THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1981 - 86

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, February 14, 1989.

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 12.15 p.m. o'clock, on Tuesday, February 14, 1989.

PRESENT

His Honour L. A. WEEKES, J.P., (Speaker)
His Honour J, L PAYNE, (Deputy Speaker)
Hon, L. E, SANDIFORD, B.A., M.A., (Econ.), J.P., (Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs)
Hon. H. deB. FORDE, Q,C, M.A., LL.B.
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 and Minister of International Transport, Telecommunications and Immigration and Leader of the House)
Dr. R. C. HAYNES, M.S., 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 and Minister of Legal Affairs)
Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN, A.I.C., M.I.A.S., J.P., (Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries)
Hon. N. K. SIMMONS, (Minister of Employment, Labour Relations and Community Development)
Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN, B.Sc. (Econ.), (Minister of Housing and Lands)
Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS, Q.C., LL.M.
Mr. O. S. ARTHUR, M.Sc. (Econ.)
Mrs. M. BARKER-WELCH, (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Employment, Labour Relations and Community Development)
Hon. C. V. WALKER, (Minister of Education and Culture)
Mr. 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, Prime Minister's Office)
Mr. C. L. TROTMAN, M.A.
Mr. R. L. MORRIS, B.A., Cert.Ed.
Mr. P. J. M. MILLER
Mr. R. P. BYER, LL.B., L.E.C.
Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON, LL.B.

Prayers were led by Rev. Father Ivan Harewood.

Mr. SPEAKER: The House is in session.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of Tuesday, 7th February, 1989.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I move that the Minutes of the proceedings of this Honourable Chamber for the Meeting that was held on the 7th February, 1989 be taken as read and confirmed.

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY YOUR HONOUR

Mr. SPEAKER: I am to announce that I am in receipt of the Accounts and Statements for the month of December, 1988 as prepared by the Accountant-General.

MESSAGES FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Mr. SPEAKER:

"MESSAGE NO. 1/1989

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

TO THE HONOURABLE THE

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

His Excellency the Governor-General has the honour to inform the Honourable The House of Assembly that in His Excellency's judgement, Dr. Richard Christopher Haynes, a member of the House of Assembly, presently commands the support of the majority of those members of the House of Assembly who do not support the Government. Accordingly, His Excellency has appointed the said Dr. Richard Christopher Haynes as Leader of the Opposition with effect from 14th February, 1989 and has revoked the appointment of the Honourable Henry deBoulay Forde, Q.C., M.P., as Leader of the Opposition also with effect from 14th February, 1989.

13th February, 1989.

HUGH W. SPRINGER
Gove rnor-Gene ral.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE
BARBADOS"

PAPERS

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

The Customs Prohibited Imports Toy Guns Order, 1989.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I give notice of:

A Resolution to grant the sum of $305,350 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1989-90 Part I - Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimates, 1988-89, No. 20.

I also gave notice, Sir, of:

A Resolution to grant the sum of $2,000,000 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1988-89 Part I - Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimates, 1988-89 No. 21.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the two Resolutions of which I have just given notice of, Sir, if it is the will of the House, we should like to have them done today in all their stages.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICES

Mr. SPEAKER: I am in receipt of a Motion of No Confidence by the Honourable Member for Christ Church West.

On the 17th of January the Honourable Prime Minister commissioned an Enquiry and on the strength of that Enquiry I would consider it inappropriate, ai this time, that this motion be brought in the light of the sitting of the Commission of Enquiry during this period.

Nonetheless, it is not my intention to pre-empt the privileges of any Member but I believe it would be within the Honourable Member's privilege, after that Report has properly been circulated, that I may consider the notice of this motion. So in my own judgement, I will not allow this motion to proceed at this particular time.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on a question of privilege, I accept your ruling, having made your ruling, Sir. But without questioning your ruling, Sir, with respect I would ask Your Honour, Sir, to reconsider the fact that giving notice of the motion is not necessarily debate on the motion. 12.25 p.m.

On the second point I would wish to make to Your Honour, Sir, it is my understanding that that Commission of Inquiry was not appointed under the Commission of Inquiry Act and, therefore, that the legal status of such a Resolution would differ as to whether or not it is a departmental inquiry as distinct from a commission under the Commission of Inquiry Act.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sure that the notice before us today, having given considerable consideration to the Motion in the light of what the Honourable Member has said, I am still satisfied that the Motion still has its validity if submitted in my view at the end of that report.

REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEES

Mr. SPEAKER: I take this opportunity to inform the House that the Committee dealing with the Message to Her Majesty The Queen on her forthcoming visit

has reported and in due course I will ask that that Message be circulated to all Honourable Members.

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, before the House embarks on Government Business, I want to move Sir the suspension of a number of Standing Orders and they are Sir: Orders No. 6, 16, 18, 20, 42(5), 43 and 44 which I move be suspended for the remainder of today's sitting, Sir.

Hon. B. M. TAUT: I second that, Sir.

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Order No. 1 was called - To move that the House resolve itself into Committee of Supply to consider grants of sums of money for the service of this 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 1988-89 No, 19
$486,102

ITEM A - PART I - CURRENT
HEAD 12 - PARLIAMENT
SUBHEAD 1 - PARLIAMENT AND GENERAL ADMINISTRATION SUBHEAD 2 - COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, in regards to Subhead 1, Sir, this Supplementary has become necessary because the salaries of the Constituency Assistants have been increased retroactively from April 1, 1988 and no provision has been made for that fact at the time of the preparation of the Estimates. It is also a sum of $6,000 which is included for the settlement of any reasonable claim, Sir, relating to salaries and other emoluments due to Parliamentary Assistants. I would imagine, Sir, that as a result of certain institutional matters which have taken place recently, there have to be some payments to some Parliamentary Assistants.

Also Sir, another large item that is required here is the National Insurance Contributions. Well, Sir, I do not think that needs any explanation. This relates directly to personal emoluments. Another large item, Sir, is for Utilities and Supplies, Operating Expenses which are about equal and this sum is required as a result of having to order some 50 chairs 46 of which have been provided for Parliament and this amounts to a cost of $15,000.

Sir, I move that Subhead 1 of Head 12 stand part.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is that Subhead 1 stand part .... the Honourable Member for Christ Church West.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, Sir .... You do Subhead 2.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Subhead 2, Sir, relates to the expenses of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and exchange visits. The amount voted at the beginning of the financial year was $100,000. It has become necessary, Sir, to supplement that vote by a large amount of $55,000 principally because of a visit made to Australia by the usual delegation and Australia being that far away as well as for other commitments relating to visits to Bermuda and as well, Sir, visits in recent times to the U.K., for the Parliamentary Seminar in March next month which is estimated to cost about $10,000. In all, Sir *it* Is estimated that we will require $65,GOG to supplement this vote of Subhead 2.

I, therefore, move that Head 12 stand part.

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

Hon. H. deB, FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I wish under this Head to address very briefly the accommodation arrangements made in Parliament for Members as a whole and in particular in the light of the Message which the House today received from His Excellency The Governor-General, on the question of adequate provision being made for the Barbados Labour Party's Opposition in this House. 12:35 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, I have addressed under my hand last week a letter to the Leader of the House on this matter, since it must be obvious to the House by now that the arrangements which we are making in Parliament for the convenience and the proper functioning of members to carry out the public's business have been done on a spasmodic and almost *ad hoc* basis.

I think it is true to say that there is really no central area in which members of the House as a whole can meet. This new renovated Parliament has now made some reasonable provisions for an office, I believe, for the Prime Minister, there was one formerly upstairs, there is a small office available for the Leader of the House, there was a very limited office available for the Official Leader of the Opposition, and outside of that there are" no provisions made in Parliament for any other group of persons, members in their private capacity or members as part of either side of the House to meet and confer.

From time to time I have seen members having to use the offices of the Clerk of Parliament, which seems to be the most convenient offices that are available. I believe, Sir, that we have to recognize that the public of Barbados would be satisfied with adequate provisions being made for the functioning of their parliamentarians within the precincts of this Parliament.

I am aware that when the Parliament building is renovated that there will be improved accommodation downstairs certainly for the office of the Official Leader of the Opposition, and I am also aware that the West Wing of Parliament will have more than adequate public space available for use, if it is so designed, by other Honourable Members.

A member has from time to time to see his constituents, to listen to members of the public who wish to approach him on business here, and to that extent I think every Honourable Member in this House is entitled to reasonable office space and accommodation within the precincts of the House to undertake the representation of the people.

From the position of the Barbados Labour Party Opposition, which after all represents 42% of the electorate$_5$ it is my contention that, in view of the developments which have taken place, we must now pay proper regard to this question as well, Sir. It is obvious that from time to time we will wish to consult as a body. It is also obvious that from time to time the governing party itself may wish to consult, not only with its front bench but with its back bench, and it is within the overall context of making that proper provision that I rise to speak.

I am very conscious of the precedents that exist in other Commonwealth countries dealing with this matter. In Canada, for instance, at the Federal level adequate provision is made not only of physical space but also of the other ancillary services which must be provided for the carrying out of the people's business. Similar provisions exist at the provincial level. I understand that similar provisions exist, particularly in Parliaments within the European Community, where there is a plethora of parties, none of whom may be designated — as I believe that the Constitutions of these countries do not always provide similarly as our Constitution does provide — as the Official Opposition and, in the light of these developments, perhaps the Leader of the House may be in a position today to make some statement on the issue, and if he is not, no doubt he will give consideration to the points which I have made on this supplementary Resolution dealing with the needs of parliamentarians.

