expenses for the remainder of the financial year, and this supplementary provision is necessary to meet the increased demand for supplies. That particular pro vision,, therefore, is being requested.

Under Subhead 7, Statistical Department, there are a number of sums being requested by way of supplementary provision. The sum of $8,700 is required to supplement the provision already approved of $55,290 for the wages and salaries for the unestablished and temporary staff and for the payment of fees to staff who work overtime. The amount remaining in the vote is insufficient to meet the requirements until the end of the financial year and that particular supplement is therefore being requested.

The overtime work includes work in the Statistical Department relating to the coding of the embarkation/disembarkation cards and in collecting information on the household budget survey.

Under Object No. 3, National Insurance Contributions, the small sum of $305 is required to supplement the provision of $93,183 provided. This relates to the additional levies resulting from the increased salaries, wages and overtime fees in respect of that particular provision.

For Object 25, Plant, Equipment and Furniture, the sum of $2,223 is required to supplement the sum of $25,981 already approved by the House of Assembly, and that particular item relates to increased costs for terminals, the purchase of computer terminals. The amount of $1,785 is required to meet the increased cost of the terminals and to cover transportation charges for them from the United States of America.

Also included in this supplement is a sum to purchase some pedestal fans to permit some kind of bearable working conditions in the offices that are in need of such equipment. As you know, we have been having problems with the air conditioning in the National Insurance building and therefore we need to provide some fans as an aid to the air conditioning units that are there, so we need a supplement of $2,223.

As far as the provision for Travel is concerned, Object No. 6, a supplement of $27,000 is required to supplement the $55,250 approved in the Estimates. That sum has proved inadequate and the supplement is required in as much as approval was given for the payment of increased rates for travelling. This sum is therefore required to meet that particular increased provision. The new rates have taken effect from 1st July, 1988 and the payment of the

arrears came from the existing provision approved by the House of Assembly during this financial year and it is now necessary to make good that provision.

Also, there is work ongoing in respect of preparations for the 1990 census of population and that also includes some additional travelling.

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sums in the supplementary estimates 1989-90, No. 6, under Head 13 stand part of the Schedule.

Mr. C. A. NEBLETT: I beg to second that and reserve my right to speak.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, the performance of the Government in the area of economic and social planning, Subhead 4, which is the Subhead under which increased expenditure is being requested at the moment, has been such a national disaster that I feel it is almost insulting to be asking for more money for work so badly done to the disadvantage of the entire country.

Sir, the purpose of social and economic planning is to ensure appropriate management of the domestic and external economy of Barbados in such a way that it promotes social development in the country to the advantage of all its citizens, Judged by that yardstick, the Government, and in particular the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, have certainly failed in their fundamental duty to this country. 2.25 p.m.

For example, Sir, at the very beginning I believe that I should seek to highlight an area where I think there is a need for some kind of effective management of the economic and social planning components of the Barbados economy. The foreign exchange position of this country is in the worst position it has ever been and even worse that it was in 1982 when this country sought assistance from the International Monetary Fund. Not only are the negative numbers greater, but also it takes place against a background of a far greater level of indebtedness of Barbados. Much has been said outside of this Honourable House on what has been happening in respect of the economic planning of the Government which has resulted in this disastrous situation. Many spokesmen for the Government have sought on at least three occasions to deliberately deny and mislead this country as to the state of the available foreign exchange to the Central Bank of Barbados. Immediately, certainly on two occasions, after those statements of denial were made, the Central Bank has been forced to take action to try to stop the further slide of the foreign position even into deeper negativity.

I regret that I have to inform this Honourable House today that despite the borrowing of $50 million on the Euro-dollar market, and despite the cosmetic appearance of a $10 million inflow which would reflect as an asset but a domestic liability because of the nature of the transaction, that the foreign exchange position of this country has continued to deteriorate despite all the aggressive measures being taken by the Central Bank.

Sir, I am for the first time becoming increasingly concerned that certain drastic steps may have to be taken to rescue this situation. The Minister of Finance continues to assure the country that all is well, basing his figures on growth in the economy, a growth which has depended largely on their guestimates of tourist expenditure in the economy, a growth which has been stimulated by the very sectors of the economy which he now says he has to control and cut back on in order to protect the economy. That has been his area of boasting. It is abundantly clear, Sir, that perhaps under this area of economic and social planning, the very worse thing that anyone could do to a small open economy like Barbados is to print money to the extent to which the Minister of Finance has printed money in this country recently.

I believe the Honourable Member for St. Peter on one or two occasions in this House and before he actually was involved in politics at all did make the point in a radio programme I think in 1982 and subsequently and I think with tremendous candidness that one of the major factors that really eroded oOr foreign exchange position in 1981-82 was the fact that there was excessive Central . Bank accommodation of the Government. It is a fact. He has made the statement whilst he was in the Ministry, he made the statement here on the Floor of the House several times; but what was done then pales into insignificance compared with what has happened in Barbados over the past 18 months: $179 million in special deposits, and that included a component of the $50 million which was there when the Democratic Labour Party assumed office and which was not spent, plus the domestic component of other borrowing during the first 18 months that the DLP was in office. That money, Sir, is money which all the experts pointed very carefully was money that should be sterilised and should not be used, particularly in a situation where you have a weakening external position, because it has the same effect on the economy as printing money. Add to that, Sir, the $111 million between March and the end of October at n time when the foreign exchange of this country plummeted to net minus $90 million position, and the Central Bank accommodates the Government to the extent of an additional $111 million. That is the classic definition of printing money. It has nothing to do, Sir, with dollar bills. That kind of thing happens in a society where cheques are not the normal forms of transactions because of levels of literacy. In this kind of society you don't have to increase the number of notes in circulation to print money; just one cheque from the Central Bank for $100 million can be printing money. And so, Sir, there can be no doubt that the approximate cause of the disastrous position in respect of the foreign reserves of Barbados today is due to the printing

of money. I say, Sir, that it is totally unforgivable because one of the things that was clearly understood was that whatever circumstances you find yourself in, the state of the Central Bank was such that it could not be a lender to Government for a number of years in order to recover from the impact of the CMCF debt, building and things like that.

So, Sir, let us forget all the policy situations. There can be no doubt in my mind that this is highly culpable behaviour because we have a history of it. It happened once before in Barbados and created endless problems, a lot of the taxation, a lot of the debt, a lot of the problems. Everybody on both sides of the House ultimately admitted and accepted that it was not the correct thing to have done, and now we are back in the situation in a worse state and people are trying to deny it. That is the worst part of it.

I recall as early as the late months of 1987 both the Oppositions at the time, I was a backbencher at the time, and both Oppositions since then have repeatedly warned the Government of the consequences of its high expenditure policies in an economy of this size. Why do you print money? You print money in order to accommodate Government expenditure, and no amount of failing to honour existing debts before the end of December for cosmetic effects is going to alter the underlying effects of even continuing high expenditure at this point in time.

We have had a situation, Sir, where this country has had the highest level of taxation in its history, and yet within the past six months the legal overdraft was exceeded on more than one occasion. Government's overdraft at the Central Bank was over $90 million and at one stage almost $100 million or over.

Government's overdraft in the past would normally run between $60 million and $70 million, and anytime you get into $60 million that is a matter of grave concern, 2.35 p.m.

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

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: This is just the beginning. I am just going to focus on this because this matter is serious and I believe that one of the first things the Minister of Finance and Prime Minister of this country must do is to try to stabilize this country's external position.

As I have said before, we have borrowed $50 million and unlike what would have happened in the past, borrowing $50 million at that time of the year, it has not stabilized the position.

The Central Bank short-term borrowings are at a record high. These are short-term lines of credit that have to be repaid in a matter of three to six months, one month, three months, six months, at a record high and yet you have this situation of negativity still in your net available foreign exchange position.

Sir, I am really and quite honestly forgetting all partisan politics, .looking at the objective data and the numbers. I know the Honourable Member for St. John believes that we should not use numbers for the purposes of debate or econometric measurements. He believes that there is somewhere or the other that you can work these things out and know what you are doing but I am going to have a chat with him some time privately and find out what kind of measurements he would use.

I think, Sir, at this point in time I will focus on our external position as a most critical one and I will return to deal with other aspects of the economic and social planning of the Government of Barbados.

Thank you very much.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I believe that it would be conceded that a discussion on economic and social planning in Barbados at this time is a matter of urgent public importance and it Is very healthy, Mr. Chairman that this debate should take place in the people's Parliament rather than take place in the more angry and less moderate context of the public Press where, unfortunately, it has had to be located in large measure in recent times.

It has been my argument, Sir, from the mid summer, that it is desirable that we should meet as the people's representatives to let the people's representatives discuss the state of the economy and to agree on a course of action to address matters that will have a tremendous bearing on the economic lot of all Barbadians.

I am glad that the Leader of the Opposition has opened in relatively moderated terms because it is indeed correct that Barbados faces a very acute external problem, and that the severity of the external problem of Barbados represents itself as, perhaps, one of the greatest possible dangers to the continued survival and stability of this country.

I make no apologies, Sir, for the belief, drawing from the experience of all third world developing countries that find themselves in economic distress that a failure to deal early with the balance of payments problem commits a country to medium and long-term economic disorder and, indeed, part of the burden of my contribution will be to try to get a grasp of the causes of our contemporary difficulties as well as to comment upon the actions that Government has taken in the face of the difficulties which have represented themselves.

I do not entirely share the view of the Leader of the Opposition which says that Central Bank accommodation

of Government's deficits at this time are the principle causes of our balance of payments problems. It is true, Sir, that to the extent that Government tends to be the biggest spender in the economy, that generally speaking, Central Bank printing of money in order to accommodate public deficits tends ordinarily to be the proximate cause of balance of payments problems in our societies but in the context of the Barbadian society today, one cannot really say that there has been a public deficit requiring Central Bank financing to the point of causing a depreciation of our reserves, that there has been credit creation in the society at large for public purposes as for private purposes and in the ahsence of an effective active credit control policy that is, in point of fact, undermining the Barbados economy today.

Indeed, Sir, I want to tell the Minister of Finance and Planning this that he should not be concerned with the average rate of taxes. He should be concerned with the marginal rate. The numbers will show you that you are estimating that between 1988 and 1989 in a full calendar year that the total income available to all Barbadians will increase by $296 million in current terms. But as you know, for the first 10 months of the calendar year from January to October, your tax take has increased by $165 million.

The country is rapidly reaching the position where it is working for the Government but in following a housekeeping approach to financial management, you are putting the Government in a position where the problem of the management of a fiscal deficit is no longer representing itself as the matter causing pressure on the reserves. Taking only the data from January to October, Government is taking .52 cents out of every additional dollar earned by the people of Barbados in the form of increased taxation.

The marginal rate of tax is a problem. The average rate of lax will increase only if the marginal rate is growing faster and that is part of the problem that the Government is putting itself in a position where it is so pre-occupied from a housekeeping point of view with the balancing of Government books that it is not paying enough concern to what is happening to the marginal rate of tax.

It is significant, and I have made the point in this House before that given this high marginal rate of taxes, savings in the Barbadian commercial banks are declining and the decline in savings in the Barbadian banking system lies at the base of part of the credit squeeze that this country is facing that if people are saving less, if they have less real income, they are also committed to having to borrow more and I think the Government has to give an undertaking that it has to review in a serious way the extent to which it is taking taxes out of the income of the Barbadian people. 2.45 p.m.

But Government's financial position from a revenue point of view this year is hardly a problem. It cannot be a problem in a situation, Mr. Chairman, where the Government is taking $165 million out of the $296 million that will be created as an additional income to the people of Barbados this year. What has happened, Sir, as the Minister of Finance is now prepared to concede is that we have in some respects paid the price for the growth, that growth has in point of fact been to some extent brought about by the Barbadian public at large. And I put the blame on the Democratic Labour Party in general for not having an active credit management policy.

There is a document, Mr. Chairman, that was published by the Central Bank, "A Chronicle of Central Bank Policy". It covers 21 years of activity. Tom Adams in my view merited his reputation for sound financial management to the extent to which he used credit controls as a way of ensuring that the spending in this society particularly by the distributive sectors as well as for personal reasons were never allowed to rise at a rate that were not warranted by our holding of foreign exchange. It sounds like a simple point. But the way by which we increase spending in this country is by either paying ourselves more or giving ourselves increased credit. Because increased spending comes from only 2 sources, increased income or increased credit. We are trying to control incomes but it makes no sense. I am saying that if you recognize that you have to control incomes in order to protect the balance of payments, you also have to recognize that you also have- to control credit, if you are going to* protect the balance of payments.

If you were to chart Tom Adams* record in terms of his use of credit control, you will see that in a prudent manner, he used adjustments in those credit controls taking account of the position of the balance of payments as a way of protecting this country from incurring serious balance of payments difficulties, except for the lapse in 1981 which I have condemned in this House where he allowed the fiscal deficit to get out of hand and put pressure on himself.

?

In 1977 the country faced a balance of payments problem. Credit ceilings were placed on August 3. Then, Sir, in 1978, November 1, home improvement loans with a maturity of 5 years were exempted from the personal loan credit. You go on, Sir, 1980, as the balance of payments improved he reviewed the ceilings on personal credit in the society. In September of 1980 again he reviewed and raised the ceiling on the loans to the distributive sector but he never removed them. In 1981 in order to stimulate activity in the energy sector he excluded loans for the solar heating devices from within the context of personal loans. And so it went on, Sir.

But the whole point I am making is that the Barbados Labour Party subscribed to the philosophy that one of the ways in which you can get a balance of payments problem in this country is not only by Central Bank financing of Government's deficits but by our allowing the rate of

increase in credit in this economy as a whole to rise faster
j

than our rate of earnings of foreign exchange. And I am saying that there is a coincidence in Barbados today between the foreign exchange problem and the credit squeeze because credit has grown and lies at the base of the depletion of the foreign exchange reserves of this country. I am saying that it relates fundamentally to the fact that the Democratic Labour Party removed all restrictions on credit for distributive or personal purposes in 1987. Once you open that floodgate to personal spending in this society, you are eventually going to bring about a balance of payments problem. That is where we are today. We have had the moment of glory. The economy has grown. If you spend in Barbados you must expect that the distributive sector will grow. But you will eventually have to pay the price and we are paying the price today.

I am also saying, Sir, that there are aspects of Government policy that seem to me to be very opportunistic. In 1984, the Democratic Labour Party staked out a position on interest rates. I, Mr. Chairman, came to this House in the Estimates Debates of 1988, I am not speaking opportunistic in this debate, Sir, and I used words to this effect. I said that I make bold to say to the House that if it were possible for us to relive the period between 1981 and 1983, and you will find this in Hansard, that if it were possible for us to relive that period that there would never be a way by which interest rates in Barbados would be allowed to rise. I made that point very clearly.

In 1984, the present Minister of Agriculture made a presentation to the private sector of Barbados on behalf of the Democratic Labour Party. He said a lot about interest rates and things like that. He also said a lot about agriculture as well which makes interesting reading now. He said in relation to agriculture, for example, if I may digress that:

> "non-sugar agriculture and fisheries have performed creditably[11]....
>
> *Aside.*
>
> Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Nineteen eighty-four.
>
> *Aside.*

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: On behalf of the Democratic Labour Party.

> "non-sugar agriculture and fisheries have performed creditably over the last 2 years. In the case of fisheries, this is due largely to the introduction of ice boats fishing off Tobago with the knowledge and the quiet approval of the Trindadian Coast Guard. The food crop sections have increased production, carrots, tomatoes, cabbages, et cetera. We look with pride at the way in which the pork industry in Barbados has progressed. And we in the Democratic Labour Party are envisaging and are planning for similar success stories in other areas of our agricultural production."

But as regards interest rates, Sir, he committed the Democratic Labour Party then as they themselves committed themselves in their Manifesto to certain courses of action as regards the management of interest rates. In the section dealing with economic policy, he says:

> "Let me get straight to the problem. The causes of many companies going into bankruptcy, the shortage of cash in the economy and no reserves is high interest rates. We must return to a low interest rate regime. In their Manifesto.... "
>
> *Aside.*

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: "... the Democratic Labour Party again committed itself to a low interest rate regime."

I am saying to the House, Sir, that Government has had to change the lending rates to the banks if only because of the manner in which it had sequenced its interest rate policy. That insofar as it has raised the bank rate first, it has made a change of interest rates to the bank inevitable.

But Government has to review its interest rate policy because in addition to trying to control expenditure in Barbados through putting restrictions on credit, we also have to make sure that we minimize the extent of the recession by allowing Barbados to continue to produce. If there is going to be one factor that is going to destroy any possibility for expanding production and if there is going to be one factor that is going to prolong the extent of the recess in Barbados, it is going to be the exchange rate regime that the Government is following.

I shall return.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I think that this debate is reaching a very interesting position.

The Honourable Member for St. Peter raises the question of overall credit availability in the society....

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: ... relative to foreign exchange, whilst I dealt when I addressed this matter with credit to the Government relative to foreign exchange. The Central Bank being the Government's bank of course would print money primarily on behalf of Government and then in a credit squeeze when the commercial banks have to go to them as bankers of last resort in order to obtain finance to meet their commitments.

But I wish to make the situation absolutely clear in relation to the removal of the ceilings on credit in Barbados. In August of 1986 the Central Bank of Barbados met with me in the Ministry of Finance with a proposal for the removal of credit ceilings in Barbados. The reasons put forward, and I think they were quite valid, were not that they wished to have an increase in overall credit but that they were serious problems relating to several financial institutions of Barbados because the way in which the credit situation was structured. It meant that the older banks in Barbados would always be able to garnish 4he business whilst the smaller banks would always be quite constricted. 2.55 p.m.

This was having the effect that the users of the banks, the consumers, could not get money from one particular bank who was prepared to service them, and another bank that had the money could not service them. So they felt that the time had come, after the credit was in place for almost ten years, to review the whole situation.

I indicated to the Central Bank in August 1987 my decision, which was that I did not think that at that time after just having introduced a new budget, and before Christmas, that that would be the time to do it, but that it would be reviewed in the new year. The Central Bank came back with a proposal in January of the new year and it was agreed to on condition that (1) it would be monitored every month, and (2) that a situation would not be allowed to exist in Barbados where there was any significant growth in credit. They were the conditions. Removal of the ceilings to allow redistribution and a fair deal to consumers as between varying banks, but not allowing any increase in credit.

That was a clear decision. It was part of the Press Release put out by the Central Bank at the particular time, it was part of the communication sent to the commercial banks at that time and in fact the Governor of the Central Bank in his most recent statement on credit indicated that at the time of the removal it was not intended that there should be any increase.