I do not believe that we can continue to proceed on an *ad hoc* basis. The Clerk of Parliament is already aware of the large number of precedents that exist. As I said, certainly the Labour Party Government made some provision for upgrading some of the facilities. Our plans for the renovation of Parliament had included some further upgraded facilities, and I believe the present Government has increased, as it has done since April 1988, the assistance being available to parliamentarians within their own constituencies, but it is not only within constituencies, it is necessary here at the very centre of Parliament itself that we must now take adequate steps to see that the facilities are there.

We are not asking for any extravagant or unreasonable facilities, facilities within the resources of our country which will also reflect the 350 years of parliamentary government, and more important, particularly that period of parliamentary government since we have had responsible government and now full independent management of our affairs.

I am Mr. Chairman, like the Prime Minister, a strong believer in parliamentary institutions, and I would wish to see that certainly this phase of our governmental history reflect the strong interest of those of us who have now come into Parliament after the main struggle has gone, the strong interest which we have in preserving the best of our institutions and the best principles for which our Government and our people stand.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I spoke in similar vein last Tuesday to the Honourable Member for Christ Church West and I endorse his application to the Government for favourable consideration for space for the parliamentary Opposition within the precincts of Parliament,

None of us can be here unless we are returned by the voters in a constituency, and I am very concerned that I have information in writing that there seems to be an attempt being made so to influence the Boundaries Commission by proposals for change of constituencies which will affect parliamentary representation...

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Are we not dealing with that? I think it is apposite for me to give vent to some of the information I have.

Sir, one understands that constitutionally the Boundaries Commission has the responsibility of preparing a report for changes in the constituency boundaries, and ultimately Parliament will have an oversight and is not obliged to accept the decision of the Boundaries Commission. 12:45 p.m.

I want to head off foolishness now, Sir, and that is why I am raising it today,

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would ask the Honourable Member though, while I am accepting the premise that he is speaking within the confines of the Head of Parliament, to stick as closely as possible to the matter under discussion.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Yes, Sir. I am obliged to you for keeping me within the narrow confines of the Resolution. There are 27 parliamentarians, and there are 27 constituencies, and the 27 parliamentarians represent those 27 constituencies and we all have assigned to us constituency assistants. On the present configuration there is an imbalance in terms of the disposition of numbers throughout several of the constituencies, and we have only today received among our papers, Sir, the various registers of electors for the various constituencies.

I am saying that we have an imbalance in numbers and that presently there are 27. At one time the late Mr. Errol Barrow had agreed to 28 constituencies and 28 parliamentary representatives. He had agreed because the Leader of the Opposition and he had agreed with the Chairman of the Boundaries Commission before Mr. Barrow died. But this Government is not bound to accept 28. Nobody is saying from this side how many there should be, whether 27, 28 or 30. What I am submitting, Sir, and it is my view — I am protecting you today ...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I should just like to say to the Honourable Member that, while I accept that we are dealing with the matter of Parliament, the Boundaries Commission and in that regard constituencies outside of what now exists is stretching it a little bit too far.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I will not talk of the 28 constituencies. I will limit myself to the 27 that we have. For example, my information reveals that your present constituency will disappear. St. Michael North East will no longer exist. The City with 5 075 registered voters will remain, so that you may not be able to have a Parliamentary Assistant again because you may have nowhere to run for.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When you started you were discussing the matter of Parliamentary Assistants and provision therefore. I am hoping that you remain there.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Yes, Sir. I hope you appreciate how concerned I am about your political future. Whether you will have a Parliamentary Assistant again or not may depend upon the acceptability of the nonsense that is being proposed. It is something to do with functionaries and operatives who are making inputs.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I believe this Committee can state its gratitude for the information so given, but I would think that the Honourable Member would be best advised to stick to the Resolution as it now presents *itself*.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, since 1985 I have had a constituency assistant for the constituency of St. Thomas, and I am very well pleased with her work in the last four years. That constituency of St. Thomas presently incorporates parts of Hillaby, Arch Hall, Airy Cot, Canefield, and my constituency assistant has to address the concerns of the constituents from these various districts, parochial districts as well as polling districts, but you see, if certain people have their way, these will go into St. Andrew and similarly Diamond Corner and Black Bess will now make St. Andrew the safest seat for the Barbados Labour Party if certain people have their way.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am suggesting to the Honourable Member, just before I make a ruling on it, that we are drifting from the matter in the context that he is leading us down that path, and I do not want to go down that path. I rule that the Honourable Member remain within the confines of the matter under discussion.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: What do you not wish me to speak about?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I do not wish you to speak about the Boundaries Commission, I do not wish you to speak about constituencies as you may have information relating to them.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I will not call the Boundaries Commission's name again, Sir. With respect, Sir, and I am not flouting your ruling, I do not see how I can debate constituency assistants in St. Thomas, the City, Christ Church West, St. Michael South Central, who work for Members of Parliament unless I give examples.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will hear you a little while.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: What I am submitting, Sir, is that we have in the Constitution, the Third Schedule of the Constitution I think it is, that there should be a minimum number and a maximum number of voters in the various constituencies who will elect Members of Parliament who can then employ Parliamentary Assistants to look after the welfare of those various voters, and we are going to pay the transport levy, supplies and materials and so on, national insurance contributions in respect of those constituency assistants. But the minimum number of electors on today's figures will in future be 5,858 and a maximum of 7,158. One understands that having regard

to demographic changes some constituencies have gone beyond the maximum limit particularly those in Christ Church, and there are six below the legal limit. Some adjustment will have to be made, but what we are submit ting, Sir.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Could I ask the Honourable Member whether this information which he has given is an indication as to proposed changes which will come into effect before the end of this financial year?

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Money will have to be spent before the end of the financial year, 31st March, to facilitate...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: .....those persons who are now con stituency assistants...

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: ...to facilitate the work of the present Parliamentary Assistants and also to facilitate the work of departments ancillary to Parliament, having to do with the present composition of constituencies. 12.55 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What I would say is that the Honourable Member has two minutes to conclude his presentation.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: And that two minutes is adequate, Sir.

We feel that when we are looking at the question of Parliamentary Assistants to perform the work in the constituencies for each and every one of us in here, that they should be accorded proper status in law.

There is some dispute as to how they are appointed and how they can be dismissed and we need to rationalise who is the employer, what are the powers of the employer. If the parliamentarian is the employer, he should have the right to fire.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am told that there was a recent case in which a court held that the Honourable Member for St. Philip North was, in fact, the employer. I am being told that, Sir.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: On a point of elucidation. The matter was not decided by the courts.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: ...because we do not pay the money, Sir. We do not pay the National Insurance contributions and all the other incidences, indicia, if you like, of the fact of employment. Those are paid by Parliament but, surely, the M. P. would have the power and the privilege to, at least, recommend for dismissal the particular constituency assistant if that person, let me put it very generally, is not performing his or her duties in accordance with the expressed or implied terms of the employee's contract.

But it is a hybrid and nebulous situation where you choose the person, recommend them to Parliament to go on the payroll, Parliament pays. Questions to what extent the M.P. is the employer, if the only residual power that he has is a recommendatory power to recommend to Parliament that that person be terminated. I think that we have to sit down in Debates Committee, or some such committee and work out the parameters of this special type of employment and, perhaps, provide for it in legislation.

I am obliged to you, Sir, and I look forward to good sense prevailing and St. Michael North East remaining in the future.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, the debate so far has been somewhat interesting. I believe that in a matter relating to Parliament it is important that we structure our arguments as carefully as possible and as consistently as possible with the general understanding of the Constitution of Barbados.

In general, I support the views of the Leader of the Barbados Labour Party, the Honourable Member for Christ Church West, in his request for some accommodation within the area of Parliament, the Public Buildings, which would allow the Barbados Labour Party to perform its parliamentary duties as efficiently as possible.

I wish to give this Honourable House and the public of Barbados an undertaking that the National Democratic Party is not here to discomfit anyone, that one recognizes the acute problems that may be caused by the changed arrangement on this side and the Barbados Labour Party members of Parliament are very welcome to make use of the existing facilities to the extent that they find it possible to do so.

We have no secrets. We are here to do parliamentary business. If the Government decides to provide accommodation for the Barbados Labour Party segment of the Opposition and it will take time, then I have no difficulty whatsoever in making sure that there is some kind of facility offered to them.

We in the NDP, Mr. Chairman, are here to heal some of the wounds in the political process and I believe that such a gesture will go a long way in dealing with these matters. However, having supported the former Leader of the Opposition in his statement, there comes the question of this business of this 42% representation.

This, certainly, does not reflect the constitutional arrangements of Barbados and, indeed, fr the younger

members of Parliament, I think it is important to set the record straight.

When I am elected to St. Michael South Central, I represent the NDP. I represent the DLP. I represent the BLP. I represent those who did not vote and those who voted. I represent those who cannot vote because they are under age. I represent the total constituency of St. Michael South Central and under the Constitution of Barbados where there is no provision for proportional repesentation, each and every one of us in this Honourable House represents the totality of the human beings living in that constituency, irrespective of their political persuasions.