The level of credit in Barbados from the banking system is reported every month, and when I was Minister of Finance I insisted that I had a report on the level of that credit every month. If you look up to the end of July, when I ceased to be Minister of Finance, there was no significant increase in the level of credit in Barbados. Beyond that I do not know. All I can tell you is what was the policy position. The reasons for the removal of the credit ceilings had nothing to do with allowing any increase in the level of credit, but to promote a redistribution of credit in order to allow principally the smaller banks in Barbados and the newer banks to have access to business, because they were caught in the way in which the amount of credit was defined in relation to the existing assets of the bank.

It meant that the Barbados National Bank, the Caribbean Commercial Bank and the Bank of Credit and Commerce were at a tremendous disadvantage. They were at a further disadvantage because some of the older banks own real estate in Barbados and their real estate form part of their asset base against which their lending could be applied.

They were the reasons, and I am absolutely sure that if credit was allowed to grow in Barbados it had nothing to do either with the policies presented by the Directors of the Central Bank in August or in January and it had no part of the rationale behind the decision to remove the ceilings. The ceilings were removed to allow a redistribution of credit. If credit has grown since then in a manner that is detrimental to the economy, then the problem must lie with the Central Bank and with the Minister of Finance. There would have to have been a change of policy with the Central Bank and a change of policy with the Central Government, because they were absolutely clear both in August and in January as to the reasons, and they were clear on the mechanisms that they were putting in place to monitor the levels of credit in the economy. If those policies had been kept, all that would have happened is that after redistribution then the clamps would have come on. That was absolutely crystal clear. It is documented, it was reported in the Press and in letters to the commercial banks, so as far as I am concerned, any area of any significant escalation in credit damaging the balance of payments would have to have been due either to negligence or a change in policy after I left the Ministry, because the Central Bank's position was absolutely clear, their reasons could not be faulted. Indeed, I had grave difficulties in persuading them that I should not grant the permission in August 1986 and to ask them to wait until January, because that was a matter that was occupying their attention for several years, the problems relating to the users of credit in Barbados and the problems relating to the small banks, including the Barbados National Bank. Anyhow, I hope that matter will settle that.

It is quite clear that if you allow overall credit in the society to get out of hand, then you can have problems, particularly when that is compounded with the problem of overall expenditure by Government, or excessive expenditure by Government, but when you get the twin effects of over expenditure where you get a situation for two successive years, where the Government is appropriating to itself the largest slice of any increase in output in the economy, then you must have serious problems somewhere along the line.

I am not surprised that you have a liquidity problem. The liquidity problem cannot purely be generating within the private sector of Barbados, because money within the private sector circulates. It is a closed cycle in that operation, unless people are taking money out of the country. The only way it can leave the private sector is if il

is taken out of the private sector either by money being taken out of the country or in the alternate, through taxation. When you have over expenditure, over taxation, eventually you are going to run into a serious problem in relation to the availability of liquidity in the banking system.

What has happened is that the banking system has been seriously undermined by the policies pursued by the Minister of Finance. There can be no question that too much money has been taken out of the economy by Government's expenditure, by Government's taxation policies. There can be no question whatsoever that there has been a dramatic fall off in the average levels of liquidity in the banking system of Barbados. You are talking, Sir, in a matter of a few months moving from an average of almost $100 million in 1988 to minus $3 million average in terms of liquidity in the banking system in a very short period of time. So the net effect of all this is that now the very areas responsible for growth in the economy are the areas that they have to turn off. The very areas - construction, housing, all these areas - they had to turn off because of a lack of prudence.

For years I have castigated the former Barbados Labour Party administration when they increased expenditure by $30 or $40 million in a year. You are talking now of about two or three years' increase in expenditure by over $300 million in Barbados, and you do not expect to have dramatic consequences in relation to that? 3.05 p.m.

It cannot work. You must have these serious liquidity problems; you must have these problems in respect of your foreign reserves. You cannot attract foreign exchange at a fast enough rate to compensate for that kind of expenditure, so that the Honourable Minister of Finance now finds himself in a situation where he has corrected as he said the fiscal deficit. You have overtaxed, you have overspent, and yet your balance of payments position is worse now than it has been for many years in Barbados which is a far more serious problem. Why? Remember I used a word called "abortion" in a budget contribution some time ago that upset some people, when I said you cannot use the clumsy hand of fiscal policies to address a balance of payments problem that you perceive there is; that there has to be a delicate mix of other policies otherwise you are going to move from one problem to another and I can assure you that a balance of payments and foreign exchange problem for Barbados is a far more serious and for more critical problem than any problem that you may have in terms of the management of a fiscal deficit domestically. This is a problem now where you have grave difficulties, and you are going to find yourself in a situation where you are going to have to keep reversing and reversing yourself, saying one thing today, saying another thing tomorrow; you are saying something today, the Central Bank is saying something else tomorrow, because of the situation in which you find yourself as a result of the policies that you embarked on, and those people who pushed you in that position are laughing today. Thank you very much.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, some additional remarks on the situation that has presented itself, and also some remarks from the position that has been taken by the Leader of the Opposition in relation to credit. I think it is more accurate to say that the Democratic Labour Party adopted a position towards the distributive sector in its manifesto. It said in its manifesto at page 12, Sir, that discriminatory credit policies against the distributive sector will be abandoned, and the basis for this is because signs of social conscience within the distributive sector of Barbados which recommended the distributive sector as a sector worthy of the same kind of resource allocation as the more productive sectors of the economy. This is stated in the manifesto of the Democratic Labour Party, and it is the manifesto commitment to which policy effect was given in 1986.

But I want to say this, Sir, on the question of taxation; that the extent to which Government feels itself compelled to raise taxes locally to repay the foreign debt has obviously to be reviewed. The raising of domestic currency through increased taxation to repay the .i^eigrt debt is *a* policy thai does not make sense because domestic currency does not give you a pool of foreign exchange out of which the debt is to be .repaid, Equally, Sir,,, the continuous raising of debt merely because Government expenditure includes debentures to repay the debentures which can be rolled over is a policy that Government ought to review, and this would help us to get ourselves out of the position where the marginal rale of lax in this country is 52 per cent.

The Governments of Barbados has from years immemorial been rolling over and refinancing parts of the national debt, the trcaarv bills. The refinancing of debt i': 3 practice that is known *by* ihe private sector the world over, of countries the world over, and I want to make the point, Sir, if it would help, that the Barbados Labour Party so long as I am spokesman on finance, will never take a position adversary to a Government of Barbados refinancing its debt. I say that on the Floor of this House, because there is nothing wrong with refinancing debt, and indeed the Barbados Labour Party before it left office put in place two important mechanisms to control the long term growth of Government expenditures in this country. We established the state enterprises unit with a view to moderate the rate at which transfer to the Statutory institutions were factoring as a problem in Government expenditure. We also employed an adviser to develop long term scenarios for the management of the external debt of Barbados with a mature perspective and with full cognisance of all of the various issues that are involved in the management of the foreign debt. I just want to make that point that perhaps the time has come when the Government should review the extent to which, merely because you include the foreign debt as part

of Government's current expenditure, you believe you have to raise taxes to meet an expenditure which is not in local currency, but is in fact a foreign exchange currency expenditure, and I say no more on the question of the marginal rate of tax.

In relation to Government's existing policies, again the experience of the Barbados Labour Party in the early 1980s was one in which we understood as well that in order to deal with a balance of payments problem ^you had to control domestic spending. I am not going to criticise a Government policy which is designed to minimise the extent to which increased domestic spending affects the balance of payments. It does not make sense for me to do that. I therefore support domestic credit controls, but it is my view that the interest rate measures are wrong and it is also my view based on our own experience that addressing the problems such as face Barbados now by only dealing with the expenditure side of things is dealing only with half of the problem. Yes it is necessary for Government to control total national expenditure, but it is also necessary as well if we. are going to see a way out of the problem for the Government to selectively stimulate those parts of the Barbadian economy where there are presently under-utilised resources and which have the capacity to help us to earn some foreign exchange in order to earn our way out of this problem. Yes, Sir, we have to control spending if we are going to get out of the problem, but we also have to boost production, and it was in that capacity that if the Minister would read the 1982 budget, he would notice that a comprehensive set of measures were brought to bear to try to boost agricultural production, because we recognised that that was the area of greatest under-utilised resources in Barbados, and if you were to selectively stimulate the domestic economy to help us save on the use of foreign exchange and to earn our way, you needed as part and parcel of the comprehensive programme. When I criticise the Minister of Finance for lack of a comprehensive programme, I am referring to these kinds of things. I agree that you have to have selective credit controls; you must have selective credit controls particularly to minimise the extent to which personal spending of which the Prime Minister complains affects our long term development process in this country, and I was the first person to call for selective credit controls. But I want to hear about the production plan that selectively stimulates the Barbados economy in critical areas where we know there are under-utilised resources that will help us to earn our way out of these difficulties.

The use of interest rates are too penal, and if the House would bear with me, Sir, I spoke in this House already as regards the impact of interest rates on the Barbados economy based on our experience. I said "I make bold to say to this House that if it were possible for us to relive the experience between 1981 and 1983 there would simply have been no way that we would have allowed interest rates in Barbados to increase."
3.15p.m.

Mr. Speaker, I said interest rates in Barbados affect the economy at a cost and the argument that capital flows in and out of Barbados can be affected by adjustments in the interest rate is an argument that bears no- relationship whatsoever to our particular reality. I must ask the Minister of Finance if, indeed, he has sensed that there has been an inflow of capital to Barbados because the Central Bank has changed interest rates and my argument is simply this.

People will not bring hard currency into an area such as Barbados which has a non controvertible currency out of a desire to speculate about interest rates. It has no bearing whatsoever on the question of capital inflows in my view.

There is nobody who will bring convertible U.S. currency into Barbados to invest in a Barbadian security which he cannot convert because it is in Barbados dollars merely because our interest rates are different from the United States interest rates and the Prime Minister should tell the Hense that in point of fact you cannot recognise any change in capital inflows into this economy because of the recent changes in interest rates. The banks are in fact, not bringing into this country any money at all.

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Indeed, I also want to say that the most recent increase in the bank rate is precisely because despite the increases in interest rates, the banks have continued to borrow from the Central Bank rather than bring in, forcing the Central Bank now to put in place a situation where they increase the interest rate again although their initial thesis is that if you increase the interest rates capital will come in.

Has the capital been coming in because at the end of the day it is the bottom line that matters and why must we_d commit ourselves to a policy which says that we will increase interest rates because it will bring an inflow of capital to Barbados when the evidence is telling us that the capital is not coming in.

I am also saying that the rate of interest in Barbados tends to have no bearing at all on the rate of savings in the society. People in Barbados save without sometimes knowing what the interest rate is and fearing the interest rate will not affect the people's propensity to save. In fact, * it is significant that between 1983 and 1986 the interest rates of Barbados were not changed but the rate of saving increased dramatically.

What affects the rate of savings in the Barbados economy is the amount of disposable income and if your tax policies bite heavily into this disposable income, they will have a greater bearing on the rate of savings than on the rate of interest. The rate of interest, however, bears upon businesses small and large and it will bear eventually «*

on the size of Government expenditure. It is for that reason, based on our own experience as a Government, part of the errors of which I am prepared to acknowledge, and based upon your experience now where you are using interest rates, so the Central Bank is saying, as an attraction to foreign capital, and there is no foreign capital coming because of interest rates but based upon all that experience that we must not now ignore that I am of the view that the Government has to take a very serious look at the confusion being caused by this convoluted interest rate change in pursuit, I think of a false thesis.

It is important, Mr. Chairman, that the Government of Barbados get down to the business of giving us a programme for expanded production in this country.

The present Minister of Agriculture was in a position in 1984 to speak of the creditable performance of agriculture between 1982 and 1984 largely as a result of the fact that in 1982 as the House knows, Tom Adams in order to minimize the recessionary impact of the policies that he brought to this House to stabilize the country, also brought a very attractive package of measures to stimulate agriculture.

I am of the view that the area of greatest under-utilized potential in Barbados now and the area of greatest un-utiliscd resources in this country at present, that area that would both allow the country to save on the use of foreign exchange as well as to earn foreign exchange, is in our agricultural resources and that what the Government must bring to this House as a matter of urgency is a serious policy to deal with the problems of agriculture, to let us help work down that $200 million import bill that is leading to a waste of foreign exchange and to allow us to begin to earn some foreign exchange through the export of agricultural commodities.

I want to begin in this House to debate the thrust of Government's agricultural policies. But what do we have in its place? Bedlam in the agricultural sector of Barbados. Equally, I believe that the Government is congratulating itself falsely for a performance in manufacturing exports that is not worthy of congratulation.

What has happened in Barbados is that this country as recently as 1984/85 was exporting over $480 million, $500 million of goods a year. The level of consumption in Barbados has not dropped. Our earnings of foreign exchange from manufacturing has dropped and what Government is congratulating itself about is for a situation where a country that was formerly earning $480 million a year now from year to year increases its earnings of manufacturing exports from $210 million to $240 million.

It should recognize that in order for us to be able to go forward we have to carry back our manufacturing exports not only to the 1985 levels but in so far as the level of consumption in the economy has increased that in order for us to go forward and to begin to congratulate ourselves then we have to be able to boost manufacturing exports in a more serious way.

I recognise that the problem will not be easy but we are not hearing from Government any initiatives in matters such as these and it is for that reason that I feel a sense of despair about the nature of Government's policies.

When I speak on this matter critically on what I regard as a piecemeal approach to a matter that could only be addressed by the most comprehensive set of policies mutually supporting each other, that we need policies to promote production that will mutualise any tendency that can be caused by the fact that Government to defend the balance of payments must put credit control policies in place.

I stop at that point, Sir, and I am prepared to come Back into this debate.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, before I even decided to join this particular debate, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central ir$_a$ one of his references to my view of the discipline of economics suggested that I believed that one should not use numbers or figures. Now, Sir, nothing could be further from the truth.

Like many of us on this side, and I can draw from the wisdom of the Honourable Member for St. Michael East, we practise political economy and that may have a particular meaning that might be a bit obscure to the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central because he is under the influence of the defunct economists as John Maynard Keynes would call them. In fact, he has a **very** famous quotation about practical men being the slaves of some defunct economist.

In other words, the persons who allege they arc pragmatists when you look behind them you discover that they arc really the slaves of defunct economists. He recognised that in his lime and I recognise it to be part of the scenario that we are witnessing now in the development of Barbados today. 3.25 p.m.

It is a tragic development because some of the persons who are now the slaves of these defunct economists were once the persons who had greatest influence on me in conceiving and developing my own views about democratic socialists practices and the socialist economic model of development. But that is part of the scenario that we accept in politics today.

I am only saying that bandying around statistics in a vacuum does not assist members of the public in any way. I

believe that we have to have a more understanding approach to the manner in which the Barbadian economy can be transformed. It is not transformed by telling people only about growth.

We in the Democratic Labour Party do not look at the development as being only quantitative. We look at it as being qualitative. And we understand the difference between the concept of growth in the economy and the question of qualitative development in the economy. We understand that, perhaps if at times one may even say that this Government might have erred on the side of expenditure, it is because we understand the need for providing the social services to the average poor and underprivileged person in this country.

Now the point is that I do not nor would I expect the Honourable Member for StMichael South Central to agree with me. His central thesis and he began by talking about Barbados' external position, and I got the impression by the end of his speech that he was attributing this to Government's high expenditure patterns.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Well financing of it. However you put it. I do not think that that is necessarily the most or the wisest economic statement to make.

Now 1 can only think off the top of my head of what the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance who is aware of the present scenario in the Barbadian economy has said contributed to whatever difficulties we may have in relation to the foreign exchange position in Barbados. I remember him saying low export earnings. He can correct me if I am wrong on any of them. I remember him saying low earnings from sugar or unusually low earnings from sugar. I remember him saying increased demand for foreign goods, And I remember him saying the construction boom. You can take any one of those four and you can apply any of the basic theories of economic management....

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON You are not going to pall me off.

Aside.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Can we have some order please?

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: You can apply any theories to any of those four things and we can come up with solutions.

The question of low export earnings in the agricultural and manufacturing sectors, part of that comes from the low level of investment from the private sector. The same private sector that you all tout every week all over the place and encourage people like Stan Reid to get up and say should privatize the foreign service, that would take $12 million and build a mall up in St. Philip where I live before that $12 million could be invested in the productive sectors of this economy. But they are your friends. They are not going to co-operate with us. You thought they would cooperate with you in 1986. But when you learnt they did not, you pulled out. But I have to remain here and face the $_{m}$ lashes from whatever side or quarter in this country they may come.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I should just like to point out certainly that I have always had the greatest possible levels of co-operation from the private sector of Barbados and I do not subscribe to the kind of foolishness being said.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: You would always say that. But I said you would say that. I would not deny that you would say that. You were a new convert to it as well, probably in 1985 or somewhat before. You would not have said it in 1984. You would not have said it in 1983, 1982, 1981. You 'vould not have said it in 1978. And you would not expect me to say it then as a young man supporting you.

But today the conversion is what counts for this systematic parroting- of foolishness in the public forum <» about private sector led growth and supply side economics and so on with a private sector that is not even interested in investing. And as I say you were the one who provided me with all the evidence I once needed of all of that.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Well precisely, You would say so. But Hansard only stopped a few months ago but they have editions prior to that. Well it has not been ^ published. The regular publication has not been coming out

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Members must be allowed to make their contribution with minimum interruptions.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: So those levels of investment have not produced the kind of developments in the area of export led growth that are desirable.

It is true that we need additional incentives but this administration has given some incentives. But we need a more comprehensive approach that involves the persons in the private sector, the creative persons who are interested, not only in raking money off the backs of poor people in the distributive sector but are actually interested in investing some of that money into the productive sectors and the new employment generating sectors of the economy. That is the first point.

The low earnings from sugar. We have already acknowledged that as one of the major problems that have contributed to it. In 1986, as I understood it, when I came in this Chamber, there was a conscious decision to cut back on the levels of sugar production which the Minister of Finance then informed me was a conscious decision at around the level of 90 000 tonnes. The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central is the one who told me and informed this House that Government took a conscious decision to set the levels of production of sugar in that area.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Well whatever. I cannot remember the figure. So that that conscious decision was taken. Then we have also had a shortfall which is attributable to a number of other factors other than that decision. But that decision in itself, unless you look at it very carefully could have had implications for the reduction in sugar exports.

The increased demand for foreign goods. Now what is it that is going to finance these foreign goods? The principle thing that will finance it is credit. And it was this administration that in 1986 removed in large measure the majority of credit restrictions that were in place.

Now how can you remove those credit restrictions and then not anticipate that there will be some difficulty down the road? And now when we have the difficulty the Honourable Member and Leader of the Opposition is telling us that the worst thing we can do is impose credit restrictions. But he must have known that there would be that kind of difficulty and we now know. Again we cannot hide from it, we cannot ignore it....