Therefore, the number of Barbados Labour Party supporters represented in this House under the Constitution of Barbados is the sum total of the Barbados supporters throughout the entire country and each one of us has a constitutional obligation to represent Barbados Labour Party members and supporters, NDP members and supporters, DLP members and supporters in each of our constituencies. Therefore, the argument of a 42% representation in order to promote the case for accommodation within the Public Buildings is not an argument which is rooted in the constitutional position of Barbados. 1.05 p.m.

However having said that I believe that there is a case made for such accommodation to be provided and we are not in any indecent haste to prevent the Barbados Labour Party's representatives from making use of the facilities offered by the taxpayers of Barbados. We have no difficulty whatsoever with that.

The other point I should like to make is this, that I believe that as time goes on parliamentary duty may become more and more sophisticated. It is quite evident, certainly over the past eleven years, it is my experience, that there has been among some Members of the House an increasing sophistication in arguments and in presentation in this Honourable House. Those persons who elect to function at that level quite clearly have to have appropriate resources available to them in terms of research and other support. I think that it can only enhance the image of Parliament if we move as rapidly as our resources permit to establish that kind of arrangement which is a very common thing in most of the Parliaments around the world.

The question relating to Parliamentary Assistants and their wages and so on, I believe that the Honourable Member for St. Thomas was trying to make the very valid point that if you pay someone at a given level to assist you with x amount of constituents and there is a change in the number of those constituents then the whole question of remuneration or the levels of remuneration of those Parliamentary Assistants relating to the workload which is a fairly fundamental principle in remuneration generally in this kind of society is something that might be considered.

Laughter.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of elucidation, Sir. I was not making any such point. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition has obviously misunderstood me, Sir.

I was concerned to make the point that in constituencies there may be an imbalance of electors. I was trying to explain to you, Sir, that, for example, in the City you might have 5,075 and in parts of Christ Church you might have 8,000. But you have one for all the constituencies in Christ Church if you divide them up now, four into 32,000 you get an average of about 8,000 per constituency. I was not saying that the Constituency Assistants should be paid in relation to the numbers. I was on to a different point as to what were the incidents of the employment.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your point is made.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I was just trying to help the Honourable Member by so structuring his argument within the four walls of the Resolution which can certainly prevent any accusation of straying from the point.

Laughter.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: That was my intention in so presenting the argument.

I hope, Sir, that the present arrangements in relation to the rearrangement of the boundaries would go relatively smoothly, not placing undue burden on the Assistants who often earn the same salary, who all earn the same salary. In that context, Sir, I believe that fairness should obtain. I believe that one should avoid putting increasing burdens on the Constituency Assistants by asking them to take on large areas of new voters with which they may be unfamiliar, since you might find an imbalance in the workload between one Constituency Assistant and another one. However, I do not propose to get into that because, I believe, I am a firm believer in the fact that you can chop up boundaries but you cannot chop up public opinions.

That is why in a very short period of the existence of the National Democratic Party we are perceived today nationally and internationally as a major Party in Barbados. The fact that I stand here today, Mr. Chairman, is a clear indication and a clear signal within and beyond these shores of the birth of a major political movement in this country.

So, Mr. Chairman, before I come to the end of this very brief intervention...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You have two minutes.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: .....we certainly will not be voting against the Resolution. In fact, we will be supporting the Resolution at least Head 12, Subhead 1 and Subhead 2. I am grateful to you for this opportunity to have set within the halls of this Parliament the constitutional arrangements as far as matters of representation by individuals in this Parliament, as far as that goes.

I thank you, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for the St. Michael East.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I just want to make a very small observation.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central made some comments about the Constitution with respect to who had forty something per cent of the popular support and who should be the Official Opposition. I think that there is no doubt that the Constitution ...

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I said nothing of the kind. I am not entering into that dispute. There is no dispute. The Constitution is clear.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: I think that it is absolutely clear, Mr. Chairman, that the Constitution is very, very clear on this issue. There is no doubt about that. However, we must understand that Constitutions are written by men and that Constitutions are subject to change. The Constitution of the United States is over some two hundred years old, and before the Judges of the Supreme Court, there are recommendations for Constitutional change constantly.

I think that, in true political terms, when you analise it, there must be something fundamentally wrong If a Government becomes the Government of the day, let us say with 51% or 61% of the population, popular support, and the Opposition gets the other 39%, and then a few Members from the Government decide that they are going to move.

Aside.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: I am not talking in terms of percentage. I am talking in terms of the fact that it is a fact that they do not enjoy the support, the mass support in the population. I think that we in this country will have to look at, as has been done in omer countries — Barbados would not be the first country where this has happened — and we would have to look at it and look at the possibility of allowing the political party who has had the major support as an Opposition Party from being, if you want to use the word which is a strong word, disenfranchised, if you want to use that word.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let me say to the Honourable Member that we are on to a matter dealing with a supplementary for Constituency Assistants. And I would really like him to be closer to that particular area.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I was just responding to a point in Philosophy that was raised by the Honourable Member of the Opposition.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I did not allow it to be developed beyond certain points.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: I just wanted to make that point. I think it is a point that we will hear a lot more about in Barbados. I think that in this Honourable Chamber we need to look at that very seriously.

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

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I just wish to speak on this matter of parliamentary representation. These discussions do not follow any structured Party lines. They are dealt with by us as individuals and especially as one discusses constituency representation.

1.15p.m.

Mr. Chairman, I am always amazed at the wide range of views which are expressed both inside and outside of the House about matters which have been settled a long time ago in other countries. The question of proper facilities for the representatives of the people is not a matter for the individuals who are representing the people, but it embraces the concept of representation vis-a-vis the people. If we are supposed to be representing the people in the 27 constituencies, then we are supposed, under the theory, to be the quintessence of those constituencies in political representation. We are supposed to have in essence the views, ideas, and the concerns of those constituencies and, more particularly, of the people in those constituencies for the time being while we represent them. That is why I have never had any difficulty in my constituency after the election as to the fact that I represent everbody in the constituency and anyone who lives in my constituency will tell you that is how I function. I do not really know. In fact, the vast majority of people in my constituency do not belong to a political party at all and I would make bold to say that that is the case in most constituencies.

So what is important is how we are perceived. How the representatives are perceived must be a function of how the people are perceived and I want to make this point. It does seem sometimes to me that some of the people who comment on representation in developing countries and in Barbados tend to have a certain kind of view about a representative if he represents *a* certain kind of

people and another kind of view about the representative if he represents another kind of people.

I will give you an example, that in today's Nation there is an Editorial which is written in a very strange way but it quotes and it says, Mr. Speaker: "Branford Taitt is reported as saying that politicians have some inherent right to earn more than civil servants."

Now Sir, apart from the fact that that is incorrect, it is also contemptuous. The reference to politicians and civil servants in that context suggests a certain kind of contempt for politicians which no doubt you will hear that the politicians brought upon themselves. I have always argued that corrupt politicians are the result of corrupt persons seeking to corrupt the politicians. But that is another matter and may be outside the realm of this debate. I would make bold to say that what I said was that the Minister should earn more than anybody in the Ministry over which he presides, just like the Managing Editor of a newspaper earns more than anybody who works with a newspaper. It is a very simple matter. If there is a Chairman of the Board like the Prime Minister, the Prime Minister earns more than the Managing Editor because he is Chairman of the Board. That is not a logic that is beyond the understanding of ordinary people and when a newspaper seeks to mislead the population by that kind of phraseology then that helps to confuse the issue with regard to what kind of representation the people should have. In the United States and in Britain, Canada and Australia the concept of Parliamentary Assistants is no longer a matter for debate. The question of whether you should have proper officers in Parliament is no longer a matter for debate. I have been in this Parliament for a very long time and this matter has been discussed and rediscussed and over-discussed and the concept seems to be that when you put in proper representation by giving facilities you are doing somebody a favour. You cannot be doing anybody a favour except the people who are to be represented because, when the representative ceases to be representative, whatever it is is removed. Therefore, the next representative gets whatever it is. It is not something that adheres to any of the individuals who sit in the respective seats whether they are 24, 27, 28 or 30. I think that this country is too mature.

Here we are when we go to the international agencies we are graduating. We are considered to be a middle developing country. We have a per capita income that is second to none in the developing world and yet when we come to discussing the matters that are fundamental to our democracy we have the tendency to take the lowest common denominator.

The fact is that the constituency representation must be enhanced and ought to be enhanced by the Constituency Assistant and there should be more than one in some cases. When the Barbados Labour Party first introduced this concept, I had no difficulty supporting it and I have been supportive of it ever since. As the representative in this Chamber with the longest serving Constituency Assistant, I can say without fear of contradiction that it has enhanced and has assisted in the quality of the representation which I have been able to bring to that constituency. When I first established a constituency office in Barbados in 1974, before I came a Member of this House, it was the first of its kind in this country and there were people who said that I was bringing North American concepts to Barbados. What is wrong with North American concepts if they are good. The North American concepts which ought to be brought to Barbados are usually rejected, while all of the trash and the things that are not necessarily uplifting are accepted without more. The fact is that in North America negative politics notwithstanding in each House whether it is the municipality in Mineola, Long Island or New York City where there is the City Council, or the State House in the various capitols of the states, or the Congress in Washington, there are levels of research and other assistance which are made available to the particular elected official. The theory is that the elected official would be better able to represent the group he is representing if the quality of information placed at his or her disposal is high enough to warrant as having come from the people he represented.