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I have pointed out that when the Central Bank removed the credit restrictions in the early months of 1987 that was done on a clear understanding that there would be no increase on the level of credit and permit a redistribution of credit in certain areas of the economy and among certain institutions.

The Honourable Member is misrepresenting what I said. It was done for the purpose of redistribution with a clear public statement by the Central Bank of Barbados, by the Ministry of Finance that there would be no global increase'in credit.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your point is made.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central has a vested interest in defending his position and in due course I will have a vested interest in defending mine on a different basis and I would produce the necessary information including documents to the House to defend my position. So you can say what you want.

The point is that credit controls were removed. That is a historical fact. It occurred since you were the Minister of Fnnnce.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: And I supported it then.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I did not remove any credit controls in Barbados. So do not talk. It was a Central Bank decision.

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

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Central Bank decision what? As though the Central Bank operates in a vacuum and makes decisions on a daily basis without reference to the Minister of Finance. Everybody is to be blamed, except the person who principally was responsible. And I am not going to defend foolishness constantly in here or in the newspapers when it is thrown up to me by defunct economists and persons who are giving substandard advice which is being parroted and trotted out in all 4 corners of Barbados by the members of the NDP. Because I have to take responsibility in here at the end of the day, along with other Honourable Members. And you are going to have to take responsibility too for some of the errors that were made. I do not have any difficulty when it comes to facing the public on any issue and saying if I have to say, I was wrong. I do not have difficulty. 3.35p.m.

I am not going to pick up heels and rm; anywi.^re and then blame it on the 20 who are left, I would stand up <md say I was wrong. Of course, perhaps at 27 years of age in s political party like the Democratic Labour Party that is possible, because there is a future, but I can imagine why you or any of your colleagues would not wish to say so.

In the face of all the evidence from every single respectable economist in Barbados and abroad that I have read, Caribbean Affairs and so on, I read Courtney Blackman in the Bajan Magazine, I have come to understand things differently and I can admit that I did not understand things then. There are certain things I now understand and you are not going to pull the wool over my eyes again, and I am not going to permit you to go out into the public and pull wool over their eyes. You must take part of the responsibility for the present scenario that exists, and you must also give credit to this administration for

recognising as early as was possible the difficulties that exist and putting in place the measures that would curb those difficulties. That is all I am saying.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The member has two more minutes.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I am not going to let you abdicate responsibility and I am not going to abdicate it. I am not going to, so we will both be in the same boat going right down the road. The only difference is thaj I will tell the public I stayed and supported my political leader and my political party in trying to reverse a trend that could have meant doom and disaster for the people of this country. That is all. It is a simple issue, it is not a joke that can be trivialised by six columnists in a newspaper by quoting what I said in 1986. I know what I said and I can explain why I said it then and I will now explain why I am saying what I am saying now, because I am learning and I am willing to say at times that I am learning, but in fact I believe that all of us have said in here that we are learning from these experiences.

You cannot hide from knowledge, you cannot resign away knowledge and run away from it and form a new party to develop knowledge. The knowledge will always be there and the truth will come out.

I hope to be able to return, Sir, to complete two of the other points I was making relevant to this matter.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: This debate started off at a level of dealing with economic matters and has now been dragged down into the area of trivia. I do not propose ever to allow debate on economic matters to be dragged down to a given level by people who cannot negotiate discussions at other levels. I know precisely what is the purpose and the tactic of that highly politicised intervention.

I have made it clear precisely what the position is iiv relation to credit controls in Barbados. I have also made it absolutely clear and I think there is a slight difference of emphasis between myself and the Honourable Member for St. Peter in relation to the role which import of consumer items has played in Barbados in the last two years. Certainly there was an overall reduction in the level of imports in Barbados in 1986 over 1985, in 1987 over 1985, in 1988 there was a slight increase in the overall import bill. There was some increase in the composition of the import bill in relation to imports. However, when one looks at the massive reported increase in tourism expenditure in Barbados, it is quite clear that a significant section of any increase in consumer items must be attributable to the increase in tourist expenditure, and tourism expenditure on consumer items is not a foreign exchange loss to the country. Tourism expenditure on consumer items is a foreign exchange gain to the country.

When a tourist comes in here and spends $100 and buys an article from Cave Shepherd, which the country would have spent U.S. $75 on to import and sell, then the country has gained U.S.$25.1 want to repeat this. Tourism expenditure on consumer items is not a foreign exchange loss, it is a foreign exchange gain unless the people of course are selling to the tourists at a loss, which does not make any sense, because their businesses would not survive. When one is ready to deal with the kind of silliness that one heard from the Honourable Member for St. John, he will be confronted with factual evidence.

If I may continue, Sir, on this question of interest rates, and I believe this is one of the most hurtful things to the people of Barbados, taking into consideration what the Democratic Labour Party told this country over a period of ten years. The Honourable Member for St. Peter was absolutely honest in what he said about the Barbados Labour Party's position on interest rates during the 80's and what was the position taken over here. Today we hear the Democratic Labour Party parroting the same reasons for increasing interest rates which even the Labour Party rejected after 1985.

What are the reasons advanced? To encourage people to take greater advantage of suppliers' credits. That is Reason No. 1. Let me tell you about suppliers' credits. Suppliers' credits depend on confidence in Barbados, and secondly ultimately suppliers' credits cost this country more in foreign exchange, because you have to pay the interest involved on it.

Secondly, what is the other reason? That interest rates have to approximate the levels of international interest rates, because it would stimulate the flow of money into Barbados and stop the flow of money out of Barbados. They were the other reasons advanced by the Barbados Labour Party, the same reasons advanced by the Democratic Labour Party Government today, the same reasons that we repudiated again and again on the Floor of this House, I recall one of the finest speeches I have ever heard in this House was that of Mr. Bree St John defending Government's mistaken interest rates policy in 1984, which he himself when he became Minister of Finance in 1985-86 started to reverse. Now the same junk is being touted by the Democratic Labour Party as a legitimate interest rates policy in Barbados.

In their Manifesto, in everything they have said in a period of ten years they have pointed out clearly that this cannot be a relevant or tenable position in relation to Barbados. Have you any idea what that is going to do to the small businessmen in Barbados? Have you any idea what a 3% increase in interest rates over 10%, just a theoretical figure, means to the bill of a small businessman? It is not just 3%, 3% of 10% is a 30% compounded increase of the cost of debt to people. Could you imagine if in the United States interest rates were increased by these whopping

increases overnight what would happen? You are bound to throw your economy into recession when you do that. Most of the poor people in Barbados who have gone into business have minimum equity, maximum debt. That is the way small businesses are structured in Barbados. What is going to happen to them? The same thing that happened to them before due to high interest rates. There is nothing that is more destructive to the local economy than high interest rates. 3.45 p.m.

And now the very same reasons, word for word, included in the budget and included in statements, are advanced. I am very glad today that the Honourable Member for St. Peter repeated the reasons which were advanced by the Barbados Labour Party and has repudiated them a second time on the Roor of the House. He did it in good faith I think, Sir, because he has done it before. He is not doing it now for political reasons. He did it before; that is a fact. I heard him make the point that he has changed his position on the question of the impact of interest rates in Barbados. Only a fool if he had a SUS1.00 today getting 8 per cent on it on a CD in the United States would bring it into Barbados to get $2.00 Bds., 10 per cent, or 6 per cent or 11 per cent or 12 per cent. The same people who mislead and misguided the Barbados Labour Party down the years until they decided that they were finished with that are the same people who put those policies back in position now. Every word is exactly the same.

The former leader of the Democratic Labour Party, if there was one aspect of monetary policy that he constantly zoomed in on the Roor of this House was the impact of interest rates on poor people. And talking about people not investing, they will not invest in that climate; they would not invest in the present climate being created. You cannot expect people to invest in Barbados in a situation where you have over taxation and where you have interest rates that are punitive as far as the developmental process is concerned.

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Why don't you stop being so stupid and look at the records?

If I may continue, Sir, those interest rates, when you look at the manifesto of the Democratic Labour Party, indeed much of the economic planning and concepts that would underpin were underpinned by a low interest rates regime. That is the sad thing about it all, and the very tourism sector now that has been doing reasonably well over the past few years, those interest rates will impact on them, and impact on them very seriously starting from now on because apart from a few of the large hotels in Barbados, the remaining hotels in this country particularly those owned by Barbadians still have an unfavourable debt equity ratio, and what is worse, we invited those people to go out there and spend money refurbishing their hotels, and'now that people have exposed themselves to even more debt, what you have done is to turn around and cut their economic throat, so to speak, by slapping on interest rates and increasing the debt that they have committed themselves to by over 30 per cent. I am talking about a 30 per cent increase in the cost of debt more than that. That is what it is in a small society like this. How many companies in Barbados and who is going to be the first to suffer? The first to suffer will be either the employees who will have to be sent home because people are going to have to give a higher priority to debt payment to save their businesses than paying wages, or the small companies that can no longer survive. So not only have you repudiated your interest rates policy that was in the manifesto which was a policy articulated for ten years, but you have come now and articulated the policies that you repudiated in the same language and the same terms with the same compounded foolishness that was presented to this House again and again and again, and expect any reasonable person to stipport that kind of position apart from the Honourable Member for St. John.

Sir, the debates of this House are absolutely replete with positions taken, and on& thought chat one of ibe victories of economic debate inside here over the years was that there was a time when both sides had come to a common position on interest rates, and now we hear this same foolishness by the technocrats being put in the mouth of the Minister of Finance who clearly does not understand what he was saying before or what he is saying now, and trots this out as part of economic policy. Interest rates would not help you in this situation, because what you have done is to put the interest rates up, which is foolishness to do in the first instance, and having put that up and it was still marginally profitable for the banks to borrow from the Central Bank, you find yourself now having to push up the bank rate, and you are not going to get the commercial banks to bring money in here unless you give them & written guarantee that they can take it back out in six months at current exchange rates. I know what I am talking about. It is the first time it has ever happened in Barbados. I know the exact transaction; I know the currency swap transaction because it was necessary for it to come to my knowledge. I will say no more at the moment. I do not have to disclose my business; I just say it was necessary for it to come to my knowledge. I did not have to go out and ask anybody.

I will say further, Sir, that that increase in the bank rate is going to create a serious problem with confidence in relation to the commercial banks in Barbados, and I am further saying that at a meeting with the commercial banks there was a threat to increase the bank rate to 20 per cent. I don't have to say by whom. The threat was made, and the threat lost SUS5 million because the particular institution was considering bringing in $US5 million the same way the other one had brought it in and they changed their mind.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member will conclude in one minute.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: The Governor of the Central Bank, I gather, has denied that statement, but he would not know; he was in Japan. I was in Barbados. It gave me time to check it out more carefully because that foolishness cost $US5 million at a meeting, talking about increasing the bank rate to 20 per cent More than one bank would have made money available. Check that out. Not much goes on that I do not know about. Remember that

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I know what I am talking about The bank rate is something that you have to be very careful about, and there are other instruments that could have been used far more sensitively to achieve the same objective. There are other instruments which would not have caused the same problems, but I will be back again. I am just beginning. I am just dealing with the various items. It is a long way to go, Sir.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, in a way this has been a very exciting debate, and I agree with the Honourable Member for St. John that we are learning all the time. I have learned a lot about the various stances and the manoeuvres of the respective branches of the Democratic Labour Party, even of the Barbados Labour Party, the former branches, the NDP and the DLP, Sir.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, I would say if the Honourable Member learnt this he could not have learnt this arising out of debate in here today.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I have also been reminded, Sir, by the Honourable Member for St. Peter that he had publicly disavowed the interest rate policies of the Barbados Labour Party as recently as last year. 3.55 p.m.

I remember I was in here at the time wiicn Mr. St. John changed it in 1985.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The Honourable Member for St. Peter last year reminded this House that letters passed between Prime Minister Adams and the Central Bank asking very serious questions as to why the Central Bank was not advising him to bring down interest rates in this country because he was very conscious that in the Barbados economy interest rates played a role in the economy and the interest rates played a role in economic activity as a cost.

It would seem that there was correspondence between Mr. Adams and the Central Bank, it would probably be on the files of the Ministry, on the question of interest rates and Adams was asking the Central Bank why they were not advising him properly about bringing down the interest rates because be submitted to them that it was a cost.

What I am concerned about is that I would wish to be instructed by my friend from St. Peter or the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, or, indeed, the Prime Minister, or the Parliamentary Secretary from St. Andrew, if the criticism of high interest rates is based on an assumption that they are, as we used to say in Criminal Law, *mala in se*, bad in themselves because it would seem to me that there are two factors which were present in 1982 that may have predisposed the imposition of high interest rates that are not present today.

In 1982, let us be honest, there was a world recession. In 1982 a barrel of oil cost, according to my memory, somewhere in the vicinity of U.S. $33 at the time. It is about U.S. $18 now. Surely, the objective criteria which gave rise to the introduction of high interest rates or which may have contributed, there may have been other factors, surely those are two very important matters that must have weighed I^avily with the Government at the time and that must have prompted the introduction of high interest rates.

In other words, Sir, I am asking the question whether as in economic law we can say that high interest rates are out of place at all times because I agree that Mrs. Thatcher had a lot of negative criticism recently in England as a result of the hike in interest rates up there but I would only caution that in 1982 there were two -1 saw that on Sunday, I am not saying this pejoratively, Sir, Mr. David Seale in his own column in "The Sunday Sun" tried to heap some blame on the Labour Party in relation to the imposition of interest rates in about 1982 and I think that members are being uncritical when they would seek to say that the interest rate policy was of itself a policy that could have destabilised the economy without taking into account the other factors which I mentioned just now, the cost of oil particularly and the general world situation, two factors which do not presently exist and two facts which may make the present introduction of high interest rates worthy of the kind of criticism to which they have been subjected today.

Now, Sir, when the Honourable Member for St. John spoke, he drew attention to the fact that in 1987 the then Minister of Finance had instituted a policy which freed up credit to the distributive sector particularly and that we are reaping the effects of that policy but that the present Government is doing something to reverse the trend but the effects have been there and they are now being felt and it all dates back to 1987.

The Honourable Leader of the Opposition said that he did not do anything about freeing up credit that it was the Central Bank. I am only saying that the Honourable Leader of the Opposition would have to be mistaken because...

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You can only restrict credit or release pursuant to an order.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I say that he has forgotten. You can only release or restrict credit pursuant to an order and I will show you why.

It is true the Central Bank's Governor signs the order but the Minister of Finance must also sign it.

In 1975 with my first experience of credit restrictions, I remember Prime Minister Barrow threatening in the Budget of 1975 that he would tighten up on hire purchase because of the situation then. We were in the middle of an oil crisis and in 1975 he passed an order and it is referred to in the Central Bank document here, "The Chronicle of the Central Bank Policy", Muriel Sanders and Celeste Wood.

But in 1977 the Labour Party had to impose credit restrictions in Statutory Instrument No. 27, the Hire Purchase and Credit Agreements Control Order, 1977 and k bcgins:-

> "The Central Bank of Barbados in exercise of powers conferred on it by section 3 of the Hire Purchase Credit Sale and Hire Control Act 1975 makes the following order..:"

You look at the back and you sec "Signed: Courtney N. Blackrnan, Governor, Approved by the Minister this ninth day of February, 1977, J. M. G. Adams". The immediate S.I. that follows it is called "The equivalent Rate of Loan interest Hire Purchase and Credit Sale Order, 1977" similarly signed Blackman and Adarns so we have to be open and frank about this,

As I said, the Honourable Leader of the Opposition may have forgotten that he actually signed in 1987.

Now, Sir, I do not want to repeat anything that has already been said but I would like to encapsulate the picture and as I see it, there is solid information which was first drawn to the House's attention on August 2 this year that there has been a steady drain on the foreign reserves to the point where the continued viability of the economy of Barbados is in jeopardy.

Government has decided at Christmas time to become as tough as possible and deny the average person the opportunity to get a little credit to go into town at this time to buy a piece of congoleum on credit or a stove, or a fridge. 4.05 p.m.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I have learnt well.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You do not buy congoleum now, Sir? Well it used to be that. Or a piece of carpet. This is too hard. But you know what it says, Sir, that as they say in Barbados night does run until day catch it, and the truth will always come out.

The Honourable Member for St. John mentioned that the country was heading for a disaster and that the present Prime Minister had to try and rescue it. He said that the policy that had been implemented by the Democratic Labour Party since 1986 including, I read this, the time when the finance policies were implemented by the present Leader of the Opposition, that that mix of policy has now put him in this problem. But it has taken 3*/2 years for the truth to come out and the three blind mice were for those 3*/2 years over here pounding, warning the Government that it was going to lead to this and we only incurred the wrath and the abuse....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You have 2 minutes to conclude.

Mr, D. A, C, SIMMONS - That is what we got. Sir. But you see, you are losing foreign exchange at Si million a day.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: But that is according to documentary evidence. When I said in here on August....

Aside.

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

Aside

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Internal documentary evidence. The Honourable Prime Minister will know because when I raised certain things in here on August 2 he realized where I was coming from. He said yes, we are experiencing a little problem.

We have an unemployment rate of 22.7%.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Twenty-two point seven per cent.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, there has not been an official....

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: On a point of order. That is absolutely untrue. It is the most misleading statement of the year. The last figures out indicated 16.8%.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your point is made.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: All the Member has to do is to indicate to this Honourable House where he has got those figures from.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The point is made. The Honourable Member will conclude in just a few seconds.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Yes, Sir. I will never mislead this House, Sir. The Central Bank Quarterly in September said 16.8%. We have never had official figures published by the Statistical Department since October 1988 on the official rate of unemployment. Check within the Statistical Department and they will tell you the rate is 22.7% and that from in another Government Department a squeeze has come down on them asking them not to publish. I say that with all that it implies from the Floor of this House of Assembly, that the rate is 22.7% and that there is an embargo, and I will tell you more, the embargo has been imposed by a temporary civil servant.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Member must conclude now.

Mr. D, A. C. SIMMONS: Pick sense out of that. The Member for St. Andrew.

Mr. C. A. NEBLETT: Mr. Chairman, I have been listening to the tirade on the question of interest rates and the effect it would have on the economy. Generally, one would accept that in a low interest rate regime, there would be encouragement to extend credit, there would be the encouragement to consume, A high interest rate no doubt would encourage savings, especially with unreasonably steady inflation rates. We are not a manufacturing country. We import most of our needs.

We have also, from the Government's point of view, to provide goods and services to tills country. If at all conspicuous consumption is encouraged, it would mean that the Government would have to find from somewhere the kind of revenue to support the cost of goods and services that are being required by the opposition.

Sometimes we speak glibly about the kind of services we want in sports, health, *et cetera*. But we must bear in mind that if we encourage people to consume, there is nothing left in the Barbadian proverbial term for the rainy day. And as such there has to be some kind of balance between a reasonable average where interest rates were concerned.

Here it is the Central Bank has been using the interest rate to control the flow that was going into consumption and at the same time one hoped that psychologically it would force the manufacturers or the local producers to at least compete with the high prices that would result from imported goods.

Here it is we are in a tourism oriented situation. Look at our shelves. We are importing lots of food that can be produced locally. This has happened because there is lots of credit available to importers. They would prefer to turn to importing rather than get involved in the actual local production.

Only a few days ago I read in the press where a manufacturer is complaining about the suitcase salesmen. All of these are impacting against those local people who are making an effort to get our productive runs going.

It is rather unfortunate that we keep harping on the interest rate situation. It is affecting the economy not only in the United States and in Canada, *et cetera.* The whole global turn of money now is a rather short cycle. Investors are moving money from the United States to Japan and Germany; all related to interest rates. We will have to bring ours in line somewhere along to encourage an inflow.

Currently, what are our inflows, in terms of foreign exchange? It is true, in a most effective way, through tourism. There is th'e sugar industry that is going through some turmoil related to our climatic conditions, *et cetera,* And hence we are not getting the best returns as such. Because of that, we have got to measure rather carefully the kind of outflows that we are permitting. 4.15p.m.

We have been borrowing in the international market. We have to pay it back and we have to produce to do it. Rather than allowing an outflow for consumer goods, let us see what we can do locally. Let us get our manufacture going, let us get our agriculture going so that we can stem the flow. At least we would be substituting our foreign exchange. If this is done, we would be heading towards a more realistic position, but we cannot keep harping on the interest rates for ever and ever saying they are at an all time high. I have accepted that is just for a short period.

Other indicators in the economy point out that things are looking up in tourism and in manufacturing. I am not discounting the fact that the increase in interest rates will impact a little on our manufacturers, but we have made certain provisions, and there are also concessions, whereby the manufacturer can ride this out, but basically you cannot keep saying that we must have a lower interest regime and at the same time our productive sectors are not encouraged to really earn that necessary foreign exchange.

We have had some problems with onions, we had some problems with various other agricultural items, but efforts are being made to do some local processing, and I

hope in a short while we will begin to see disappearing from our shelves the kinds of goods that could be produced locally. That would help us.

Another problem is that most of our entrepreneurs, for working capital purposes, keep looking to the commercial banks. One would hope that such borrowing for working capital would be for a short time, the end of the trade cycle. You will appreciate, Mr. Chairman, that when you expend funds the local trader would be buying stocks. If he extends credit, the stocks will be converted into accounts receivable. When he gets paid, he pays back the bank. But it seems for a long time now that some of our local traders, especially in the distributive trades, are buying fixed assets out of their bank borrowings on a short term basis. It would mean then that when they sell their goods they are not recovering the money that they have borrowed from the banks on a short term basis. Remember, when you purchase fixed assets you are contemplating placing them over a long period, and that is the problem that is affecting most of the distributive firms, so as soon as the bank's interest rate goes up they begin to shout about starvation of capital, whereas they might have been better served if they had changed the equity structure of their companies by looking for long term investment rather than using the bank for such purposes.

Of course, I must grant them that if they use that technique they are getting the cost of the interest set off against their income tax, so they would prefer that than to be satisfied purely with the capital allowances they would get from their fixed assets.

You will see clearly, Mr. Chairman, that the problem here is the misuse of available funds. I would not at this stage relate it to abuse, but a misuse of local funds, and as such when the interest rate comes down to check that kind of situation, you get the outcry.

We as responsible politicians should not be making inflammatory statements and sending strange messages out there about confidence, *et cetera*. This is a small society and minor adjustments affect our total economy. Hence we should not encourage people to think that we apply measures willy nilly without their having some basic effect on how all of us will live here.

How are we going to come to terms with our balance of payments? It means that we have to control our imports. Hence to control our imports we determine what we are going to import. The price that would be affected by a change of interest rates would obviously slow down the inflow of those things that are not essential, and in the meanwhile rather than sitting and wringing our hands complaining, what we should be doing is trying to substitute some of these high cost imports by our local production. We should use this as an opportunity to prepare ourselves for a step further, remembering that we have very few outlets from which we can earn the necessary foreign exchange to satisfy our needs.

I think I will stop at this stage and return later in the debate.

Thank you.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to speak to some of the issues that have been raised during this debate. I would like to say, Sir, that there is nothing more important to the well being of this country than that debates in the highest chamber in this land for parliamentary purposes should be conducted at the highest possible level and with the greatest concern for the welfare of the people of this country.

I have always maintained that those who seek, for their own self serving political interests, to make capital out of national difficulties are causing problems for the country in which they live and the country which gives them sustenance.

I know of no country which is not confronted with economic, financial and social problems. Barbados is no exception, but yet I find that the kind of language, the kind of descriptions which are being used in order to describe the situation in Barbados, we would believe that that kind of language is being used not by a Barbadian but by someone who is very hostile to Barbados itself.

Let us understand what is the position of the economy of this country. At this particular juncture we have been able, through the application of sound principles, to achieve a surplus on the Current Account of our public finances, according to the provisional figures. In other words, Sir, the revenue that we have earned exceeds our expenditures on the Current Account. 4.25 p.m.

As I have said, Sir, from the very first Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals that I introduced, that the policy that I would be pursuing, not the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, or not any other kind of Minister of Finance, the measures that I would be pursuing would be to seek wherever possible, if we have a deficit on the current account, that it would not be larger than necessary, but that preferably wherever possible we would seem to have a small surplus on the current account so that we could pay something for our own capital development programme.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central can say "so". He does not have to say anything else. The purpose of a small surplus on the current account is to enable us out of our own resources to seek to build up the capital stock in this country, whether we wish to continue our road programme, or whether we wish to continue our

housing programme, if we wish to build or extend our schools, our health services, or to put up factory buildings or whatever it may be, and we are on track for that. We are not going to get any praise for that. I don't expect any praise for that, at least not from the merchant of despair and doom. I am looking in that direction, but you know I am not referring to you all either. That is a positive development in this country. The management of our economy draws praise from institutions and individuals knowledgeable outside of this country for what we have been able to achieve, but the prophet of gloom and doom is the only one who can at every turn find something to criticise, and not only something to criticise, but to blow it out to such a proportion that doomsday is going to take place the following day.

I wish to say something, Sir, about this talk of excessive expenditure. When I look at the figures for expenditure on the current account, in 1975-1976 expenditure was something like 26.3 per cent of GDP. You have to relate expenditure to something; you just can't give global figures, hanging and dangling. It has to be related to something to have some kind of meaning. You have to anchor it. That grew in 1980 to 1981 to 27.9 per cent, in 1986-87 to 29.8 per cent and in 1988-89 to 32.2 per cent. So I would say that in a country such as Barbados, growing over that period of time is not an unusual increase for Barbados, and that it is reasonable for a country which is showing the same kind of profile in a number of areas as the developed countries themselves. It would be high for a developing third world country, but most of the profile of Barbados reflects more the middle income country or the developed country in a number of ways, and we would expect that to reflect itself in our expenditures as well. But if we are talking about expenditures, let us understand some main things because the thrust of the argument has been Government's over-expenditure.

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

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I said I am looking in that direction, but you don't necessarily believe that where I am looking means that that is the thrust of my comment. I have a problem looking that way.

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

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: This debate has not been about Government's over-expenditure.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I know that is what you want me to say. The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central spoke about over-expenditure and how we have all these culpable situations.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir, may I correct myself. I should have been speaking of Government's squandermania.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: All right, Sir, he has now spoken about squandermania, and I am stating that he just wants to Link himself with the Opposition. Wherever you can find some comfort, you are trying to make common ground with them. In your speech here this afternoon that is what you have been doing, trying to sidle down to them and now using the word "squandermania" because the Leader of the minority Opposition is reported to have used that word. That is the only purpose why you have got up to say so.

Sir, a major contributor I have said over and over again to expenditures in this country is the wages and salaries and related expenditures that any Government of this country has to face, and we had a salaries increase during the financial year 1986-87. 4.35 p.m.

That Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central was the Minister of Finance and he ran away from paying thai particular expenditure. As Minister of Finance I had to come to this House for that particular expenditure so it showed up in that particular area.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I did not have to get up on any point of order when you were speaking...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central is on a point of order.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: You did not have to get up on a point of order because I did not seek to mislead the House.

The negotiations were settled at the end of January at a time when the Estimates were already prepared, approved by Cabinet and ready for printing and the Ministry of Finance was not involved in the negotiations for salaries.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your point is made.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I was informed by the Minister of the Public Service some time after the end of January 1987 of the completion of those negotiations. It is totally untrue.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: It is totally untrue but you watch it this year. I believe last year and in all of the years that I can remember, Governments whether of the Barbados Labour Party or of the Democratic Labour Party, have come to this Honourable Chamber with supplemcntarics to meet expenditures right into the month of March.

I am saying like everything else you ran away from that problem and I had to deal with it. We are dealing with the problem that you have created, or helped to create and that we are trying to correct now.

Aside.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I am talking about public expenditures. We will deal with printing money. I am saying that as Minister of Finance - and do not believe that you can get up in here and speak and be very offensive to the Chairman and then have to be corrected for that and have to come in here and apologise for it

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

I have not apologized to anybody for anything. I withdrew a remark which I did not consider offensive but never mind, I withdrew the remark.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Now, now. That is not a point of order in the first place. I want to say this that loud asides that I am hearing, I will consider interruptions to the debate and I do not want to have to deal with that kind of situation.

The Prime Minister may continue.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I am saying that there was a wages settlement and that you refused to bring the matter to provide the funds to pay the public servants during your term as Minister of Finance and that when I became Minister of Finance I had to bring the matter down here.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: A point of order. Dr. R.

C. HAYNES: On a point of order.

I wish to state again categorically that that statement is untrue for two reasons, for the reasons that I gave already and for the second reason that the matter was brought to Parliament before you became Minister of Finance and most of the wages were paid before you became Minister of Finance. That is not true.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: They showed up in the financial year not in the financial year in which the agreement was reached, and then in the following year we got that particular matter showing itself up in the year 1988-89. The fact is that that is part of the expenditure.

Aside.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I do not know about that. You will have to say that because everything you say is only to explain your past conduct. You ran away from every particular problem and that is your contribution to public life in this country but anyhow, I am talking about the public affairs of this country so what we have...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am having too many interruptions in the debate.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: What we have here, Sir, therefore, is that in the year 1988-89 we had to deal with a problem left by that Honourable Member, as far as the wages are concerned, and then we had a new salaries revision to deal with and those things just do not go away when you meet the first bill. They are continuing.

The wages and levels rise therefore to a different level altogether and we have to deal with that so I have given the percentage relationship between expenditures and GDP and I have pointed out that...

Aside.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: You ask a Parliamentary Question and I will give you the answer.

Aside.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Well, why are you asking it then?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Nobody will be permitted to lie in this Chamber and I am asking the Honourable Member for St Michael South Central to desist from those kinds of interruptions.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Now, as far as the speech of the Honourable Member is concerned, let us see the nature of that intervention today. Where the Honourable Member for St. Peter made a comment that was considered by him to be critical .if the Government of Barbados hs joined forces in his words with the Honourable Member for St Peter but on the occasion that the Honourable Member for St. Peter made a stricture, a criticism and a rejection of his policies, he said, "Oh, the Member for St Peter only had a minor difference with me. We only had a minor difference with him."

Aside.

Rt Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Yes, lambasted him and he sought then to minimize the criticism by saying, "Oh this is only a minor difference between the two of us." That kind of political sidling, we can examine it and we know exactly what is the purpose behind that.

Aside.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Yes, sidling up so that is the particular position because it is clear to all of the observers in this country that the problems that we are

facing now apart from the problems that are endemic in our community, because we have problems that are endemic and other problems surface from time to time, it is known that we are trying to correct problems in this country.

We have been trying to get out of a recession. That is what we have been trying to do and it is not that as a people we will not be faced with problems and what is required is an understanding of those problems and also the quality of leadership in order to explain to the people of this country exactly what those problems are and the way that we should approach them.

Now, I have always said on the question of interest rates that we believe that there should be an interest rates policy to keep interest rates as low as possible in the circumstances. 4.45 p.m.

I said that in my first Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals 1988-89. I have said also and that is my view, that if the rates prevailing in Barbados are too much out of line with rates prev«'!i"g externally and in our trading partners....

Aside.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I am telling you that is my view, that it will create problems. That is what I believe. I do not have to apologize for that particular view. It is what I happen to believe. If in a discussion somewhere it is pointed out that the rates in Barbados can be substantially lower than the rates in other countries without any dilatorious effect on the economy of this country, I will be the first to make the modification.

As the Member for St. John so eloquently said, we arc not afraid if we make mistakes or errors to come and say that that is a mistake or that is an error. That is the purpose of life. It is the purpose of management. Because sometimes things do not turn out as you wish them to be, But on this particular matter, I do not have any evidence that would contradict that particular position. But I am willing to listen to the arguments,

Aside.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I think there was some kind of agreement that this can be the reply and that there are other Heads.

So, Sir, on....

Aside.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: There arc other Heads. We do not stop you from speaking. Why do you want to stop me from speaking?

Aside.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Finish this Head.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let there be no misunderstanding at this point. When the Right Honourable Prime Minister rose there was an agreement with the Members of the Opposition in their place that the Prime Minister could wind up because there were other Heads which they would discuss further.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Yes. You all were outside. And I have half hour. How much time do I have left? It is half hour.

Aside.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: No, no, no. It is half hour.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Prime Minister will you continue.

Rt. Hon. I, E. SANDIFORD: Sir, I should like to turn for the fu-xt few minutes to the question of the balance of payments and foreign exchange. And I should like to make one point Any person in Barbados wishing to send money outside of the country in foreign exchange takes their local currency to the foreign exchange authority or to a bank, ' present their money and seek to purchase the foreign exchange. If they fall within the guidelines, they will get their foreign exchange.

Aside.

Rt Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I can only deal with the legal way. The foreign exchange that is provided either has to come out of the earnings by the people of Barbados or ii has to come from somebody else's foreign earnings. Now let us look at these two areas.

In order for the people or Barbados to earn the foreign exchange they have to sell goods and services abroad and we all are agreed that the productive sectors of the economy in the area of export have a tremendous responsibility to try to maximize or earn as much foreign exchange as possible. We are operating in a situation in which one of those sectors, the agricultural sector had a shortfall particularly in respect of earnings from sugar. Sugar production has been down.

Aside.

Rt Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Okay 2 years decline. We had that So we are in a situation.....

Aside.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: What change what Minister, what?

Aside.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Shuffle the pack?

Aside.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I have stood on this Floor of the House and have heard a Prime Minister .....

Asides.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: No. I would not refer to my friend, the Honourable Member for Christ Church West on this occasion. We have that particular shortfall. You see, sometimes when we speak, we speak as though we have not addressed or are not addressing those problems. But when we get up and speak the corrections do not take place as our words fall from our mouth. It takes time. And the Minister of Agriculture is giving leadership in this particular area.

Aside.

Rt Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Yes, I am a Christian minded man so I have no problem with making the sign of the cross. And both through encouragement and urgings to the private sector and through the Government agency, the Agricultural Development Corporation, we have been seeking to increase both the acreage under sugar cultivation and hopefully we have been seeking to get increased sugar production.

There is no magic about the export sectors. We are trying to stimulate those. And that was the main thrust of rny Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals earlier this year. We sought to deal with the agricultural sector, with the manufacturing sector, as well as with the tourism sector by making certain incentives available to boost the earnings from those 3 sectors. So we have been addressing the productive sectors. 4.55 p.m.

The point I am making, Sir, is that as far as the foreign exchange is concerned, the very comprehensive policy that the member for St. Peter referred to, we are seeking to deal with the problem comprehensively. We are seeking to deal with demand, first of all, by trying to dampen that somewhat so that hopefully there will be a reduction in our demand for imports. Then we are trying to stimulate our exports, the major sectors, we provided some incentives and we will be looking at these productive sectors again. This is an ongoing thing.

The third area, of course, is that if we do not earn the foreign exchange, or to tide over the period while your productive sectors are getting into shape, you have to seek to borrow abroad on the theory of what I referred to as' inter temporal transactions. So on all three areas the Government is taking the measures deemed desirable in order to deal with the situation. All that we are getting from the Opposition NDP, I am not talking about the minority Opposition, is a litany of the problems involved, but that is all; highly negative, nothing new, in a situation where they have made a substantial contribution towards the problems that we are presently dealing with, and on top of that they ran away from the problems. We cannot really take .that kind of thing seriously.

Sir, there will be other opportunities. I believe my time is up. I have made the point that as far as the public finances are concerned, our current revenues and expenditures, I have set out that position, that we are managing on a small surplus there; that our capital expenditures are running roughly at this time about the same level as in 1988. I believe up to this time, the end of November, we had spent about $103.8 million on capital expenditure and at this time we have spent $105.3 million. Our loan receipts are just about the same, $102.9 million up to this time in 1988 and $106.3 million in 1989.

There is no run away expenditure in Barbados. Those emotive terms are purely the tools for those who are seeking political advantage and do not relate to the statistics at all. In the area of foreign exchange and our balance of payments, we have been seeking to put in place a set of policies that would seek to address first the problem of demand, then the question of the earnings from exports of goods and services, and thirdly, a regime of financing through loans, which has been a policy followed for quite some time.

That is the basis of it, Sir, and the management of the economy is sound.

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

On the motion of Hon. P. M. GREAVES, seconded by Hon. E. E. GREAVES, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress and asked for leave to sit again, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I am going to move a short suspension of the sitting until 5.20 p.m. this evening.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly. 5.05 p.m.

ON RESUMPTION COMMITTEE

OF SUPPLY Mr. SPEAKER: This

sitting is resumed.

When the suspension was taken, the House was in Committee of Supply. To that it now reverts.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House resumed Committee of Supply, Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITEin the Chair.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Committee is resumed.

Order No. 3 (e) was called - To move the passing of a Resolution to amend the Explanatory Note to Head 18 - Audit, Subhead 1 - General Administration - Object No. 11.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Rt. Hon. L. E. S ANDIFORD: I beg to second that.

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

Order No. 3 (f) was called - To move the passing of a Resolution to amend the Explanatory Note to Head 73 - Ministry of Finance, Subhead 4.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Rt. Hon. L. E. S ANDIFORD: I beg to second that.

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

Order No. 3 (d) resumed.

Head 16 - Ministry of the Civil Service - $39 372 - was called.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 16 stand part.

Rt. Hon. L. E. S ANDIFORD: I beg to second that.

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

Head 19 - Ministry of Finance - was called.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 19 - Ministry of Finance stand part.