So you will find that the ranking Members of the Opposition, in this case the Republican Party in both Houses in the United States Congress, the ranking members of the various committees all have substantial staff to draw on for their various statements. Very often we as Members of Parliament or as Ministers of the Government are compared with people in other lands who make speeches and do things, and who in fact have at their disposal on an ongoing basis up-to-date research, the latest information systems, the latest in all kinds of techniques available for this kind of presentation.

When we watch on the CNN the methodology of some of the top political people in the United States very few of us might be aware of the tremendous amount of work which goes on in the background by people who are not even remotely connected with the event which we observe. I must say that I have noticed some of these techniques appearing in the last few weeks and I see that the National Democratic Party is drawing generously from the public relations techniques of North America, but so be it. If you have the resources, use them. But I am not prepared .....

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: You say that I only have one resource. If it is a modern political party, act in a modern way. But when other political parties acting in a modern way do or cause to have done the things that ought to be

done then the public capacity to absorb information should not be blunted with a lot of trivia and misrepresentation. The people of this country should be given clear, honest information which says that the 27 Members of Parliament have 27 Constituency Assistants and they should be properly paid and they should have conditions that are acceptable under the labour laws of Barbados. 1.25 pan.

They should not have to be running back and forth. They are at the whim of the particular politician, because the politician will advise when they are to be kept and if they are not to be kept, but if they are going they should go in conditions that apply anywhere else. I do not see that we have to spend a lot of time discussing whether we ought to give them proper conditions of service. It is a tragedy that it has taken us in excess of ten years to fix the conditions of service for the constituency representatives, and that was based on a political fear which the administration had, that if you step too fast that will work against you politically.

That makes a nonsense of our constant statement that the people of Barbados are among the best educated in the world. If they are among the best educated in the world, we therefore have to give them the benefit of the doubt. We have to assume that they will understand because they are intelligent. We have to assume that our constituents are not merely there for voting purposes, that they can understand anything we can understand, sometimes better than we can understand it, and therefore if we say, notwithstanding the row that will be made politically from time to time, if we say that they should be properly paid we should pay them.

If we say, as the Prime Minister recently said, that representatives should have offices, he was not saying that the Democratic Labour Party representatives should have offices, he was saying that all 27 representatives should have proper offices where they should be subsi dised for the rents, and the reason for that is not to enhance the pockets of the particular 27 politicians, it is to give the people in the constituencies proper facilities so that they can come and see their representa tives, and the representatives will have no excuse. As I said, I have been paying rent, Sir, as you know, since 1974, but that does not mean that all 27 members would be able.....

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Because I am a good representative. Mr. Chairman knows because he is a politician.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has two minutes.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The point I am making, Sir, is that the offices should be good offices. They should not be expensive offices, they should not be luxurious offices, but they should be the kind of offices which people can come to without feeling in any way embarrassed, and if the public knows that the money is being paid by the public, then the public would also have a right to be there and persons will not have to worry about whether they are going to a BLP office or a DLP office or any other kind of office. The fact, Sir, is that we as the politicians have to agree in a non-partisan way to raise certain matters relating to representation and the Constitution out of the political mire and put it at the level where all of us can accept it whether we are in or out of Parliament.

In this respect we need the assistance of, and we should be able to demand the concurrence of, the fourth estate, because they have an equal responsibility. The more they can educate the public, the more people will wish to buy newspapers, and I therefore believe that in this matter the fourth estate has a responsibility.

Mr. Chairman, I know there will be a next, if you will pardon the expression, as they say in Trinidad, there will be a next 'nother editorial about what I had to say, but sometimes in this political life you have to take on the editorialists as well. Suffice it to say that all of us are in this soup, all of us have to drink out ,*». of this pot, and therefore no one person should spit in the soup.

Thank you, Sir.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Sir, I want to address a couple of remarks that were made by some of the members who spoke before me, and I would want to begin by saying that I agree fundamentally with what the last speaker, the Member for St. Michael West, had to say about parliamen- ** tarians and the nature of the kind of representation they should offer, as well as the resources that should be made available when dispensing that representation.

It seems to me for the little time that I have been in this Chamber that parliamentarians always seem to run away from matters which touch upon and concern the quality of the representation they are expected to offer. 1 remember on a previous occasion when the Member for St. Thomas had to address this matter — and I am not really reflecting on a debate during this Session, Sir, just to trie point where I would want to refer to it for a point I would want to make — he referred to the problems that parliamentarians had and what they had to do, and some of the things they had to put up with for the salary that they made. Even though members fundamentally agreed with what he had to say, on the next occasion scorn was poured upon him by one Douglas Leopold Phillips. I believe it is because «* we as parliamentarians are seeking to lin some politi-

cal advantage that we always seek to score that kind of political point when members refer to matters of this kind.

But the case for proper assistance for parliamentarians and proper pay for parliamentarians has been eloquently put by the Member for St. Michael West, and as I said I agree with him. My own view, Sir, is that the quality of debate in this Chamber would rise significantly, or would be enhanced to an appreciable extent, if we had research assistance or Research Assistants at our disposal.- That is not so and therefore members have to rely on their own memories and also have to find the time to do their own research.

I would hope that from time to time as we go on these matters will be addressed and that when the occasion comes that kind of assistance will be made available to parliamentarians. You see, it is a kind of political fright, if you may, that is taken when we want to address these matters. There is always this caution when dealing with matters of this kind, because we are very afraid of the kind of political advantage that other members would take of statements that we make in these matters.

I know the problems I have had in St. George South relative to the provision of a constituency office and so on, and it was at the opening of that office that the Prime Minister made reference to the fact that the kind of assistance he referred to last Tuesday would have been offered to parliamentarians. What I would like to remind him, Sir, is about the promise he made to me on that occasion, and I still waiting to collect

The other matter that I would want to refer to is a point that was made by the Member for St. Michael South East. He referred to the situation that obtains presently, the rearrangement that was formalised in this Honourable Chamber today.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would not wish you to expand along those lines.

Mr. R. P. BYER: No, Sir, The Honourable Member made certain references and I would just reply to them to the extent that he made those remarks. I will not go outside the confines of the debate, Sir. I am very conscious of my responsibility in this regard. My response is simple, Sir, that whatever situation you work out, whatever is worked out to address what he perceives to be this problem, other problems will flow as a result of that. 1.35 p.m.

Even if we adopt the one system that would accommodate his views, which is the proportional representative system, problems would still result from that. So we would still be back at square one and that would not help the situation.

In closing, Sir, I would want to enquire of the person responsible as to the progress of the renovations or renewal qf Parliament, the work that is going on, and also the nature of the renovations. I believe Honourable Members would want to know what accommodation is being provided in those several chambers that are being renovated. If my memory serves me correctly, no one to this moment has informed this Honourable House on these matters.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Mr. Chairman, I would want to propose that there is a symbiotic relationship between our performance as politicians in our constituencies and our being Members of Parliament and our representing people in Parliament to this extent. Therefore I believe that the Honourable Member for St. Thomas was looking at that linkage when he was making his comment. In fact, I would suggest that all of our functions here in Parliament, whether it is passing legislation, redressing grievances, discussing matters of revenue and expenditure and selecting future leaders by performance here must relate to what happens out there in the constituency and what we do out there.

Sometimes Parliamentarians forget that linkage to their own peril. The fact is that you can only be in Parliament if first of all you can come from a constituency and therefore it is extremely important that we do not see ourselves as Parliamentarians, people who come to the House of Assembly or some similar Chamber and believe that that is a major parameter of our existence. I believe the constituency is extremely important, and I believe that the question of how we perform our functions in the constituency must always be a matter of prime consideration.

I have some difficulty, for instance, in putting a primacy of importance on getting constituency headquarters as against a constituency aid which should come first. Should Parliament have gone the route of making sure that Parliamentarians had access to good offices before they made arrangements for Parliamentary Assistants or should really the two things have gone together? I think we do not have much time in order to regularise the position to make sure that both are provided in an attempt to give good representation.

I would want to add words to the question of the Parliamentary Assistant or Parliamentary Aide, whatever name they go by, and I would like to congratulate those who are in this Chamber at present, and I can recognise a number of them, including the longest serving one, and to recognise their understanding of the system and the process that they can find themselves here today in a debate which concerns them, and that shows a tremendous maturity of those persons who are represented here today who are in that particular capacity and who serve that particular function.

The Honourable Leader of the Opposition suggested that our constituencies are becoming very sophisticated and that our perceptions of our performance of our functions in constituencies and in Parliament are becoming more sophisticated. I believe that is true and I believe it is a function of our improvement as a society overall. Certainly we can accept that our constituency offices will have qualified persons as our Constituency Assistants who will soon be using computers and word processors in the performance of their duties, because those of us who take our job seriously as Parliamentarians and who have some knowledge of the systems - and I think we all take our jobs very seriously as Parliamentarians and want to do the best for the people whom we represent - will want to ensure that we can get things like newsletters and other means of informing the people whom we represent of the things that we do within our constituencies and some of the things that happen in Parliament, and when you move into that level of sophistication, keeping your records, right now for instance we will be having the electoral lists before us and we have been introducing certain changes in these lists and we will be also hearing, as the Honourable Member for St. Thomas heard, that there will be changes to our boundaries.