Rt. Hon. L. E. S ANDIFORD: I beg to second that.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, we do not want to hold up the House unnecessarily, but there are two things I would like to draw to the House's attention. The Prime Minister earlier today spoke with a certain concern and a certain hurt about the strength of the criticisms coming from both sides of this side, and he didn't ask for it, but he implied that there should be some restraint in the structures being levelled against the Government, in particular its management of the economy. We must not go over board, we must not pull down our country unnecessarily and send the wrong signals overseas. But at the same time, good democrat that he is who recently opened the Institute of Democracy, he would recognise that opposition parties have responsibilities to put the current case as they see it.

Before I compare what was being represented today, and for example what was represented five to six years ago when the Honourable Prime Minister was then on the side of the Opposition benches, there is something that has been bothering me for a few weeks. Some weeks ago the Prime Minister in the vein of calling for a sense of patriotism mentioned that certain elements had written letters overseas advising overseas lenders not to lend money to Barbados. I asked the Prime Minister then to let us know who these persons were and indeed whether they were any people in the Barbados Labour Party, and I got a kind of an assurance that they were not, but a couple of Sunday nights ago when there was a meeting in Independence Square, I heard him return to the issue and the language that he used left the crowd still wondering to whom he was referring. He repeated himself and said "they wrote". I want to know who is "they". I have heard about the letter concerned with some signature that was based in a kind of collective anonymity, but, Sir, in 1983 in the House of Assembly debates at page 3500, the now Prime Minister then in opposition spoke in these terms about the state of Barbados at the time.

"The Barbados Labour Party has only very belatedly accepted the thesis that we have advanced from out here that this country is in crisis. In what will go down in the political history of Barbados as the height of short-sightedness and political arrogance, the Government completely ignored the positive suggestions coming from this side. They said that they were the task force and that they could manage. And how well, Mr. Deputy Speaker, have they managed."

Listen to this prose, Sir, sweet. "Indeed not all the perfumes of Araby, not all the waters of the Seven Seas, not all the oratory of Cicero or Demosthenes can alter the fad that the Democratic Labour Party and its leader, the Rig! t Honourable Member for St. John handed over a sound inheritance to the Barbados Labour Party, and that in those seven years which have followed, seven short but lean years, that leadership over there, the Barbados Labour Party leadership, has squandered that inheritance to the extent that the Government has gone cap in hand to the IMF."

He was only doing what he did in 1982 at page 1414 of the debates. He was consistent, hut perhaps we may prefer a poet from the other side of the Atlantic. Perhaps I should quote from Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, speaking about the economy. "Tell me not in mournful numbers, life is but an empty dream, and the soul is dead that slumbers, and things are not what they seem." How appropriate are those words today, both sets in relation to the present situation in Barbados.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has two minutes more.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I would not expend the full two minutes. I heartily embrace, adopt and offer to this House as my own, those words so eloquently put in 1982 and 1983 as then being relevant to the economy of Barbados, and say that in 1989 December they are most apposite to our current situation.

The question that Head 19 - Ministry of Finance - stand part, -was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 5.30 p.m.

HEAD 18 - AUDIT

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I move that head 18 stand part.

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

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

HEAD 20 - REVENUE COLLECTION

Hon. P. M, GREAVES: I move that Head 20 stand part.

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

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

On motion of Hon. P. M. GREAVES seconded by Hon. E. E. GREAVES Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to His Honour the DEPUTY SPEAKER the passing of six money Resolutions in Committee and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order No. 4.

CARICOM ENTERPRISES BILL, 1989

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, you would recall that well over a year ago this Bill was introduced into this Honourable Chamber by myself and there was a debate on the Bill. But then because of the fact that at the level of CARICOM some member states had raised some questions about the non-inclusion of certain services, particularly airline services, into the general sweep of this particular bit of legislation that .the Barbados Government was informed by the CARICOM Secretariat that they would wish to have this matter held until the necessary consultations had taken place to ensure that this CARICOM ENTERPRISE Regime Bill captured as wide an area of business activity as possible.

As a result we withdrew the Bill thereby enabling the consultations to take place and today we are re-introducing this Bill into Parliament.

The arguments which were advanced and forwarded on that occasion still stand very much and I do not intend to go into any long introduction of the Bill. I think very clearly the Bill sets out what it purports to do as far as establishing a Regime for CARICOM ENTERPRISES is concerned and it makes provision for the establishment, basically, of joint enterprises between national investors.

It also captures the whole question of the need to develop and give further scope for national and regional entrepreneurship, management and technological capacity in the production of goods and services on a regional basis for both the regional and extra-regional market.

It also provides an opportunity to pool human, financial and natural resources of the region for the implementation of high priority regional projects design to benefit the people of the region and particular emphasis J*as been placed on the awareness of the critical role which the private sector on its own or in partnership with the region's public sector suitable for investors can play in the economic development of the region.

Of course, it captures the need for the creation of machinery whereby the movement of investment capital between member states, particularly, from the more developed to the less developed countries may be expeditiously effected in the interest of the development of the region.

Basically, that is the whole thrust of this particular bit of legislation. It has been long in the making. I think the original idea started to be canvassed and the legal work started to be done way back in the 1970's. I believe it was the then Mr. Justice Williams who is now the Chief Justice of Barbados who did a lot of work on this particular bit of legislation.

I think coming at this time when there is every effort being made at the regional level to ensure that the Regional Integration Movement is put on a firm footing that a Bill of this nature is critical for the survival of the region.

I just want to make the point that if one looks around the world and see what is happening, one would come very clearly to the conclusion that the world is moving closer and closer into groupings. We have, let us say, on the one hand the European Economic Community which is moving from a stage even to a higher stage with the exciting possibilities which now exist in Eastern Europe.

We have in North America the grouping between the United States and Canada with a possibility of Mexico joining into that arrangement. We also have in the Pacific the development of the Pacific Rim or the possibility of the Pacific Rim as a very strong economic trading bloc and I think that in the Caribbean we have to be vitally aware that our existence in this very competitive world, a very difficult work in terms of the promotion of exports from the region, in terms of the attraction of investment into the region, in terms of finding avenues for the tremendous human resources and the development oi the human resources which we have in this region can only be done on a regional basis. 5.40 p.m.

It is with this particular objective in mind that one has to welcome this particular piece of legislation which will give an opportunity for regional enterprises to be launched and to be able to have a legal status in the particular areas from which the investment conies, being able to take advantage of any legal and taxation arrangements which exist in these particular countries. Because at the moment, as I understand it, such an enterprise if this Bill is not in place would, let us say, attract taxation in the country from which the investment flows and indeed in which it is operating. So that what we are trying to do is to make sure that it is written into an arrangement that the incentives and the opportunities which we would like to see provided for investments of this nature are taken care of.

It is really against this background that I would want to introduce this Bill which would provide for the implementation by the Government of Barbados of the Agreement for the establishment of a Regime for CARICOM ENTERPRISES. And I would want to state that it is an Agreement to which Barbados is a party. All the member states now in the region obviously have signed the Agreement and it is ready for ratification and certainly from our point of view, for implementation into our legislation. Those enterprises which will become CARICOM ENTERPRISES will carry, after the name of the company, the initials CE which would indicate that it is a CARICOM ENTERPRISE.

It will provide an opportunity, particularly for the services sector. I would think that legal services, auditing and accounting services, construction companies and consultants in the construction and building industry would particularly benefit from an enterprise of this nature, from this kind of arrangement. That of course is an area which is gaining more and more importance in our whole, not only national economy, but also in our regional economy and certainly in the world.

The whole question of services is coming into prominence and it is one area in which the Government of Barbados is finding very exciting and important and we are paying a great deal of attention to the development of this particular area, that is, the area of services.

I would want to say that in this particular regard that we know that the services sector is making a very important contribution towards the earning of foreign exchange in this country. Unfortunately, the contribution which it is making is not at the moment specifically captured in the statistics which are prepared for our perusal.

One \would hope that at some time that these could be broken out and separated into a separate head so that we would really see the extent to which the services sector is making as far as the contribution is concerned.

But the whole question of informatics and the linking of that, the data processing area with the telecommunications area is an area which is a growth area in Barbados, in the region and indeed in the world. We have to be poised to have the instruments in place to take advantage, whether we are going to take advantage at a national level, or indeed at a regional level of these opportunities.

1 would want therefore to commend this bit of legislation to this Honourable Chamber. I do not think that it is a controversial piece of legislation and I would hope that this can be considered as a bit of legislation which is new and which will be breaking new ground in the area of regional co-operation and regional integration.

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

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: I beg to second that, Sir, and reserve my right to speak.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Peter.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, work on this legislation has been continuing for a large number of years and the bringing to the House of this legislation in a way allows us not only to reflect on the rationale and the

benefits to be enjoyed by CARICOM Enterprises but perhaps, Sir, to reflect on the future of our own integration movement.

I support, Sir, unreservedly any initiative taken in the Caribbean to move the Caribbean experience beyond the level of the movement of goods. It has been recognized for many years particularly by academics within the University of the West Indies that the fullness of the integration experience in the Caribbean cannot be realized if we see integration as involving only the removal of barriers to trade.

It was recognized indeed by the new world school in the late 1960s that the possibility for trade creation coming out of the removal of barriers in the Caribbean context was extraordinarily limited and that in a similar capacity that the possibilities for trade diversion were equally limited and that a CARICOM regional experience based only on the freeing of trade was an experience that was doomed to failure.

In many respects, the lack of real success in deriving tremendous benefits from the integration movement in the Caribbean today has had to do with the fact that to a large degree, integration in the Caribbean has simply meant the removal of barriers to trade. It is in that spirit that I welcome this legislation into which much effort has been invested to move integration in the region from just involving a removal of barriers to trade towards a deeper form of co-operation between the people for the region.

Indeed, Sir, it is my belief that until one finds a system of bringing about joint investment between the people of the Caribbean the tendency on the part of some countries acting in their own domestic defence to frustrate the trade provisions of the Caribbean until one moves towards a deeper form of integration, that will never be realized. Until one has a situation in the Caribbean where Trinidadians invest in Barbadian firms and Barbadians invest in Trinidadian firms, we would always have a situation where the Trinidadian Government would feel, when it is under pressure, that it can ban Barbadian goods because in banning Barbadian goods, it knows that it is not affecting the interest of Trinidadians.

And until one has a situation where Jamaicans can invest in Barbadian firms freely, we would always have a situation where Jamaicans would always ban Barbadian goods when they run into problems because they know that in so doing that they would not be affecting the Jamaican entrepreneurs.

And I therefore have always felt, Sir, that for the trade integration in the Caribbean to work it must also involve the free movement of capital within the region and, to some extent, the free movement of human capital as well.

I therefore, Sir, in that kind of capacity welcome this legislation which by the creation of a form of enterprise called a CARICOM ENTERPRISE is in fact going to deepen the integration movement within the region.
5.50p.m.

I have to ask the Minister, Sir, some specific questions as regards developments within the Caribbean region. Certainly under the 1974 harmonisation scheme there, was an attempt made to harmonise the fiscal incentives in the region, but various member countries acting in their own economic interests have from time to time introduced fiscal measures that do not necessarily coincide with the provisions of the 1974 harmonisation scheme.

If I may illustrate, for example, in 1984 or 1985 Trinidad introduced a scheme of rebates for exports by enclaves that bore no relationship whatsoever to that which was established in the 1974 harmonised arrangements, and Barbados followed suit in 1985 and also made an adjustment to its own rebates for extra regional exports largely as a defensive measure in the face of changes made by Trinidad.

I am therefore asking the Minister whether work that has been going on to change the existing range of incentives offered to manufacturing in the region, what is the status of that work, and whether the changes that have been introduced by some member countries will be used as the benchmark against which changes in the future will be set.

As regards this particular piece of legislation, Sir, there are some aspects of it that seem to me at face value not to be clear. For example, the taxation of CARICOM ENTERPRISES. It says here that the corporate profits of a CARICOM ENTERPRISE shall be subject to tax except where the equity capital is wholly owned by Governments of Member States. At face value, Sir, that would seem to create a situation in which CARICOM ENTERPRISES wholly owned by Governments will enjoy a status that is entirely more favourable than the same CARICOM ENTERPRISES that are either owned jointly between Government and the private sector, or are owned entirely by the private sector.

I therefore would have to ask for clarification of this particular point, because if we are going to seek to create CARICOM ENTERPRISES in which the private sector can participate, it would seem to me that by definition we are going to limit the interest of the private sector in wishing ?o become involved in these ENTERPRISES if we are going to write into the legislation that if an ENTERPRISE is entirely owned by the State then it is not going to be subject to tax, but if the ENTERPRISE is to be owned by the private sector, then it is to be.

Aside.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: I am referring to Article 13, Sir, but I am still seeking clarification from the Minister whether that is the intention of the legislation, because the legislation would seem to me to be saying by implication that in circumstances where the ENTERPRISE is wholly owned by member countries, then it is not subject to taxes, but that it leaves ENTERPRISES that are not owned wholly by Government subject to the payment of corporation tax. By definition that is a form of discrimination to two ENTERPRISES which carry the same nomenclature. Remember that what this legislation is seeking to do is create a special regime for enterprises which we want to call CARICOM ENTERPRISES. We want to call them CARICOM ENTERPRISES, I would imagine, Sir, because we want now to build the regional movement on the basis of the flow of investments between member countries in the region, whether those flows of investment are private flows or whether they are public flows. The specific question is whether the implication of Article 13 would not by definition only make state-owned ENTERPRISES subject to the non-payment of tax, whereas it would subject joint ventures between the public and private sectors as well as wholly private enteiprises subject to tax.

Indeed, Sir, what you will also succeed in doing is that you could put a CARICOM ENTERPRISE in a dis-advantageous position relative to an extra regionally owned ENTERPRISE which happens to be operating under fiscal incentives.

Aside.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: The member for St, John is saying that the legislation is cumbersome and it should be clear.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am not really hearing the member for St. John, I am hearing the Honourable Member for St. Peter.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: I am making the point, Sir, the legislation as it now stands will also put CARICOM ENTERPRISES at a position of disadvantage, as compared to foreign owned ENTERPRISES which are operating under existing fiscal incentive legislation and which, by reason of operating under existing fiscal incentive legislation, enjoy tax holiday periods. If that is the intention of the legislation, then it would seem to me that we would not in point of fact be endowing CARICOM ENTERPRISES with any particular benefits, and that the legislation therefore, Sir, would to some extent not lead to the kind of benefits to the CARICOM region as we would hope for.

I must also, Mr. Deputy Speaker, enquire of the Government whether any progress is being made as regards resolving matters pertaining to the Caribbean Multilateral Clearing Facility. This is a serious outstanding regional issue. For the sake of partisan politics, Sir, there has always been an inclination in this country to put the blame for that particular matter where it truly does not reside.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am not now going to go into all the details of the Caribbean Multilateral Clearing Facility. For members who want to read about it, there is an article by Carl Bennett in Social and Economic Surveys, I think, of 1984, but the truth of the matter simply is this, that the Caribbean Multilateral Clearing Facility eventually came to grief, if only in part, because of the unilateral change in the rules governing the Multilateral Clearing Facility by the bankers, Trinidad and Tobago in particular. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Trinidad's unilateral decision to pass its sale of oil to Guyana through the books of the Multilateral Clearing Facility, while requiring that Barbados had to pay for its oil imports from Trinidad in cash, something to which Barbados has never agreed, and equally, Sir, as a result of the Central Banks of the region leaning over backwards to try to accommodate the credit requirements of Guyana at a time when there was a genuine feeling that one of the purposes of a Multilateral Clearing Facility should be to help the member countries in distress. 6.00 p.m.

Now it is a fact as well, Sir, and not very often known as well that in 1983 decisions were taken to restart the Caribbean Multilateral Clearing Facility, and that one Minister of Finance Tom Adams, signed it, but the other Minister of Finance in Trinidad on the following day did not sign on the grounds that gentlemen do not sign agreements. That is a fact. The truth of the matter, Sir, is that Barbados in my view is not sufficiently wealthy to regard a debt owed to it of $115 million as a debt that we can write off. I do not believe that, and there seems to be growing in this country the attitude that we must treat it as a bad debt, that we must write it off, and that we must ourselves limp along with our balance of payments problems, put ourselves to the expedient of having to borrow for balance of payments purposes, and do all other kinds of things that we would not be put to the necessity of having to do if those funds were to be encashed to the benefit of the people of this country.

I am not about to argue that it is feasible or possible for Barbados to explore an option which says that the Caribbean Multilateral Clearing Facility debt to this country can be wiped off or cleared or settled in one fell swoop, but I believe, Sir, that it must be a matter of good faith between countries that want to deepen an integration movement that a debt by one country to the rest of the region and in particular the debt by one country to another country should not be allowed to remain in limbo without some effort being made to show that good faith is being abided by in the matter. I know that there has been a lot of discussion on this matter; for example there has been discussion of the manner in which one could convert the Multilateral Clearing Facility balances outstanding into long term

liabilities on the part of the Government of Guyana that would allow them to repay them. Various arrangements, Mr. Deputy Speaker, have been conceived of whereby Guyana would use part of the proceeds of its trade in commodities to Barbados to help reduce the debt, and in fact I would go on record now as saying that in areas in which Guyana has a capacity to sell commodities to Barbados, particularly building materials and things like that, that we should be prepared in Barbados to give them a preference provided that part of the increased exports from Guyana to Barbados would be used by Guyana to help us in reducing that particular outstanding balance.

I remember, Sir, at the Heads of Government conference in 1985 when Barbados came and supported Guyana's position that member countries in the region were buying goods and sugar from outside the region, not at the CARICOM price for sugar but at free market prices, Barbados supported Guyana's position - I was at Sam Lord's Castle - when Guyana gave a commitment as well that if Caribbean countries would agree to buy as they are required to do Caribbean sugar at Caribbean prices, that it would use part of the proceeds from that sale to help work down its balances to the CMCF. Indeed, Sir, I want to say that all Caribbean countries must recognise that they have a role to play in this matter, that in 1974 when the world market prices were high for sugar, that all of them benefited from the fact that there was a Caribbean price for sugar, and that you could buy sugar from those countries in the region that were in a surplus position. They benefited when the prices were high, and now that the price of Caribbean sugar, because there is a special price at which Caribbean countries are supposed to trade in sugar among themselves, is lower than the world market price, I think it is wrong for Caribbean countries to be professing their strong commitment to this regionalism, but buying cheap world market sugar and allowing the sugar industry in this region to go into further decay, I have to therefore ask of the Minister whether there has been any progress a! the level of trade negotiations in the region in dealing with matters such as these; but from the point of view of the Barbados Labour Party I want just to put on the records that we do not accept the view and. the psychology which seems to be creeping in that we must forever treat this as a bad debt. There are a lot of people who say that during the calculations of our foreign exchange and so on, there is a psychology and the subconscious is beginning to work itself in .....

Asides.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: But I wonder if all in Barbados will say that we cannot afford as a small country to have somebody owe us $115 million, no matter whose fault it is. I know whose fault it is, but we have to all agree that we cannot afford to be owed $115 million, each year having to be borrowing here and borrowing there and that we are going to treat it as if it is a debt that you should let us write off. I do not want to have the Barbados Labour Party at all associated with anything like that. We cannot afford it, and I want to say that we will support any feasible and reasonable trade and financial arrangements taken at the highest level in CARICOM that would put the countries that owe us this money in a position as to enable us in Barbados to have the reasonable certainty that that money can be worked down if not in one fell swoop, over a period of time. I am saying to the House that if it also means that we have in the circumstances to buy from Guyana commodities that would enable them to have the foreign exchange to help work down that, it is in Barbados' interest also to pursue that option, and if it means that we have to support Guyana's position as regards other Caribbean countries that are now buying cheap world market sugar instead of buying from Guyana at the Caribbean price, we must support that position, Sir, but we will not believe that we must write it off as a bad debt.

I therefore just want the Government to understand , that while there might not have been any action in this area for a number of years, we want this issue to be kept current, and that whatever pressure as well has to be brought on the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, because part of the problem was caused by the Government of Trinidad, One of these days 1 will have the iiivte 10 go Into the full details of the CMCF operation because Trinidad took a number of unilateral actions that caused the amount owed by the CMCF to Barbados. If for example the Central Bank of Trinidad had treated Barbados* oil imports from Trinidad in the same way that it treated Guyana's oil imports from Trinidad, the CMCF would not now be owing Barbados that volume of money, but they acted unilaterally and they have a moral responsibility having acted unilaterally to assist in finding a solution to this particular problem. I speak with passion in this matter because the Barbados Labour Party has been accused of having left this albatross around the necks of ihe people of Barbados. There is a Sot to the Caribbean MiHilateral Clearing Facility thai has *m>i* been explained. The attitude, for example, of Tom Adams in relation to the Nassau Accord and things of that character all has to do with the recalcitrance of the agents of the Multilateral Clearing Facility to do what they know that had to be done in a non-discriminatory manner. I therefore appreciate that particular discussion.

I also want the Minister to dilate on the break through. I want the Minister to give us his best estimate of the possibilities for the resolution of the problems of CARICOM. I go back again to this famous paper that was prepared in the name of the Democratic Labour Party and presented to a private sector consultation at the Barbados Hilton on 25th May 1985. I remember it very well as the present Minister of Agriculture must remember it very well, because I presented a paper then on behalf of the Barbados Labour Party, and he said then....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is that already a document of the House?

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: I will make it a document, but the Minister of Agriculture remembers it very well.
6.10p.m.

He said that as a result of some diplomatic infelicities...

Aside.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Page 4 - "Trinidad and Tobago appears to. be a little bit difficult about Jetting our manufactured goods into their market." It was not because of the kind of Trinidad economy. They would have it then as a result of some diplomatic infelicities. Now, those no longer exist.

And he went on at page 5:

"We in the DLP remain convinced that a concerted negotiating settlement between Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago is not only a vital necessity, but"

And ho underlines it Sir: "but

that it can be achieved."

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Just for the record state the nature of the document that you are reading from.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: I said an Address by Warwick O. Franklin, M.P. on behalf of the Democratic Labour Party on the occasion of a private sector consultation at the Barbados Hilton on May 25,1985.

Aside.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: \Vs exchanged papers. This is the one that you gave me and it slill has your fingerprints on it.

Aside.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: I would not want to remind you again, Sir, of what he said ir. the area of agriculture but it was very nice.

"Non-sugar agriculture and fisheries have performed creditably over the last three years. In the case of fisheries this is due largely to the introduction of iceboats fishing off the island of Tobago and with the knowledge and quiet approval of the Trinidad Coast Guard."

What, Sir, has changed? Are there any longer any diplomatic infelicities that stand in the way of Barbados reaching a concerted negotiated settlement that is not only vital but also achievable? Why is there that outstanding hiatus in the area of a fisheries agreement that would allow those iceboats that were doing so well by the Minister's estimation in 1984 to do equally well in 1989 and beyond? What, Sir, now explains this sad situation?

Aside.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: I am not a member of the Democratic Labour Party administration. I look with bewilderment at the manner in which the trade between Barbados and Trinidad has gone down.

I remember shortly after I first came to this House hearing the fine baritone voice of the Minister of Health saying that he personally will lead a delegation the week after the election to Trinidad and resolve all of the problems in Trinidad because the problems are only a problem concerning Tom Adams and a certain Ambassador called Mr. Pitt.

Have those meetings been held and if the meetings have been held what stand in the way now of a concerted negotiated settlement being reached now that there are no longer any diplomatic infelicities?

I thhik, Sir, that the Minister of Trade ought to speak fully on what he sees as the immediate prospects of our reaching a comprehensive relationship in all the various areas in which Barbados and Trinidad have a mutual interest.

I want to say, Sir, without being able to substantiate It, that, perhaps, we cannot disassociate part of Trinidad's attitude in relation to fishing rights from the attitude and their position in regard to air route rights in this region. I want to say that. I am not in a position since I am not in the Ministry of Trade to substantiate it, but it seems to me thai Trinidad is interested in some quid pro quo that can be of substance to the people of Trinidad and that in the same way that we feel that we have an interest to defend as regards fishing, that they seem as they have an interest to defend in relation to air routes and that the question of BWIA's relationship through Barbados and to air routes is a matter that is worthy of exploration,

But we have not heard from the Government of Barbados on the question of quid pro quos that would allow the Trinidad Government now that their economy is under pressure to gain in a mutually advantageous way from our extended overall economic relationship with Trinidad as we never wished.

It seems to me also, Sir, that our position in relation to negotiations with Trinidad is based still to too large an extent on the presumption that Trinidad is still in the position to bank roll Caribbean trade and development as it was in the past because if you will recall, Sir, and I will put this on the record as well, that when Trinidad was in a position really to have helped financed Caribbean development, it did. I will say that on behalf of them.

Barbados itself benefitted in the 1970's and the 1980's from the loans to support the balance of payments extended by Trinidad and Tobago. Jamaica did. Guyana did but Trinidad itself now,...

Aside.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: But Trinidad was in a position then to help finance and bank roll intra-regional trade and when it was in a position to do so I would concede that it did so with generosity and that in the past a lot of trade negotiations with Trinidad would have been worked out on the benefit that Trinidad was doing well, rolling in wealth and that the question of quid pro pros were not matters that fell to be considered. I feel that in the contemporary relationships with Trinidad and Tobago a mutually advantageous set of quid pro pros must now be part of any approach to that country now that it is facing balance of payments difficulties and, therefore, I would very much welcome an exposition from the Minister of Trade as regards the exact status of negotiations and the relationship with Trinidad not only as it pertains to trading goods, but the overall set of financial and other economic affairs between our two countries.

I am obliged to you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. R, P. BYER: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I shall not oe very long because a number of the matters that! wanted to touch upon in some detail has already been covered by the last Honourable Member who spoke.

Any initiative that is made to strengthen the Regional Integration Movement is an initiative that I would support and it is for this reason that this limb of the Opposition will give its support to this Bill presently being considered at its second reading stage, But in doing that, I would like to make one or two comments and at the same time ask the Minister to respond to a number of queries I have in relation to this Bill.

Now, I would want at first to touch on the relationship or the position that the Government of Barbados has taken in its approach to the negotiations with Trinidad over fishing rights. Now, recently Carl Hutson Phillips who is Chairman of BWIA had some things to say about the attitude of certain Caribbean Governments in relation to the stand that those Governments have taken vis-a- vis BWIA and the opening of routes to Britain and at that time...

Aside.

Mr. R. P. BYER: England through Antigua. At that time he called for aid and was asking for the support of Caribbean countries in Trinidad and Tobago's fight with Britain to get similar treatment for BWIA as British Airways was getting. 6.20 p.m.

Now it occurred to me a little strange, a little odd that here we have a situation where Barbados was negotiating with Trinidad about fishing rights and they were playing hard ball so to speak not seemingly willing to bend, prepared as it were to have a hand in the destruction of the fishing industry in Barbados, but at the same time on the other hand now, something that is vital to them, vital to their wellbeing, that is, BWIA, they were asking us Barbadians to support them in their fight.

Now I found that to be a little strange and it seemed to me to be a little inconsistent. I did not say anything about it at the time because I just wanted to be sure that I was not immature in my judgement about the whole matter. But now I am satisfied that Trinidad is seeking to have BWIA to be the regional carrier, has got to bend, has got to negotiate in good faith when it comes to dealing with Barbados in relation to the fishing rights.

I am very supportive of Government's efforts to conclude a treaty, a treaty that is very favourable to Barbados because I would not want to see our fishing industry destroyed. I would not want to see the small fishermen in Barbados suffer *m* a result of Trinidad's attitude to an aspect of regional integration, something that could further the regional integration movement.

I know that the Government so far has been vet*/ reluctant to see BWIA as a negotiating position. But one of the principles of the art of negotiation is that you have got to use your strongest plank when you are negotiating. And I know it is a matter for the Government, a matter of judgment in particular for the Minister when he will decide to use this. But I think the time has now come inasmuch as Trinidad is now asking for support in its fight with Britain in relation to BWIA, it is now time for him to put our cards on the table in relation lo BWIA.

There are many other regional carriers that want to come to Barbados and if it comes to that, we should have to play hard ball in relation to that. I am a little disturbed from time to time at the attitude that we take when we come to negotiate not only with regional governments but also with international organizations, sometimes I wonder if we could not be a little tougher. I find that Barbados - I mean in this regard is the most recent example that I can think about - sometimes could be a little firmer.

I find that in relation to the CMCF position that we have now with Guyana, I support the suggestion of the Member for St. Peter when he said that efforts should be made to get back this money, $145 million it is, with interest. God knows how much it will be. I was wondering whether some bargaining arrangement could not be worked out. I do not know what the ramifications of that would be, how difficult it would be to work out a bargaining arrangement whereby we could trade off the amount of money that they owe us for goods. But something has got to

be done to get it back. And I certainly will not support any move to write off that debt. I certainly will not agree that it is a bad debt at this stage. We shall have to do everything to get back that money.

There are one or two things I said I would want to ask the Minister if he is able to answer me.

Aside.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Well if I am disagreeing with my list, so be it. I have never heard his views on it. But if I am disagreeing....

Aside,

Mr. R. P. BYER: No, I cannot remember. Honestly.

Aside.

Mr. R. P. BYER: I do not know if he has. I notice that this Act will come into operation on a date to be fixed by pro-amiUion. T will want to know b.~w soon we can hope to get it. If it is possible to find out, if rfie Minister can give us information how many countries have passed enabling legislation.

It has come to my notice that some of the language used in the Act does not conform with the language that we now use in our Companies legislation. I notice in the Act that we have got to incorporate when we want to engage in a CARICOM Enterprise that apart from adopting the procedure for incorporation in this Act, we are also asked to follow the company law of the country. For example like memorandum of association, articles and so on. That is the language used in this Act. Thai is something that we do not have now in Barbados. We have articles of incorporation and by- laws. So ii might call for a little tidying up or we might have some of the language of drafting to cover these situations,

Aside.

Mr. R, P. BYER: If *you* look at" Article 4 (2) you would see- that for example. "The name of the Member State in which the central management and control of the CARICOM ENTERPRISE will be situated (hereinafter called the "Headquarters State") shall be stated in the memorandum of association." We do not have that now. This is why I was saying that maybe we will have to use some of the language of drafting in the Act, not in the Treaty, to make clear that for example where we say memorandum of association, we may mean articles of Incorporation. Something like that.

Now there is also mention of the authority at Article 8. Article 8 of the Treaty refers to the authority. And I was wondering whether it has been designated for this purpose where that authority will be situated. For example Article 8 (1) says:

> "For the purposes of this Agreement, there shall be a CARICOM ENTERPRISE Authority which shall comprise one representative of each Member State, one official of the Caribbean Community Secretariat, one official of the Caribbean Development Bank and one representative of the body or institution representing the private sector designated as a member of the Joint Consultative Group of the Common Market Council of Ministers."

I was wondering if it had been determined where that authority will be set up because it would seem to me to be important.

Because if we look at Article 6 (2) there is mention of programmes of activities and I was wondering what programmes of activities will be permissible. I knew when you were introducing the Bill, you said that certain kinds of activities would now be encouraged like lawyers services, construction and so OIL Bui I would hope for a broader definition of chat.

Sir, that is the contribution I would have to make.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for SL John.
630 p 01.

Mr, D. J. R THOMPSON: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I wish to start by saying that I will be supporting this Bill and to say that I agree with some of the remarks made by the Honourable Member for St. Peter regarding the Bill itself and the early portion of his speech relating to the movement of capital and particularly human capital. He did not develop that point particularly.

Before I go any further though, Sir, I would think that the matters raised by the Honourable Member for St, George South relating to some of the questions of the legal procedures and the judgment is a fairly critical point, because for example in Barbados I believe on the registration of a judgment here he would probably pay about 2% stamp duty, I think it is, and perhaps whatever other registration fees there are. It would mean that a CARICOM ENTERPRISE that wishes to register a judgment throughout the signatory territories may very weil end up paying a substantial amount in stamp duties and other costs in all of the territories.

The other thing about it is that when the question of enforcement of the judgment comes about, it might be a bit difficult to determine where the assets of the company are actually being held. It is not as easy as it appears. There are people in Barbados who can hide assets, far less a

CARICOM ENTERPRISE with Governments being involved where it might be very difficult to trace which of the territories holds the assets of the company, which commercial bank holds the assets. Indeed and in fact, eventually the investors in these CARICOM ENTERPRISES may find that trying to pursue a judgment against anybody would be so costly that it might be a waste of time, so perhaps very early up the Attorneys General or a technocratic committee relating to the Registration Departments or whatever should perhaps meet to determine how best these matters can be dealt with without causing any disability to a person seeking to enforce or even to register a judgment, which disability they would not have in their own territory, or beyond the disability they might have in their own territory. The second point is that the University of the West Indies has recently either complained or suggested that it should be involved more in the question of analysing the management structures and the performance of companies and entities existing under the CARICOM arrangements, whatever they may be, and I would think that from the outset with regard to the CARICOM ENTERPRISES - I believe the Vice Chancellor of the University, Alister Mclntyre, even suggested industrial parks, I think he called them, or research parks or something like that - I cannot even remember off hand - but I would think that these CARICOM ENTERPRISES would perform an ideal task if the University at a very early stage were involved in analysing their performance and also use some of its students and academics in the structure and the performance of the CARICOM ENTERPRISE.

Now, this poses another difficulty, and it was alluded to as I said earlier by the Honourable Member for St. Peter, and that is the question of work permits. I believe that perhaps the Immigration Department should now look towards setting up a special category or regime for persons who are employed or involved in the operation of these CARICOM ENTERPRISES. As it stands I believe there is a special regime for people at CDB, but it does not necessarily follow, because this legislation is really very clear in that all it basically says is that disabilities to a CARICOM ENTERPRISE will be no greater than those that exist in relation to a national enterprise in the given territory. That to some extent really does not offer any additional incentives.

Even if you look at the questions that the Honourable Member for St. Peter raised relating to taxes on profits, you will see'in Article 13(3): "Governments of participating States may, by mutual agreement, waive the taxes on profits made by CARICOM ENTERPRISES that engage solely in the business of intra- or extra- regional transport and communications." That really does not mean anything, because Governments can take very long to waive taxes on the importation of - well, I will not say agricultural equipment, I should probably look at a better example - but you know what I am talking about. The Minister I am certain is well aware of the amount of time it would take for the Governments to get together to determine what kinds of waivers or incentives would be put in place in relation to these CARICOM ENTERPRISES. It may very well be disincentive up front. It might be even better for the person to operate on a national basis and forget even registering as a CARICOM ENTERPRISE.

The other point is that obviously since the legislation goes no further than the existing national legislation, the CARICOM ENTERPRISE will probably have to apply to each of the Ministries of Finance, or whatever procedure is used in the individual country, to determine its exemption or level of taxation or whatever. Again, that is a costly exercise and it is difficult when you really think about it in terms of administration. I am really still on the point about work permits and I only used that as an illustration. I believe that when the ENTERPRISE is being formulated it should be required that it puts forward a proposal - well, it is called a programme of activities here - that outlines the number of persons who would be required to travel between all the territories and that a special category be made for them so that it would be easier for them to do their business without the present difficulties that we have.

In addition to that, it is the very work permit policy that exists in the Caribbean that causes many of the Caribbean entities like LIAT, WISCO and the University of the West Indies - the work permit policy that is adopted by some territories in fact ends up nationalising the very CARICOM institutions, because the countries use the not granting of work permits as a means of ensuring that the particular ENTERPRISE or entity is staffed by locals, and this militates against the very nature of this kind of legislation.

The serious complaint that people have about LIAT is that they say that systematically the Antiguan Government has tried to "antiguanise" LIAT, and if we are not careful with these enterprises, even though they may very well be private sector and you may not be able to control them, certainly where Government has equity or has some involvement, the basis on which that involvement must be predicated is that there will be no attempt to nationalise, as I should say, the particular business entity. Even in Barbados to some extent people will complain about the CARICOM agencies operating here, and they complain that the Barbados Government by virtue of its work permit policy practically nationalises them.

Aside.

Mr. D. J .H. THOMPSON: No, people do complain about it, whether it is true or not. We are more liberal than the others, but what I am trying to say is that because of the existence of the requirement of a work permit in some of those agencies, people view it as a means of trying to nationalise the institution. I am not saying that we are

necessarily carrying out that kind of programme or that it has ever been done that way.

The movement, therefore, of human capital throughout the region is just as important as the movement of capital in itself in its traditional definition, and this perhaps is more important in relation to these CARICOM ENTERPRISES than even the movement of finance or financial capital. The question of that really is not so relevant in the OECS States. 6.40 p.m.

They have one Central Bank and moving money betwqen them makes no difference. Between Barbados and an OECS State might make a slight difference, but the movement of human capital and the movement of management and the movement of the personnel who are going to be involved in even the University who might wish to analyse the structures of the corporations and so on must be addressed up front. I believe it is one of the areas that the treaty must look at, because in the terms of the Treaty really the essential point is that a CARICOM enterprise has to find its way in each of the territories by itself as such, that the Treaty merely provides for the existence of certain benefits, but at the end of the day the enterprise still has to go through each of the Immigration Departments, you have to go through each of the Ministries of Finance to get its benefit, and it has to go through each of the stages that any other investor would have to go through. That is something that should be addressed. Perhaps a central authority should be set up that can stamp some kind of approval, and flowing from that the benefits that should really accrue to these enterprises would be able to accrue without all of the red tape and the other unnecessary impediments to development of a truly viable regime for CARICOM ENTERPRISES.