I, for instance, have heard that it has been suggested that an area where I beat my opponent three to one, be taken off They try to cut off Lodge Road, Kingsland and Wotton from me and put it elsewhere, but that is a suggestion, of course, and we know where it will go. But at the same time the attempt and not the deed will confound them. The attempt and not the deed will confound those who try to bring about the change. But some of us reside in constituencies that cover geographically fairly extensive areas, and we know that our constituency aids when they are serious, and those that I know are serious, as part of the exercise have to go through that constituency and perform certain functions, and I believe that we can draw good quality persons as constituency aids. They should not be at a disadvantage with any worker in the society, but I know that this particular administration already has plans to improve the position and the status of the constituency aid, so we are really speaking to the converted, but we are just expressing our views on the matter because I expect that management employment relations — and we are seeing some very strange ones in this country developing in the private sector. I have been reading in the press about all sorts of newfangled ideas about the contract of employment, and Parliament would not want to be part of any strange employment relationships with, its employees. So I would like to make my voice heard in support of these constituency aids, because I believe they have a very important function to perform.

When it comes to the office, I was only too happy — I was at the opening of the St. George South Branch, I think that was last year when the Prime Minister said on that occasion ....

Asides.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: The St. George South branch of the Democratic Labour Party which still, as I know, obtains, there is no change to that; there is still the St. George South branch of the Democratic Labour Party, and I believe ....

Mr. R. P. BYER: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I would like to tell the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central that that building is private property and not the offices of the Democratic Labour Party.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Allow me to repeat, the St. George South branch of the Democratic Labour Party remains intact. The former representative is no longer there; the branch remains intact. I am not speaking about the headquarters or the building or whatever you want to call it. That might be your personal property, I do not know, but if you read "branch" to mean the building, then to me the lack of clarity is not on my part. 1 was talking about the branch; I am talking about the people who make the branch, the people, those people who carry something we call passports for easy identification. I am talking about the membership; they remain intact as far as I know, and the promise was made to the branch, if I remember, but the branch was used as an avenue to speak to all Barbados, by the Honourable Prime Minister at that time that he had every intention in this year when we were celebrating our 350th anniversary that he would be making provision for facilities for all Parliamentarians. At the time he was speaking, of course there was a two party system in terms of this House, but in the latitude and the breadth of his mind I am sure he would accommodate a third or fourth; there would not be any problem with that. I was very happy when, on Saturday 12th, the Prime Minister reaffirmed that commitment which is part of his normal behaviour that if he made a promise he is going to follow through on the promise. 1.45 p.m.

1 believe it is very important that we make proper accommodation for Parliamentarians in the constituencies*

I can say that the Honourable Member for St. Michael West has set a sterling example which those of us who know about it would follow in several areas and I have gone to his headquarters on more than one occasion and seen the use he has put to this. This, of course, has been replicated in several different areas and other people have been following that example.

I know in my own situation that I have had to house families in my headquarters building on more than one

occasion. As a matter of fact, I suffered for it because at one time I had a family for a month in my headquarters building. The next thing I heard was that I did not have any more headquarters building and when people call the family would say: "you know Mr. Morris is not here anymore. We are in the house now", and it took some time to correct the situation that, in fact, they were only temporary sojourners until they found alternative accommodation, and I would do that again.

I believe that that headquarters building must serve several functions. It is a difficult thing to do. 1 know that and I am certainly not trying to set any examples but there are times when people are under extreme duress and when you have the accommodation and the facilities you have to make decisions about how you are going to use them and that particular office can be use if the parliamentarian is, and I know parliamentarians generally are, community oriented, as a a place for holding classes in handicraft, in dancing, in cake-icing, apart from what can be considered as normal business arrangements. That is, that people come in and' you see them and you act partly as an employment bureau chief or whatever functions you have to do, an intermediary between one person or another, or you call a friend who is a lawyer and say, "well, look, I have a person I need to send to you" but you use that as a clearing house for meeting your peopte and it is important that the facilities that you have be of an excellent standard.

In the same way that you would want to invite people to your home and make sure that that is in good condition, you would want the same for your constituency headquarters, I believe, therefore, that we have to take this matter very seriously. It is not a light matter, the case of making sure that our constituency aides or Assistants are given the best possible conditions under which to operate but that on the whole parliamentarians must be given the kind of treatment that would accord With their status and that would allow them to perform their functions efficiently.

We would be very lucky if we could get constituency Assistants who are capable across a wide range of skills and if you can get a secretary, fine. If you can get a secretary who is also a social hostess, better still and if you can get in addition to those a person who can help you to go out and organize your constituency, you are even better and if you can get, in addition to that, a person who has research skills, then, clearly, you are lucky but whenever you meet that quality of person you are still met with a situation where all of them are paid the same salary because that is the structure that we have so I guess in several ways you are limited in terms of the kind of person that you can attract to that particular position and who are we to say that only a certain person should be limited to that function of your Constituency Assistant.

As it is now, you are limited by the fact that the amount of money that is paid as a salary will determine the kind of market you can have for it but who can say that that is the direction that we must go.

I heard a point made that, perhaps, we do not need one but two, one person who would have secretar ial skills and another one might have distinct research skills. I think what this recognizes is a need for that kind of assistance for parliamentarians whether it is done at constituency level or the level here in Parlia ment where you can have the kind of research facili ties because I believe that things like an adequate par liamentary library and by library I am not necessarily thinking of a model for the Public Library.....

I think that a parliamentary library has to be a different type of model. A parliamentary library will depend more on contemporary information, for instance, than your Public Library which would be stocked mainly with books, journals, etc. A parliamentary library would have to have up-to-date cuttings from newspapers, clippings, and these would be like newspapers from all over the world like what is "The New York Times" saying today and so on. What is the "Boston Globe" saying?

You have to have your up-to-date clippings in easy access for members and you need financial information. You need to know what is happening politically in other parts of the world and I believe that that kind of library would be of tremendous assistance to us in Parliament if we are going to perform our functions and come in here and not talk at the level of really what is sometimes public meetings.

We get a lot of public meetings in Parliament sometimes. We get a lot of canvassing in Parliament sometimes. But if you want to talk at a level that we can do justice to our functions to society, I believe we need that kind of back-up resources and assistance and we can do that through making sure that we treat our Parliamentary Assistants in the right way and that we get the right facilities in our constituency offices.

Thank you.

Aside.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I am not winding up but I think it is time that Government's position should be put. Everybody is speaking. There are hardly any con flicts in what members are saying. Everbody is agreeing with each other but Government's position ....

Aside.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I think it is time that Government's position should be put on this matter.

Sir, Parliament is either the highest institution in the land or a very important institution in this country and, as such, I believe that we have to provide all the facilities that are necessary for Honourable Members to carry out their parliamentary duties.

What I am saying here now is nothing new. In fact, in putting Government's position all that I am doing is restating a position put in this Chamber, I believe, on more than one occasion by the Prime Minister himself and only as recently as the last meeting of this Parliament in that members recognize that it is a need in order properly to service their constituencies, in order properly to make their presentations and do their parliamentary work.

In fact, we have to provide infrastructural back-up support to make this possible and, I think, from time to time as the Honourable Member for St. George South has stated the position of the Government, and it was Government's position that was put at the opening of the constituency office in his constituency and has been put by the Prime Minister from time to time, and it is very simply stated, that it is the intention of the Government and starting, I believe, as soon as from the very next financial year which begins in April, to provide funds to enable the parliamentarians to have a place where their constituents can meet in order to properly carry out their functions but that is at the constituency level.

Now, it was raised by the former Leader of the Opposition, the Honourable Member for Christ Church West, the question of providing facilities here for members, I believe, specifically because we are not in a position to provide that kind of facilities for individual members within the precincts of this Chamber, but to provide facilities for a group of persons, let us say, there are three Members of the Opposition who formerly had, and I believe, the word "formerly" is probably used correctly, had space within the precincts of the compound of Parliament but now find themselves through no fault of their own without those facilities.

Aside.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I do not know whose fault it is. I am not getting into that. I can only say it is probably through no fault of their own. I am not getting into that.

I have some sympathy with that as well. As a matter of fact, as Leader of the House, I received a letter from the Honourable Member for Christ Church West, then Leader of the Opposition, seeking some area within the compound of Parliament where his group can meet.

Now, Sir, we have to look at this in its totality because I think I mentioned to him the Official Opposition in Parliament is welcome, I believe, in every area of the precincts of this Chamber. 1.55 pan.

Aside.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: The Official Opposition 1 said.

Laughter.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: That is not necessarily so, Sir, with Members on this side or even probably from Members on the other side. Because I do not know, Sir, that Members on this side, the Government side are necessarily welcome, and that probably has traditionally been the case, in the offices of the West Wing of Parliament.

Aside.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: So the point I am trying to make Sir.....

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Invitation is extended to my friends on the other side.

Laughter.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: What I like, Sir, about the offer from the Leader of the Opposition is that he says come into my house, after he puts you out.

Laughter.

Aside.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: He puts you out and then says, come back in now, you are now in my house. That is a great invitation.

But to be serious, Sir, the point I am really getting at is that what we really need are facilities for all of us to meet. There is no place, Sir, for the Members on this side to meet either. If the Members on this side want to meet, want to have a conference as a group, these Members here on this side will have to meet in the office of the Clerk of Parliament, as we have done before. Similarly, ...

Aside.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Right. That is the position. Similarly if Members of that group want to have a meeting I assume, Sir, for the time being, until we can find some accommodation for everybody that they may also have to meet in the office of the Clerk of Parliament.