With those few words, Sir, I wish to once again say that the Barbados Government has demonstrated its commitment to the discussions and the implementation of decisions relating to CARICOM and this is one of the important additions to the policy formulation of CARICOM that the Barbados Government has committed itself to, and I am certain that it will receive the support of all Members of the House including myself. Thank you.

Hon. H. dcB. FORDE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is the second time we are going through the exercise of considering a Bill for the implementation of a regime for CARICOM enterprises. This House about two years ago, I believe, had under consideration similar legislation, and after the Honourable Member for St. Lucy, the Minister of Trade and Industry and myself had spoken, the Bill lapsed with time. I think it was withdrawn. This Bill in many respects has all of the drawbacks which I listed at the time as applying to the first Bill, and really if the Caribbean Governments were bold this Bill in its present form would be totally unnecessary.

The genesis of this Bill was the need to break the impasse which had occurred some years ago in the CARICOM effort, the regional integration effort, particularly when relations between Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago were particularly difficult, and it was almost impossible to get moving any form of integration. At that time there were some of us like the former Prime Minister St. John and myself and others who believed that we must make at least one step forward in order to move the regional movement off Ihe shoals in those days. That is the background under which the concept of the enterprise was conceived, and we recognised then that it was not the total thing which was required, but it was the question of half a loaf being better than no loaf at all.

I believe that world events and regional events have overtaken the Caribbean, and today really there is a need for boldness in the Caribbean. I believe that we have established enough commissions, enough bodies, enough wise men to have analysed for us the problems confronting the Caribbean countries, and to have suggested the solutions. At this stage it should not be necessary for us to go in for the half a loaf. Caribbean countries are missing out in the we-Id of development because we are so hesitant in taking the obvious steps for our own advancement.

I have said before speaking on behalf of the Barbados Labour Party and I repeat again that whenever the Barbados Labour Party is returned to government, it would be our intention to pursue with one, two, three, four or five, how many there are Caribbean countries, a rapid pace of integration, so that in those necessary areas we would take bold steps and bold initiatives to fully integrate the economy of Barbados with that of the other Caribbean states that are willing. Barbados' future must obviously be within a wider area of production and marketing ...

Asides.

Hon. H. dcB. FORDE: The Honourable Deputy Prime Minister is putting me off my stride, Sir, but I am pleased that he has intervened because I want to remind him

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You know I would not allow him to do that.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I know you would not allow that, Sir. I want to remind him and the Honourable Prime Minister of the occasions when we used to meet together. We met together in Pine Road in particular, and other places too, because we were then the original Under Forties who had in our minds the concept....

Asides.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: We were ahead of our time. We weren't Under Forties in the sense that I was eventually

an Under Forty, but we were in the vanguard of the Under Forties. We were the people who had the concept and the strong belief which is unwavering in my mind, and I must say when I listen to the Prime Minister, not now as the Head of Government because he has to be cautious in that role sometimes, I believe he has the firm conviction that I have that really we have to push in the Caribbean for meaningful integration. I have been in Government, so I am not so wild as to believe that there are not limitations and there are not constraints. Some of the constraints are the pace at which our other CARICOM neighbours are prepared to go, but we must be prepared to go with those who are prepared to go as fast as we are prepared to go in order to get some movement.

Now, Sir, there have been many areas in which there has been no meaningful action on the part of CARICOM itself. One such area is the harmonisation of the laws. Had we harmonised the Companies legislation in CARICOM, had we harmonised the legislation dealing with the recognition and registration of judgments within CARICOM, had we had in place proper double taxation arrangements within CARICOM, this Bill would be totally unnecessary. Therefore what has really happened, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is thai we have had to bring what I call a hybrid or hermaphrodite in the form of this legislation with its complexities and its difficulties and its unsolved problems. This is not a criticism of the Government, so I want the Minister to clearly understand this. We have had to bring this to get half the loaf, and I think that we must repeat from this Parliament that the Government has our support on this point, and when it speaks it can say thai it is speaking with the knowledge that it represents our 42 per cent and their 50 per cent odd. You can speak with the knowledge that our view is that we really must be bold and move much faster than this. Sir, when we look at the legislation, as *I said,* there is a difficulty. Let me give you one example of what I mean, because I don't jusi want ic speak in general terms. 6.50 p.m.

> Article 5 of the Agreement which is annexed to the Bill says:-
>
> "The incorporation, registration, operation, management, winding-up and dissolution of a CARICOM ENTERPRISE shall be governed by the provisions of this Agreement as well as the company law and other relevant laws of the Headquarters State and those other Member States in which the CARICOM ENTERPRISE is registered."

So that if the enterprise is incorporated in Barbados under the Barbados Companies Act, it is not only governed by the Barbados Act, it is governed by the Acts of the other 12 territories from Bahamas in Belize right down to Guyana.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Which it is registered. Once it registers there but it has the difficulty, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that some of those Acts are conflicting. They are all in different stages of development.

The Companies Act in the Eastern Caribbean is based on the English 1864 Companies Act. The one in Guyana is a hodge-podge from part of the English 1928, Companies Act. Trinidad is 1948 English Companies Act and so is Jamaica. Barbados has the most modern Companies Act now and there is a committee looking at getting the Eastern Caribbean to follow suit.

But can you imagine what is going to happen. This is making a field day for lawyers to make money and for judges to be in problems because I do not know why we must approach the problem this way except for somebody to sit down on a consultancy for five weeks, pay them whatever is called, to draw up one Companies Act and the Governments to have the time - take the Barbados model - to introduce it and to draw up an Act dealing with civil judgments, the registration and recognition of civil judgments and we .arc ih-ou?l* *: -[i] p>^ .'*\;.

Now, the Honourable Member for St. Peter raised the question of taxation We **wr* louMe ^rr-Hon t»grxrr» [n]*i* - with ihe United St^cs, GHUHI** ,-jic! smie ^.kr a ;'[?]- :TV% but within the CARICOM position, the profits of a company can be subject to a higher level of tax than if the
company was a company operating between ourselves and Canada. Now, tiiat does not make sense, Sir.

I am giving this background to speak in general terms of what is required. What we really require in the Caribbean is a serious effort, no longer wuh tbo talk, *ia* cb *»i;j*[r>];.

li is hoped, of course, thai the commission now set. uj: under Sir Shridath Ramphal, the West Indies Commission, would once again point the way. Maybe by that time we might have the firmness in our mind to take the steps. When ! say "We" I am not speaking about Barbados because I think Barbados has that firmness.

But, Sir, what new can they tell us that was not done in the Wiseman Report. I have read Professor Bourne's Report but it was all said in the Demas Report some years further. He just brought the figures up-to-date.

There is now a commission going around the Caribbean headed by Professor Gladstone Mills reviewing how CARICOM is working, looking at the same question, but, Sir, the solutions are obvious.

We need a single market. It pains me to hear CARICOM leaders now saying that because Europe is

moving to a single market, Caribbean must now get up and go. That was obvious ever since.

We need further to have a common unit of account at least for CARICOM trade. Part of the Multilateral Clearing Facility problem which confronts Barbados would have been solved had we had units of accounts that could have been monitored. We need that. Probably it would take a little bit longer before we could integrate our currencies to go back to one Central Bank.

Now, I hear the talk, Sir, of a stock exchange, one of the necessities for an enterprise to operate and to trade in the shares of this enterprise. But what do we find? We have a Stock Exchange in Trinidad and Tobago. We have one operating in Jamaica and there is one in Barbados.

I could not believe my ears when I heard the OECS Countries now telling me that they are not going to go for the integration of those three and they come into it, but they now want a fourth Stock Exchange in Antigua. We cannot be serious.We honestly cannot be serious in the Caribbean. How many shares ai^e Traded *on* tfc market in any one day within the Caribbean? Not as much as is traded on the Stock Exchange in Chicago.

It is pointless and I think one has to say to the other territories seriously that the time has come that we must stop the rhetoric. You must bring some .common sense on this and it really pains me that our pace of development is, therefore, to some extent, controlled by the pace at which the others should go.

I am an undying West Indian at heart. I make no apologies for that. My first interest in politics was because of that. In fact, the first time I ever spoke on a political platform was in the promotion of the idea of federation and at that stage I was up against the giants.

The former Right Honourable Member for St. John made no bones of taking my pants off me, Sir, in those days" in my initiation into politics but I know that despite all the talk that he in his heart also believed in West Indian identity and in a Caribbean vision.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: No, when I went out he had not yet formed CARIFTA. That came out afterwards. CARIFTA was formed after I was in the Under Forties.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The first time that I really spoke on a political platform, was after the Conference at Sherbourne, CARIFTA was not formed then.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The Member said after the Annual Conference. But I recall vividly the reason why I spoke. Maybe I was an idealist in those times.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The Honourable Member cannot say I made the greatest political mistake. The Honourable Member must realize that now I have the legacy of 51 years in my hands, a very bright and golden legacy holding it aloft and carrying the torch, Sir, so it is not a mistake.

But I want to say that it still burns within the breast of those of us from those days what the Deputy Prime Minister called the Vanguard Movement, the strong feeling about Caribbean unity and we really should not be having to accept what is second best.

I want on this particular legislation to make a point. Among the activities that are getting the benefit of the enterprise status and as various sectors of the regional economy, agriculture, those under Articles 46,48 and 50 of the Treaty and those under the Annex to this Agreement.

But it is significant, Sir, that they leave out from this one of the enterprises that took the lead in the Caribbean and I speak of insurance. I am not sure that insurance can be considered under Financial Services.One would have to stretch it.

But the insurance industry, and in our case, the Barbados Mutual was the leader among all and then the Jamaica Mutual came and Demerara Mutual. The insurance industry set out...

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The Annex to the Bill at the end, page 24. The insurance industry is, perhaps, one industry that offers tremendous possibilities of growth and it is an industry that can be genuinely caribbeanised. In fact, we should be moving now from the stage of merely being the sellers of insurance to have our own regional reinsurance company so it is really an area of tremendous growth potential and for our people to learn in this respect and I would hope that we sec that the necessary amendment * is made to this legislation to give them such privileges as they are. 7.00 p.m.

Now the reason why I am making the joint, Sir, is that there is a Clause in this Bill, in the Annex, again under Article 12 (4) in which there is conferred on any such Enterprise what is called most favoured nation treatment. It says that:

"Each Member State undertakes to:

grant to a CARICOM ENTERPRISE registered in its territory treatment no less favourable than is accorded to any other similar enterprise of a Member State in respect of state purchase or use of goods and services;".

Now, Sir, although that is limited - And to allow them to operate a long-term and medium-term credit and accord preferential treatment when granting incentives. It also undertakes to grant:

"on terms no less favourable than is accorded to any other similar enterprise of that Member State all licences and permissions necessary for the properconduct of the affairs of any CARICOM ENTERPRISE."

Those are important provisions, although they are not as wide as I would have wished. They are called the most favoured nation treatment clause that you find in international instruments.

It would mean that the Barbados Mutual and those companies would not have been rushed out of Guyana and Jamaica in past years if we had a similar enterprise. What happened to them, Sir, is we found that the countries of Jamaica and Guyana were treating the other Caribbean local insurance companies differently from their own and as a result we were not on fair terms for competition. For instance if any of our local insurance companies, whether it is Life of Barbados, the Mutual, United or any of the others wish to hold securities in Trinidad and Tobago as part of the statutory liability that they must hold for funding their liabilities for Trinidad policy holders, they have to get special permission. And if they are buying into a company for instance like the republic bank which was localized, they cannot buy on the first sale of the securities. They have to wait for a second sale and buy more expensively because they are not accorded similar treatment. Likewise they have to get aliens landholding permission like if they were an American or Canadian company. Now those are serious limitations in doing business across the Caribbean.

It seems to me that we must take every step, particularly in the area in which Barbados has an expertise and I cite insurance as one. I see banking is allowed. There is probably a reason why the Trinidadians would want to go for banking fast, fast, fast as against us, Sir. But it is an area that we must be conscious of.

I believe that the future of Barbados is going to be in services. We have an advantage in this field. And we must therefore within CARICOM, the Minister made the point, make sure that we keep that advantage. I look forward to the day when our indigenous banks will be able to regionalize and then globalize. I cite, with the greatest satisfaction, Mr. Deputy Speaker the example of the Antigua Commercial Bank which started 35 years with $100 000. It was then referred to as a penny bank. You could begin a savings account in that bank with a penny. Today it has assets of $190 million. It owns a tremendous part of Antigua. It is managed by local people like you and I, like the Members of this House, this colour.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: That is right Benjamin and Louis Lockhart. Benjamin manages it now. Founded by Louis Lockhart a lawyer and a few others.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Clarence Edwards was a member of it. That is right. The Honourable Member is right. But I cite that as an example of what could happen with people, small people.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB, FORDE: That is right. The Honourable Member knows the position. He know* thai I know, Sir. He knows that I travel. I am a Caribbean citizen. I travel up and down the Caribbean.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: They are not going to give me the status right away but I will get it one of these days. But I am a Caribbean citizen. One of the strongest supporters of the Caribbean. I have never resettled. I will go to my gmve defending the Caribbean against all comers.

But I want to see the day when these indigenous banks could expand and have available to them the capital 1-tem the problems we hear some of our small businessmen talking about they have not got this initiative. Those problems would be removed to a large extent because you have a wider pool of capital.

I look forward to the day as well when our insurance companies will maximize their efforts even beyond the Caribbean. And let me use the opportunity to say, I did not intervene in thp economic debate today because I think enough had been said from this side and that side. Our shadow spokesman spoke beautifully and very well, Sir. So it was not necessary for me to intervene.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Member has five minutes more.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: But let me say this, Sir. I look forward to the day when we can find throughout the Caribbean that we have expanded our areas of operation on a Caribbean scale and the problems that confront our small

and fragile economies can be minimized because of the wider area of operation that we have. And I want to say this, although I hear some comment from the Honourable Member for St. John about the private sector not making use of opportunities. That is a general statement, too general a statement.

There is one private sector enterprise in Barbados - despite whatever people are going to criticize the people who founded it, they were poor whites, Sir - that has set an example. It is now operating not only within the Caribbean but it has gone on and is competing successfully and operating in Guatemala, in El Salvador, in Costa Rica and I understand soon, in Europe, St. Maarten and the Dutch Islands.

Likewise let me say this for the Mutual, that too has expanded its area of operation. Obviously everybody knows I was one of the people who have had the vision to push it.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: You are a policyholder too, like me.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: You are not a policy holder now? I thought you were. It now has expanded its sphere of operation right into Haiti, Aruba and the Dominican Republic. I want to see other Barbadian companies, whether they are insurance companies, banking companies, whatever companies, consultancies taking that role because by that way our economy will grow and our people would grow and the facilities would be available. There is no reason why tSiis should happen, Sir.

Sir, I realize that I am running out of time so I must make one more point.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You still have 3 more, minutes,

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I cannot develop all the points I want to make. I am going to make this point though, Sir. The concept of what is an LDC and an MDC is no longer relevant in the Caribbean. One of the most telling things that has happened is that 2 of the biggest MDCs who were always the most hesitant to come into the Caribbean movement and I am not saying this with any pride, have had their big feeling, hubris it is called, the Continental Destiny Plan humbled.

I do not feel happy when I see that Professor Mclntyre, an outstanding Caribbean man has to write objectively and say today that Guyana is the poorest country in the Caribbean, poorer than Haiti. I do not feel pleased about it, not with the resources. But I remember when Mr. Jagan and crowd were talking about this Continental Destiny. And the same goes for Jamaica.

I would wish that when we are revising the Treaty that we forget the LDCs and the MDCs designation and that we begin to look sectorally at the areas where within the operation of borders there is need for development and we have channelled whatever funds are- available proportionately. We may need it for instance in the rural Barbados or we may need it somewhere else. But today the so-called LDCs are in many respects better off than at least 2 if not 3 of the MDCs. So has it gone in the Caribbean.

If there is one wish I had in my past and for my present, I wish that my views and my ideas have prevailed. There are some of us who have the foresight and the vision that are ahead of our times. If I may say so, the vision of those of us who were in the vanguard and those of us who continued the vanguard and the Under Forties were well ahead of our time. I make no apologies, Sir.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I could demit politics any time. I made no apologies for what brought me into politics, the fervour, the devotion of Caribbean unity. 7.10p.m.

We went down with Federation and the federal exercise but we have consistently been defenders of the Caribbean nation, the Caribbean destiny and the Caribbean way, the correct way for the Caribbean.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I merely wish to make a brief intervention in this debate to indicate that this Bill that is before us is one, in our view, that will push the Integration Movement further ahead.

That Movement, Sir, is of crucial importance not in terms of any theoretical construct, but in terms of the living standards of the people of the Caribbean. Because, Sir, if we have production in Barbados either in terms of an individual or a group or a company, we must be able to get those products sold either within Barbados or within the region or outside of the region. The market that we would know best, other than our own local market, would be the regional market.

Therefore, what happens in Trinidad and Tobago, what happens in St. Lucia, or what happens in Jamaica is of tremendous significance to us here. If economically the other countries of CARICOM are doing well, it may mean that the people of Barbados may find markets for their goods and services. If those countries, conversely, are experiencing difficulties, it may mean that while we produce products here, maybe garments, whatever it may be, we may not have the market to which those products may be exported. If we cannot get the sales, it means that

people may be laid off and it means that income may not be forthcoming for those persons and the members of their families who are dependent upon them for support.

So we have a vested interest in a Caribbean that is economically strong and a Caribbean that makes provision for the widest possible interchange of goods and services, and I really look forward to the day when the barriers that exist - the member for St. Peter has expressed words to this effect, as well as the Leader of the minority opposition - when the existing barriers to the movement of goods and services within the Caribbean can be reduced in an orderly manner and we can consider the Caribbean as the patrimony of all of us in the Caribbean, irrespective of the territory in which we were born or in which we get our living, and I view this particular measure as a step in that particular direction.

I am not sure that if we had a system of double taxation treaties among all of the territories that this particular measure would not be necessary.

Aside.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Oh, not that alone. There is a modification, but certainly the establishment of trading enterprises that may be incorporated in one country or one member state, and by the fact of that incorporation, or with minimal procedures may operate in other territories, is a step in the right direction. That is as far as goods are concerned.

The areas in which the ENTERPRISES may operate are set out in the legislation, but there is a whole range of other areas which we need to turn attention to and which will call for courage and foresight in order to push this Movement forward in the face of those who will hold it back. Sometimes for narrow political gain those who are in the forefront of the Movement may find that they have to deal with criticisms. We have to deal with the timid, Sir, but as leaders we cannot allow those kinds of criticisms, or we cannot allow the timid and the faint hearted to hold back the Movement. We have on each occasion to put forward our ideas, to elaborate upon them and to hope that in time the wisdom and the vision of the positions would be understood.

Sir, I am not afraid to say that in the area of the development of the Caribbean we have been putting forward the idea that this Movement should not develop simply as a bureaucratic arrangement, one that is known only to a limited number of Ministers who may have to deal with certain areas, or with the Public Officers who work so hard and with so much dedication towards putting together or holding together a regime of Caribbean integration, but I have sought to associate other institutions with the development of this Caribbean Integration Movement so that it can develop on the broadest consensus basis, and our tradition is one of parliamentary democracy.

I cannot see this Movement moving forward in the way that it should, on a democratic parliamentary basis, without the Association of the Assembly of Caribbean Parliamentarians, and I would wish that instead of simply giving nice words and going back to the appearance on the platform that there would be a positive statement coming out that that particular concept is part of the Caribbean vision as well that the Leader of the Opposition "and the party which he has the honour to lead" -1 am quoting him - may he long lead that party from the opposition - that that kind of statement should be forthcoming to back up his statements that he is a firm Caribbean integrationist. 7.20p.m.

Sir, a question was raised relating to the CARICOM Multilateral Clearing Facility, and perhaps I should say just a'few words about that. I will give credit where credit is due. That facility was established in 1977. It came into effect on June 16, 1977, and up to the time that it was suspended, I believe some time in 1983, it sought to get some clearance on a regional basis for the kinds of bilateral arrangements for clearing of transactions that used to exist. In concept it was a good idea, but in practice problems developed, very severe problems, so severe that they led to the suspension of the system.

Barbados has suffered under that particular system because there are outstanding commitments in respect of Barbados. We have not as a Government given up any hope of recovering whatever may be due to Barbados. We have not given that up, and I would like to say this much, that in my discussions with the Government of Guyana, they also recognise that there are problems and that there are residues to the benefit of Barbados, and we have been talking from time to time of ways and means whereby those balances could be defrayed. I will admit that we have to have a long vision, but I believe that the country Guyana has a future ahead of it and that if we can work together and given the political and social and economic circumstances, and the appropriate assistance from both inside and outside of the region, the type of sympathy and empathy that countries in difficulty seem to evoke very readily, I am referring to countries in Eastern Europe - there seems to be a very ready understanding that those countries need inputs of resources and need them very fast, and that sometimes you have to cut through the red tape in order to bring that kind of assistance - if we could get that kind of urgency applied to the situation in Guyana, we would see a transformation of that particular economy. I hope we can still get it and I hope that there may be an outflow ot the same kind of understanding and generous financial empathy in order that it may be brought to bear on the problems relating to Guyana.

All of the talk about the Multilateral Clearing Facility and so on is coming from NDP circles, about writing off, and not available and not accessible as though that is the only topic that can be talked about. As I said, when problems are around, the merchants of misery talk and that is the greatest problem that we are faced with, that everything now is turned into a situation of gloom, doom and misery, making very little positive contribution, but only destructive comments, and it is time that all of that be exposed, because it is not contributing either to the development of Barbados or to the growth and development of the region.

Sir, we are fully in support of this measure. I am confident from the speeches made that it will get the entire support of the House, and I am looking forward to the day when more of our Parliamentarians not only from the front bench but also the backbench and Opposition can participate in a regional assembly of Parliamentarians on these matters which we find very little time to debate because of the pressures of our Parliamentary timetable, and if they can participate at that level and then bring their knowledge, their contacts, their discussion at that regional level to bear on discussions of CARICOM matters inside of this Assembly, I am certain that the debates in this Assembly would be even more pertinent when we come to discuss these matters.

This particular Bill itself is a very good example, as the Minister of Trade has been indicating, of the type of matter which should be discussed in an Assembly of Caribbean Parliamentarians. It has regional implications, it also has national implications, and I wish to end on the point that when we talk about our region we are talking about our cultural, our historical and our present habitat. That is what we are talking about, but we are also referring not only to something that we are hoping would come into being, we are talking about our very livelihood today, and this we must never forget and this we must keep pushing so that we can help to create the future that relies on growth and development within the several countries of the CARICOM region. I thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, in seeking to wind up this debate on this part of the second reading, let me just respond to a few of the questions which have been raised by those Honourable Members who participated in this debate. Let me begin by saying that, as the Prime Minister has said and as I said during my introductory speech, this Bill is a step in the right direction. It is a step which is seeking to give some further light to the promotion and development of the integration movement in the region. 7.30p.m.

It is clear that it is not a perfect piece of legislation. Indeed, Sir, I would challenge anybody in here, including all of the lawyers, to draft for me or for anybody a perfect piece of legislation. There are going to be flaws. Obviously when you are dealing with a piece of legislation which is going to have application on a regional basis in a situation where we have different, as the Honourable Member for Christ Church West has pointed out, company legislation at different levels and different stages of development, one has to find some kind of a balancing act.

I would be the first to admit that when one looks at the legislation, there are a number of loopholes in it which I dare say would, hopefully, in the not too distant future be looked at and the legislation would be further developed to ensure that all of the difficulties and problems which have been identified would be taken care of.

I think the point which the Right Honourable Prime Minister has made in his intervention about an assembly of Caribbean Parliamentarians which would provide an opportunity for the kinds of contributions which have been made on this bit of legislation could be made for the guidance of the persons who drafted this bit of legislation because I do not think that the persons who were charged with the responsibility of preparing this Agreement would have had U:3 kind of recourse to the views which have been expressed in here.

I would certainly like to give this chamber the undertaking that when the debate becomes a public document, that I will get the debate which is taking place here today and send it on to the CARICOM Secretariat headquarters with my comments and suggestions. I think this is the way in which a matter like this could be done.

We do not profess to have all the answers in this area. I do not think that the CARICOM Secretariat which has been charged with the responsibility of putting this legislation together could ever consider that they have the answer to all of the problems and what we would try to do is to canvass as wide a view as possible on these matters so that we can come up with a situation which would be beneficial to the region.

There is no doubt that, certainly, in Barbados the two major political parties in this country have expressed unreservedly their support for the promotion of the Caribbean Integration Movement. There is absolutely no doubt about that and, certainly, the reassurances and the comments which were made here today are a further indication of this particular position.

Now, the Honourable Member for St. Peter in his contribution on the specific bit of legislation raised two questions. One relates to Article 13, paragraph 1 which states that the corporate profits of a CARICOM ENTERPRISE shall be subject to tax except that where the equity capital is wholly owned by Governments of member states those Governments may agree otherwise and he posited the view that it is quite possible that in th?.s

particular scenario a company with equity capital for a private enterprise may not enjoy the same privileges of the waiver of taxation on their profits as companies owned by Governments.

But I would want to draw his attention to the fact that I believe that this particular problem may have been captured, maybe not as strongly and as definitively as it could have been captured, but in 13 (3) which I think was pointed out by the Honourable Member for St. John where it says that Governments of participating Member States may, by mutual agreement, waive the taxes on profits made by CARICOM ENTERPRISES that engage solely in the business of inter-regional or extra-regional transport and communications.

Aside.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Three and four. Three would limit the waiver of taxation to businesses of intra and extra-regional transport and communications and 4 also makes the point that nothing in this agreement shall prevent a CARICOM ENTERPRISE from being eligible for fiscal incentives under the scheme for the harmonisation of fiscal incentives to the industry,

Now, I think that, as I said, one has to appreciate the point that in trying to get an agreement is a situation where you have a number of Governments with their own systems, some not as developed as others, there has to be some compromise and I would think that this Bill ought to be seen as a compromise.

Indeed, Sir, this brings me on to the second point made by the Honourable Member for St. Peter where he asked the question about what is the state of the arrangements for the harmonisatioin of fiscal incentives in the Caribbean and I would refer him to Chapter 6 of the Treaty establishing the CARICOM Community where from way back in 1973 when the Community was established that provision was made for all of this.

Cap. 6, Article 39 talks about consultation on economic polices. Cap. 6 Article 40 speaks of harmonisation of fiscal incentives.

Aside.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: I am going through it. I understand the point you are making but if you do not mind, let me make the point.

"1. Member Slates shall seek to harmonise such legislation and practices as directly affect fiscal incentives to industry.

2. Member States shall seek also to establish regimes for the harmonisation of fiscal incentives to agriculture and tourism with appropriate differentials in favour of the Less Developed Countries.

3. Member States agree to study the possibility of approximating income tax systems and rates with respect to companies and individuals."

Now, that is one of the objectives of the CARICOM Community. But, as you would appreciate, during your administration discussions went on relating to the harmonisation of fiscal incentives. We came into office and found discussions going on and, regrettably, those discussions have not reached a point of finalization at this stage.

Hopefully, based on the discussions which have taken place, we expect that some time during the coming year, 1990-1991 there is a target date which has been set for the coming into being of the harmonisation of fiscal incentives to industry.

You would appreciate that from your point of view in Barbados we will be pushing to get these instruments updated and brought in so fet -#e ^oald be able to m®v£ the Integration Movement further down the road but Barbados in only one country and if we are going to be talking about harmonkkig flfcal incentives; then, obviously, we have 10 reach a por,-. whK.^ ^.v?-M be a^reeabfe to *tfl* the countries that would be signatory to this particular arrangement.

We are not happy with the pace at which these various instruments are being discussed and the pace at which they are moving towards a finalisation but we will continue in our efforts to ensure that we achieve the objectives as sei out in the Treaty. 7.40p.m.

The Right Honourable Prime Minister has dealt with the question relating to the Caribbean Multilateral Clearing Facility and I do not intend to deal with that, except to say that the idea of using goods or even services from Guyana on a barter basis to help reduce the debt is not a new idea. It is something which in a very slight way is being done even at this point because as I have been informed, between the Pegasus Hotel in Guyana and the Sandy Lane Hotel in Barbados which are owned by the same company that is Trust Fort House. There is an arrangement where expenses which are accumulated by the Pegasus are written down by Sandy Lane. Also there is some arrangement I gather with shrimp, the trading of shrimp and certain other fish products which come out of Guyana through Pegasus to be sold. That is a small arrangement. But there is a slight barter arrangement in place.

As far as pursuing other arrangements relating to let us say the trading in wood, you know Guyana has a lot of

woods which can be used. We have been pursuing that particular arrangement. The late Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Member for St. John had been very keen on promoting this kind of arrangement. But again, a barter arrangement as you would appreciate has to be a two-way understanding in that particular area. We would be happy to conclude and get into an arrangement which we could utilize in this way having access to some of their products with a view to reducing the debt which they have. So that it is an idea which we are pursuing.

On the question which the Honourable Member for St. Peter raised relating to sugar, he asked the question about the purchase of sugar in the region by the non-sugar producing countries....

Aside.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES:.....at a Caribbean price. I think that that understanding is still in place. But I think part of the problem, as you would appreciate is that sugar production in the Caribbean has been falling. Trinidad has not been able to meet its oblation under LOME, From what I could recall I think within recent years Jamaica has been exporting but I do not think they have been able to have that large tonnage of sugar for this particular arrangement. We have been able to fulfill our arrangement, our obligation under LOME which I think is 49 500 and something tonnes. Guyana has had its ups and downs in the industry. But I think there is a general understanding. And certainly it is one which we should pursue. Because in the same way, for example, that we have an oils and fats agreement where we have certain obligations - the non oil producing - the coconut oil producing oil territories have an obligation to process coconut oil or a proportion of coconut oil from the oil producing countries in the region, it is obvious that we should insist that the non sugar producing countries which require sugar should access first and foremost their sugar from the region. ! am entirely in agreement with that.

Now the Honourable Member for St. Peter asked a pertinent question. What has been done by Barbados to assist, he did not say assist but I assume that he means assist in resolving the problems of CARICOM trade. The reason why I have introduced the word, assist is because I am sure that he would not expect that Barbados by itself single handedly could resolve the trading problems in CARICOM.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order. I would not let the Honourable Member for St. Lucy mislead the House by the use of sophistry.

I specifically asked the Honourable Member to explain what was the status of the negotiations with Trinidad and Tobago that is supposed to lead to the breakthrough he promised us in the last quarter of 1986?

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: The resolution to assist in the problems of CARICOM trade. I am responding to the point he made.

Let me make the point, Sir. And I will not only look at this in terms of Trinidad and Tobago but I think it is important to look at it in a whole range of areas. During the early part of the 1980s, Barbados' domestic exports to Trinidad and Tobago, if one could start at the year in which ^ they reached the highest point was in 1982 where we exported 79.6 million, I am not going to give all of the figures, worth in goods to Trinidad and Tobago. But one saw a declining situation after 1982. In 1983 it was approximately $79.4 million. In 1984 it dropped to $66.4 million. I am talking about domestic exports. In 1985 it dropped to $35.035 million. In 1986 it dropped to $20.9 million. In 1987 there was a further decline to $15.9 million. In 1988 there was a reversal of that decline and we *m* exported to Trinidad and Tobago in the region of $21.3 million worth in goods. Already for this year in the period January to June, 1989, our domestic exports to Trinidad and Tobago are valued at $15.6 million.

The point I am making is that starting from 1982 there was evidence of a declining rate of our exports to Trinidad and Tobago. There were obviously a number of reasons for that, And certainly when we came into office, one of the things which we were faced with in the whole question of ^ CARICOM trade was that it was at a standstill

Through Barbados* initiative, we were able to get the CARICOM Council of Ministers to agree that every effort should be made to try to get CARICOM trade moving again. Through the persistence of Barbados in discussions with Trinidad and Tobago we indicated very clearly, we sat down and we worked out an arrangement which was then, as it were, adopted by the Council as an approach where we indicated that we would try to move the trade by a ** particular percentage in a year's time and set a target date for the removal of a number of barriers which were put op during the early part of the 1980s. Happy to say, most of these barriers, if not all have been removed. So that we moved to a situation where by October 1, 1988, it was generally agreed that the existing barriers to CARICOM trade would be moved. Even although we have not removed all the barriers, even although there are still some difficulties, intro CARICOM trade experienced an improvement in 1988.1 think it grew by about 8%. In 1989 ^ it is expected to grow by an even greater amount. I believe in excess of 10%. 7.50 p.m.

The fact of the matter is that there has been a turnaround, there has been a more open approach to trading within the region and I would hope that that would continue and that there will be even greater openness in the intro-CARICOM trade, because it is a fact that there are still a lot of goods which are imported into the region which could be

substituted by goods manufactured in the region. This goes for areas particularly in the hotel industry where we know that there are a lot of things which are used in the hotels, furniture and other furnishings, food, which could be obtained within the region which are not at the moment obtained.

I would like to emphasize that if we are going to be able to make any greater progress, more rapid progress in this area, the commercial people within the CARICOM region must become more committed to CARICOM. It is all right to say that the politicians and Governments must become committed, that is as much as we can do, but at the same time one has to understand that it is really the commercial interests that do the trading, and the Government more or less can set the framework, but they also have to play their part. Unfortunately we have a situation in the Caribbean where a lot of the importers have their connections in the United States of America, in Canada and in England and do not want to break these connections. They sometimes have credit arrangements and do not want to go and negotiate within the region, and that is part of the problem. I would like to appeal to them and suggest that if we are going to move the Integration Movement at a more rapid pace forward, then we have to have that commitment from the commercial sector.

If I could now move on then, Sir, to the Honourable Members for St. George South. He raised the question relating to barter arrangements. I think I dealt with that in my response to the Honourable Members for St. Peter, but on the question of the place where the Headquarters of the Authority will be situated, it is not specifically stated here in the Arrangement, but it is clear to me that it would be based in Georgetown where the Headquarters of the CARICOM Secretariat is situated.

The Honourable Members for St. John and Christ Church West raised a number of problems of a legal nature, the whole question about judgments, the question of the harmonization of company legislation, recognition and registration of judgments, double taxation arrangements. Let me also refer to the Instrument again, the Treaty establishing the Caribbean Community, Chapter 6, Article 41 and Article 42.

Article 41 of the Treaty deals with intro-regional and extra-regional double taxation agreements. Provision is made in the Treaty for that.

Article 42 of the Treaty deals with the harmonization of laws, laws relating to companies, trade marks, patents, designs and copyrights, industrial standards, et cetera. All I am saying is that all of these things are covered in the Treaty.

Aside.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Unfortunately, as has been accepted, and during your administration you had to face these particular problems and we have to face them, that is that we have provision within the Treaty for a number of these areas, but unfortunately we have not been able to get these matters addressed in the way they should be addressed. It is a fact that the Integration Movement should be moving forward at a much more rapid pace, and we should not at this stage be waiting for 1992, which really is now, though not in chronological terms, and we should not have had to wait for Europe in 1992, or the idea of a Europe of 1992, to be suddenly bestirring ourselves in this particular area.

The Honourable Member for St. Peter in a sotto voce remark said that we need a strengthening of the CARICOM Secretariat. I agree entirely with that, but the problem which we face again is that if you are going to strengthen the CARICOM Secretariat, then you would probably have to get more staff.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of elucidation. The Honourable Member has only heard half of what I said. I said we need a strengthening of the Secretariat by allowing it to have access to resources that may be located out of Guyana but that would be prepared to work in the interest of the Secretariat, which is a different point

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: I suppose that anything is possible, but the point I am going to make in all that is that like everything else the Governments raised the question of the cost of the operation of the Secretariat. These are real problems which we have. The money has to come from somewhere and in the same way where in our national situation people will raise questions about what the Government should do, nobody stops to think where the money will come from.

Aside.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: This is what is being done, but enough is not being done in these critical areas. It is a fact that they have set up consultancies and there are people from the University of the West Indies who do it. It is not an idea which the Secretariat - I am not speaking for the Secretariat - but I am sure it is not something the Secretariat will be averse to, and I think the study which is now being conducted by Professor Mills, in spite of all that has been said, is reviewing the Instruments of CARICOM, the organisation of CARICOM with a view to making it more efficient and more responsive to the needs of the region. I am sure that in the discussions which they had here with us in Barbados - and I am sure they met the member for Christ Church West - these points were made, and I am sure that the recommendations which will come out of that review will see CARICOM moving in that particular direction.

I think, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that those are the major points which I would want to respond to.

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

On the motion of Hon. P. M. GREAVES, seconded by Hon. E. E. GREAVES, Mr. DEPUTY 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.
8.00 p.m.

Clauses 1 to 7 inclusive were called and passed.

The Schedule was called and passed.

On motion of Hon. P. M. GREAVES seconded by Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN, Mr. Chairman reported the passing of one Bill in Committee without amendment, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions c[f] Hon. E. E. GREAVES seconded by Hon. W. 0. FRANKLIN, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

QUESTION TIME

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, now should be Question Time, but I do not see the Minister to respond to the question nor the person asking the question, but we could lay it.

REPLY TO PARLIAMENTARY
QUESTION NO. 89

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on behalf of the Honourable Attorney General, I lay the reply to Parliamentary Question No. 89 asked by the Honourable Member for St. Thomas.

THE ADJOURNMENT

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 12th December, 1989 at 12 o'clock noon.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly. 8.02 p.m.

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