So the real point I am making, Sir, is this: that we need office accommodation not only for the Official

Opposition and the other Members of the Opposition, we also need accommodation for Members of this group as well. Constituents come to see us in Parliament — Government Members as well — and although perhaps we may be able to get away with it by meeting in the room that is allocated to the Leader of the House, because that I notice, Sir, is used as a thoroughfare and not necessarily, Sir, as an office for the Leader of the House, other Honourable Members sitting beside me have no right to meet constituents in that room. But everybody seems to be using that room, Sir.

Laughter.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Anyhow, Sir, in our renovations of Parliament and the Honourable Member for St. George South has asked for some information with regards renovations of Parliament, so far, Sir, this is the only area, the area in which we are now meeting that is completed. Well, this area and the rooms adjoining are the only section of this building that is complete.

I would invite Honourable Members, when they have an opportunity, or make an opportunity, to visit the Senate Chamber and see the work that is proceeding there which we hope to complete before the end of February. I have been advised and assured by the work team which is part of the force of the Ministry of Transport and Works that they will be able to have the Senate Chamber ready by the very last weekend of February. As you know, Sir, there is a meeting to take place there early March involving a joint sitting of both Houses, the Senate as well as the House of Assembly.

Then, Sir, there is some work going on at the ground floor level. At the ground floor level, Sir, it is proposed at that level to have there an office for the Leader of the Opposition, an Opposition conference room and rooms for support staff of the office of Leader of the Opposition.

We are hoping and planning and working towards having the ground floor of this building ready by June of this year for the time when we will be celebrating our 350th Anniversary of Parliament. Sir, if it can be ready by that time and the Leader of the Opposition allocated space downstairs, I do not see, Sir, looking at the configuration of the building that it will be possible to fit in on the ground floor of this building any additional rooms for other groups to meet.

It may well be possible, Sir, that when the Leader of the Opposition moves from the West Wing to the East, to allow the other section of the Opposition to move back into offices which they have been forced.to vacate. Hopefully by June or thereabouts we might be able to allow them to have some space in which they can meet.

One matter i should like to touch on before 1 take my seat. The Honourable Member for St. Thomas has been referring to some amendments to constituency boundaries and some realignments of constituency boundaries. He referred to the deft hand of the politicians, of course, trying to convey the impression to Members in earshot, persons in earshot and press that the Government on this side had a hand in that. That is the impression conveyed to me, as a reasonable person. Let me say, Sir...

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

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Good. I am glad he is rising on a point of order.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The Honourable Member is misleading the House, Sir.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: About my own impression?

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I spoke of functionaries and operatives with a fine hand for the political. That is what I said.

Aside.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I am glad he said that because, as Minister responsible for Parliamentary Affairs and as the Deputy Prime Minister, let me say that the very first time I heard of any realignments I got it from the Honourable Member for St. Thomas.

Laughter.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: That is right. I got it from him. Let me say here. I know nothing about any realignments. All I know, I know it from the Honourable Member for St. Thomas, not sitting in here today, but not many hours in the past.

Anyhow, Sir, I hope that, with those few words, and giving Members the assurances, especially the group of which apparently the Member for Christ Church West is the Leader .....

Aside,

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Are you the Leader of that group?

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Sir. The Barbados Labour Party is a movement.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: We are fifty years old.

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

Aside.

Laughter.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The Honourable Member will see that, whenever we move, we move to the left, Sir.

Laughter.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I hope Joan Benjamin observes that.

Laughter.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Anyhow, Sir, I did not intend that to be facetious. I am saying, Sir, I assume now that there is no longer the official title of Leader of the Opposi tion attaching to the Honourable Member for Christ Church West, I see facing me two groups of persons. I assume that one group is led by the Leader of the Opposition and my assumption is that the other group say they want to have no part of you, I am moving and have my own little place, and that I am assuming too.....

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of elucidation, Sir. I believe that this Honourable House was informed in a personal statement that I am the Leader of this group. So it is no longer an assumption.

Aside.

Laughter.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Sir, I want to make the posi-tion dear.

The Barbados Labour Party, and seriously now not joking, Sir, of all of the Parties in the Commonwealth Caribbean has the longest history and the best record of performance of any political Party. It has never tagged itself on to anybody. 2.05 p.m.

When we speak, we speak from a position of having been a serious political party that gave birth to the Demo cratic Labour Party and by.....

Asides.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: He is the grandfather now of the NDP because they gave birth to the NDP, and not only, Sir, do we demand to be treated with respect but we expect our children to recognise their genealogy and properly too, Sir.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, the child is father of the man. Let him be satisfied with that. But he only confirmed what I am saying, Sir, that it appears that they have 3 groups. It appears so to me. I am sorry to make the assumption — not an assumption. It is a fact. The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central is the Leader of the Opposition and my assumption is of that group. That is all the assumption is. But I also see others staying far away. I am assuming that that group also may have a leader ..... it has no leader.

Laughter.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Sir, I do not want to prolong this debate. The Honourable Member is making fun. Had microphones been at the back there, Sir, the Barbados Labour Party's Opposition in Parliament, the people's opposition, would have sat at the back. This is not the first time that we have been in the House. It has happened before, I think it was in 1961, finding ourselves although the effective Opposition having to take a parliamentary and legal role according to certain constitutional niceties, Sir. The Honourable Member must take the point seriously.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I think you have given salt enough to this.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, all I am trying to do is to identify the leader of the group, Sir. I am not trying to do anything more. I do not know why he is coming in here and jumping up. He is so sensitive. Now that he has moved from one position to the other, he has become a very sensitive person.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let us press on.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I was just trying to identify the leader of the group. I mean — is there no leader in that group? Is everybody a leader? There are 3 leaders over there.

Asides.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Let me say this, Sir. I want to give the Honourable Member for Christ Church West the assurance that for him if not for the other 2 we will provide a microphone. I am assuming now, Sir, that he is not speaking for the other two, because I am assuming he is no longer the leader of the two.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Again, Sir, for the benefit of the Honourable Member, he wishes to make assumptions. For his benefit, the Barbados Labour Party is led by a leader now and will be led by a leader when we constitute the Government again. He must understand this.

Asides.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I do not see why I have to go to all of that for him to say that, Sir. I do not understand it. He could have said that from the very beginning and saved us all of this time, Sir. So let me say this, Sir. I will give him the assurance then, Sir, now that I know he is speaking for the Members of the Barbados Labour Party. I am assuming that the Members for Christ Church West, St. Thomas, and St. Peter are still members of the Barbados Labour Party. I am assuming that. In making that assumption, Sir, Let me give the assurances that I will do all within my power as the Leader of Government Business in Parliament, as well as the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, to have 3 microphones placed, if that is their wish, exactly where they want them and they appear to want them, I understand, behind the Leader of the Opposition and the other Members constituting that group led by the Leader of the Opposition. So those are my assurances.

Mr. Chairman, I think we can put the question, Sir, and then I seek leave to sit again, Sir.

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

On the motion of Hon. P. M. GREA VES, seconded by Hon. B. M. TAITT, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress and asked leave to sit again, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I move that this sitting be suspended until 3.15 p.m. today, Sir.

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

The question tMt this sitting be suspended until 3.15 p.m. today was put and resolved in the affirmative, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly. 2.13p.m.

ON RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: The 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 went into Committee of Supply, Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE in the Chair.

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

HEAD 16 - MINISTRY OF THE CIVIL SERVICE

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, in respect of Head 16 - Ministry of the Civil Service, Subhead 2 — Training Administration, there is a requirement under Object No. 2, Other Personal Emoluments for supplementary provision in the sum of $952, and under Object No. 12, Operating Expenses, the sum of $3,000.

In respect of the Operating Expenses, the sum of $5,000 was provided and during the year workshops were organised for middle level staff, at the Caribbee Beach Hotel. It was held at the Caribbee Beach Hotel and a sum of $789.62 was required for that particular purpose.

There are a number of local training courses also organised which will incur additional expenditure. For Example, there is an Executive Management training programme, which was for one day, a training of trainers programme lasting over four weeks, an audio visual aids training programme for two weeks and two accounting programmes, accounting level 3 and another accounting programme, of one week's duration each.

The funds provided are inadequate to meet the expenditures and hence a supplement of $3,000 for the Operating Expenses is required to see the programmes through to the end of the year.

The other items relate to National Insurance Contributions and similar outlays which are normal at this time, Sir, under Other Personal Emoluments. There is nothing controversial about these items.

I beg »to move that those sums stand part of the Schedule.

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

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, the Ministry of the Civil Service, or the Public Service — I believe it was redefined as Civil Service at a later stage, and presently appears here as the Civil Service, I have elsewhere referred to that Ministry as Public Nuisance No. 1, and when I said that I was in good company. I was in good company because I distinctly recall who it was when first the matter was ever raised said to me those things have caused a lot of trouble elsewhere. I believe I know who it was, and, indeed, I think his words turned out to be absolutely true.

Mr. Chairman, for the past three years there can be no doubt that, if there is a single Ministry in Barbados which has attracted universal hostility from the public of Barbados, it is the Ministry of the Civil Service, and as I stand here I speak, I am sure, not only for myself, not only for the four members of the NDP, but I am sure I speak for the vast majority of persons

in this Parliament who like me, addressing their consciences on a previous occasion, found it impossible to get up and defend the Ministry of the Civil Service.

We all know why this problem has developed, we all know of the Ministry of the Civil Service, although I am told that its excesses have been somewhat curbed in recent times, the kinds of problems that it created in terms of ministerial functions as properly understood under the Constitution of Barbados.

We all kmow that the public servants of this country are waiting with eagerness to hear what the policy of the NDP will be towards the Ministry of the Civil Service, and the policy is this. An NDP Government will abolish the Ministry of the Civil Service. I am not going to address these matters on a personal basis. Let us take personalities out of it altogether.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would just like to say to the Honourable Member that while we are dealing with the Ministry of the Civil Service, the Subhead is Training Administration.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, all I can tell you is this, that it is my understanding that this is a money Resolution under the Ministry of the Civil Service, and training is one of its responsibilities, and I am within my parliamentary rights. This is a money Resolution, so let us get the record clear on these matters when the House is in Committee.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, on a point of order. I am sure that the Honourable Member, while preserving his rights and the rules of this House, would wish to be temperate in his language as he addresses the Chair. Your Honour might not wish to speak to him in those terms, Sir, but I am sure that my colleague on the other side does not intend Ms language to be as intemperate as it appears to be.

Dr. R, C. HAYNES: Loud, Mr. Chairman, but not intemperate. They are two different things altogether. I am speaking loudly, Sir, only because I understand that when I speak softly I cannot be heard by the Official Reporters of the House. I do not wish to get into any personalities in this matter at this stage of this debate because I think that could be dealt with at another time. 3.25 pjn.

I am saying, Sir, that the Ministry of the Civil Service has been responsible for a considerable amount of disruption in the morale of the public service in this country. I am saying in my experience that there is no Ministry that almost invariably knows what is the right thing to do, but nevertheless elects to do the wrong thing. As a matter of fact, Sir, it is one of the most fascinating experiences I have had when I was in Government, to see persons who know what is the right thing to do and yet for some reason always choose to do the wrong thing. Whatever Ministry you are thinking about, whatever department of Government throughout the past three years, there has been some serious offence created in relation to the public service in this country.

Sir, I speak not only in relation to appointments, I speak not only in relation to dismissals, I speak not only in relation to promotions, I speak also in relation to recruitments, and the big problem, Sir, is that in many instances the Ministers who are responsible for these Ministries do not even know what is going on when it happens, and they have to carry the responsibility.

I believe that, in a small country like Barbados, the responsibility for personnel matters should probably be held by the Prime Minister who should be the Minister responsible for Establishment matters. One would never imagine the amount of almost despair which exists in major sectors of the public service today. Wherever you go you find a continuing chorus, complaints against the activities of the Civil Service Ministry, and I say "Ministry" and I am saying th#t for a very good reason, because the last time I said "Ministry" the press and everbody tried to reduce that to a personal attack on someone, and I am trying to avoid that. I am trying to avoid that today and I think that as the person who made the first comments today pointed out, even in bigger countries it has created problems because a lot of areas with which it deals very often crosses ministerial barriers.

We have in this country systems of appointment, temporary appointments, permanent appointments, we have the Public Service Commission in a given role, and here you find a group of individuals who can manipulate the whole system creating embarrassment and problems for individual Ministers and groups of Ministers from time to time. I speak, Sir, in the public interest on this occasion, and what I am saying I am quite sure there is hardly anyone in this House who could deny that I arn telling the truth.

I believe, Sir, that the time has come when the Government has to examine the role of the Public Service Ministry. I recall, Sir, that not so long ago that Ministry was being subjected to a study, and the experts who were trying to study the Ministry came to the conclusion that the problem with the Public Service Ministry is that they are doing every single thing except what they are supposed to be doing. I would be very interested to see the final results of that report. That was a Ministry that concentrated on training and upgrading the skills of public servants, concentrating on increasing the efficiency of the public service, concentrating in assisting the various Departments of Government in formulating

programmes to increase the efficiency of those departments as it was envisaged initially it was thought it would work in that way, but as we all know, that has not been the case, and indeed I challenge anyone who is going to be loyal to the dictates of his conscience to get up and say that they themselves have not had some problems or perceptions with that particular Ministry.

I believe that I speak on behalf of the public servants of Barbados when I say that they no longer feel the kind of confidence dealing with the Civil Service Ministry as they have felt in the past dealing with the Prime Ministers who have looked after the Establishments Division of Government. I think it is unfortunate it is an experiment that was tried, an experiment which maybe was working, I do not know, but the time has come when it should be abandoned. The only alternative I can see is for such a Ministry to be headed by a junior Minister probably within the Prime Minister's office perhaps, and even then it is going to create problems; so I would not even put forward that suggestion. I will withdraw that suggestion. It is creating problems, and if the Government does not recognise that it is a problem, that is the Government's problem. I have seen it from the inside and I am looking at it now from the outside, and I can tell you that what I hear from the outside is far more damaging to the Government because in the inside you are insulated against a whole lot of things.

Sir, that Ministry got off on the wrong footing. I am not interested primarily in the survival of the Government, and I am not talking to promote the survival of the Government; I am talking about trying to restore confidence of the public servants in the political directorate of this country, and I am telling you that it is at the lowest ebb at the moment. I have not seen it at this ebb for a long time, and yet, Mr. Chairman, I do not hear them complain of the other Ministers except one, the Honourable Member for St. James South. He is the only one I hear them complain about, walking around with a list of 150 people saying that they are to be fired, meeting my constituents and telling them that he hears they are supporting the NDP and they had better watch it because they might lose their jobs.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, ask him to lift his head a bit. He always sinks, we know that, but that is not true.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: If I may continue ...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: For two minutes.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: What I am saying is that it is remarkable that a Government should enjoy a low level of popularity with its public servants and yet, wheD you try to analyse their concerns with the political directorate, they always focus on the Ministry of the Civil Service, and in very recent times the Honourable Member for St. James South. Thank you very much. I will be back later.

The question that Head 16 - Ministry of the Civil Service - stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 28 - MINISTRY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS *Head 28 - Ministry of Legal Affairs - was called.*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will Honourable Members realise that we cannot have that kind of cross talking?

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, Supplementary provision is sought under Head 28 as follows: 3.35 p.m.

In relation to Subhead 1, Item 6 - Travel. The Ministry was assigned a temporary post of Senior Administrative Officer and this is a post under the travelling schedule which had not been provided for when the Estimates were settled.

This officer is on the travelling schedule and the existing provisions have been used to pay all the travelling officers so that it has now left a vacancy in relation to this vote and supplementary provision of $2,175 is being sought under this Head.

In relation to the Registration Department, Rental of Property, the volume of photocopying which the Registry has been doing has increased considerably. They have found it necessary to rent a third photocopier and provision is being sought to meet the expenditure in this regard which had not been provided for in the Estimates.

Under Subhead 4, Item 10, Supplies and Materials, supplementary provision is being sought to accommodate purchases of things like copying paper, binders, accessories for the microfische equipment and film. This is for the Registration Department as well.

Under Subhead 5, Supreme Court, a decision has recently been taken that the cost of utilities to the Chief Justice's residence should be met from public funds.

You will recall that the Chief Justice still occupies the residence he occupied when he was Puisne Judge and the decision to meet the cost of utilities at the Chief Justice's residence has been made retroactive to January 1, 1987 and supplementary provision is being sought because this item had clearly not been provided

for when the Estimates had been settled and this provision is to meet expenditure of utilities in respect of the Chief Justice's residence.

In relation to the Library, there have been a number of unpaid bills in the previous financial year which were met out of the provision in the Estimates for the current financial year so that that allocation has left the amount available for the Library short in this financial year so supplementary provision is being provided to meet that expenditure.

Under Item 11 — Rental of Property — this item provides for furniture, airconditioning units and the cars of the five judges in the Supreme Court.

The initial expenditure of $25,000 which had been provided in the Estimates has proved inadequate and it is anticipated that supplementary provision under this Head of $10,802 will be required to meet the expenses associated with fuel, servicing the judges cars, and repairing these cars as well.

Under Subhead 7 — Processing Serving — supplementary provision is being sought to meet the cost of travelling for the marshals of the Supreme Court. This is official travelling which the marshals are required to do in the course of their duties.

Under Subhead 8 of Head 28, a sum of $50,000 is being sought to supplement the vote in respect of the Community Legal Services Commission. There have been a number of civil cases which the commission has been authorizing legal assistance to persons in respect of the law in relation to family matters and supplementary provision is provided for the extension of the facility in this area of the law.

Against that background, Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 28 stand part.

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

Mr. R. P. BYER: Mr. Chairman, I want to say a couple of things in relation to the Registration Office in addition to other offices of Government that serve a similar purpose.

I believe this is the third occasion on which I am intervening in this session to speak on this matter and I am only doing so now for the reason that the situation at the Registation Office has not improved to any recognizable degree since I made my earlier comments.

Now, I, because of my profession, have occasion to use the Registration Office on many occasions during the course of a week and, certainly, many occasions of the year and I have been able to observe that the conditions in the Registration Office have not improved since I was Deputy Registrar.

Actually, when I went to the Registration Office in 1976 the conditions there were deplorable and when I left in 1978 and returned again in 1979 and leaving again in 1980 the conditions had not changed in any way.

Now, a situation has been reached where the search of records is, indeed, a problem to the extent that deeds now are being stored, I am told, in a place other than the vault of that department and I have before pointed out the danger in doing something like this and I do believe that we will only appreciate that danger when something disastrous happens.

Previously, there was one attempt at arson in the Registration Department. Thank God, nothing became of that and very little damage, if any, was caused but we all remember what happened in Dominica and the difficulty that they are having in reconstructing records and, I believe, that if the worse should happen, we would lose a very large part of our heritage. A very large part of our heritage would go up in smoke if something is not done urgently to rectify the situation in the Registration Office in so far as record-keeping is concerned.

Things are being stored outside in the vault, including deeds, records of births, deaths - I am not so sure about marriages - and they used to be contained or housed within a sheet of laminate on either side of that card and by 1978, I think, and, certainly, by the time the now retired Mr. Justice Rocheford left the Registration Office as Registrar of the Supreme Court, that system had been discontinued.

It was a very good way of storing that kind of record because it ensured its survival and ensured that record would remain with us for a long time without having to be recopied.

There is also a problem of recopying information because of frequent use of deeds and other books of information that become dog eared. 3.45 p.m.

These documents have got to be recopied from time to time. I have had occasion to see where several books of record are in a very deplorable state. Sometimes it is very difficult to discern the information contained in them. As the vault expands outwards, there has been a contraction of space. There is very little space now for the staff to operate in. This in itself is causing problems for the public because there is no waiting area for the public and from time to time people have got to stand in the area of Registration Office personnel when they go in about their business.

I have alluded to the fact of the bad electrical wiring in the Registration Office before and there is constant overloading and the electricity goes off from time to time. This in itself causes other problems. I am not trying to make any political issue out of the Registration Office. The Registration Department is something dear to me because I used to work there and I really want to see the office improved. I want to see it improved to a point where members of staff could enjoy the comforts that are enjoyed in some of the more lavish Government departments.

I am told that, at some time or at some point, the records in the Registration Office, insofar as they relate to deeds and other documents of title, will be sent to the Registrar of Titles for storage. I will be very anxious to find out from the Attorney-General when this would occur. I know that, at present, there is a problem of space with the Registrar of Titles and this makes the problem more acute and also brings a certain sense of urgency to the solution of it because, as I said, we could lose a large part of our heritage should the Registration Office go up in smoke and the documents are not properly stored.

There are also problems of space over at the Corporate Affairs Office which is also another Government department responsible for record keeping and so on. In the circumstances, record storing is difficult. As I said on another occasion, records are being kept outside of the office on the step leading in to the actual Corporate Affairs Office. I do not think it is a condition that ought to remain for very long. I think that something should be done with that. It is not a very healthy thing to store records in boxes and leave them in the open. Apart from theft you also have the attendant problems of soilage. You have fires as well. Just one cigarette and everything goes up in smoke.

I am afraid, Sir, that if we allow the present situation to continue for a very long time it will deteriorate to a point where it will collapse.

These offices are necessary for the administration of justice in Barbados. For some time now there has beeen a lot of talk about building new offices for the Supreme Court and things like that. But this has been going on for some time now. I believe that it is becoming a bit tiresome to hear us continue to talk about this and it is all being shelved.

You see, my only point about it is that money spent in the administration of justice is money well spent. I think that for too long the matter of the construction of proper facilities to house all of those offices that have anything to do with the administration of justice in Barbados has been put on the back burner. I think it is time for this matter to come now to the forefront and for this matter to be settled once and for all.

I do not know what the plans of the present Administration are in this regard. But certainly I would be very glad to hear what those plans are, especially in relation to those matters that I have brought to the attention of this Honourable House.

The Supreme Court section of the Registration Office also suffers from similar problems, problems of storage to a point where things are now being misplaced and difficult to find. In terms of the Supreme Court this could be a very damaging thing. Once again I would very much like to hear that these problems are being addressed to the point, not just being addressed in a way that we have just piecemeal solutions to them. I would like to hear something concrete being done in relation to the provision of proper accommodation for those offices in Government Departments that have anything at all to do with the administration of justice in Barbados. We must attend to this problem if not it would become very disastrous for Barbados as a country.

Thank you.

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

His Honour J. J. PAYNE: Mr. Chairman, I want to also say a few words in relation to this matter, particularly as it affects the administration of justice.

I took particular note of a news item yersterday that some relief is coming in the North of the Island where they are going to be building a new complex at Holetown to house the Holetown Magistrate Court and Police Station and set up a new building in that area. I was particularly please when I heard it, that the Prime Minister and other officials visited the area, because some time ago I made a call for some improvement to the Holetown Police Station and the courthouse of that area and I am glad to see that relief is coming so soon to the people of that area. I have no doubt that it could be partially due to my complaints, but...

Aside.

His Honour J. J. PAYNE: ... no doubt this is a matter that has been knocked about for a very long time.

The thing about it though really is that many people think that police stations and courthouses are places for criminals. It might be recognized that the

courthouses and police stations are utilized and frequented by people who have nothing whatsoever to do with crime. There are many people who go to the courthouse in relation to civil debts. There are many young women in this country who have to go to the courthouse to collect maintenance for their children. There are many people who out of all innocence, have to go to court as witnesses. There are many other reasons why persons from time to time have to frequent a courthouse or a police station.

I believe it is very important that Government should find some means of creating an environment which is more pleasant for these persons. We find that, for example, the conditions now are such that there are no proper facilities for toilets, there are no proper facilities for shelter. Many witnesses have to stand under a tree in the courtyard. This is something, Mr. Chairman, which I am very happy to see relief coming in in this particular area.

I think that the remarks made by the Honourable Member for St. George South are well taken because everbody accepts that the judicial system in this country is one which has to be taken particular note of. I think that, unless we can create an environment where people can feel comfortable, if people cannot feel comfortable in an environment they will not seek to take advantage of the judicial system. So that is one area in particular which I am particularly pleased to speak about.

What is also of particular note, Mr. Chairman, is the fact that much of the equipment in these places is in need of updating. 3.55 p.m.

We find still that, despite many requests, Magistrates at these stations work under some very humiliating conditions. The offices of many of these officers are in need of a lift and I believe that the effort which is being made in this regard is one which should be complimented. So I just want to add my own word in giving my support to this particular Resolution.

Asides.

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for St. James North was sure that his persistent calls for the renovation of the police station at Holetown and the Courts did have some effect on the Government's decision clearly to go ahead with that project. We are well on the way in planning for it and, hopefully, it will start early in the new financial year. That was the purpose of the visit of the Prime Minister and myself and other officials of the Government there yesterday to ensure that planning for the project was done in the most effective way possible.

I have no doubt, just as the Honourable Member for St. James North attributed the progress to his persistent calls, that the Honourable Member for St. George South, when we once embark on providing for the Supreme Court and for the Registry, will claim credit for having persistently called for adequate physical facilities for the Court and for the Registry and will in due time claim credit for having forced us into that. Let me assure the Honourable House, Mr. Chairman, as I have done on a number of occasions before. We have committed ourselves to providing a new Judicial Centre which will house not only the Supreme Courts but also adequate provision will be made for the Registration Office and other ancillary offices. Things like the Court Process Office, for instance, will be provided for and we hope in the new centre to make adequate and substantial provision for all of the services which need to be provided for. Active progress is at the moment being made in relation to providing the adequate land and space for the erection of the buildings. We are in the process of negotiation with the owners of property which we want to use. I would not want to say too much more about that now because we are in the process of negotiation. I wish to give the House the assurance that plans for the erection of a new Judicial Centre are not in the imagination of this Government and that, early in the next financial year, I am sure we will see active progress being made in the provision of a new Judicial Centre for the country.

The Honourable Member for St. George South has spoken of the conditions in the Registration Office, of what he chose to term deplorable conditions in the Registration Office and the inadequacy of the physical facilities for the staff of the Registration Office. This is a complaint which nobody can quarrel about because, traditionally, as the debates in this House have taken place on the Estimates in relation to these Heads of expenditure, we have had this type of complaint being levelled in relation to the Registration Office and the inadequacy of physical facilities for staff. What has clearly happened over the years is that, with the growth of business in the community, with the expansion of the work which needs to be done by the Registration Office, clearly the physical facilities have not been improved in order to keep pace with that growth in development. So that over the years you had more and more work being done by the Registration Office, more and more deeds becoming available to be taken care of, and yet the physical facilities, with more staff being employed as well, have not been expanded to cope with this growth.

I think Honourable Members will recall that, from time to time, I have spoken of the inadequacy of the physical plant not only in relation to the Registration Office but in relation to other aspects of Government as well. I mean the Ministry of Legal Affairs does not have adequate facilities to house the Ministv and...

The point I was really making was that you had in some countries an attempt to set up an organisation for the Civil Service as a separate Ministry and that those attempts, certainly in Britian, tended to run into problems, because in the end the particular functions relating to the Public Service still have to be carried out, and to say that it is set up as a separate Ministry, or that it is part of the Ministry falling under the Prime Minister, still leaves you with the question of the implementation of the very important functions relating to the Public Service, of training of that Service, recruitment to the Service, promotion, discipline, transfers* all of those problems, the accommodation of the Service, the attempt to get efficiency within the Service, the organisation and management approaches to the Service.

All of these are functions and activities that have to be carried out, and to say that one is going to abolish the Ministry of the Civil Service is really begging the question, because the main issues are still there and we have to make the distinction between abolishing a service and seeking to ensure that the purposes, the aims, the objectives for the management and streamlining of the Civil Service are carried out within a certain administrative framework.

Our policy is, and we will continue with that policy to have a separate Ministry of the Civil Service that can concentrate its efforts on the aims for which it was established and I am happy to say it has been seeking to implement the particular mission.

I have mentioned training, Sir, and I indicated the different levels of courses that have been carried out. I would like to add, as the Member for St. Michael South Central would obviously know, that in 1985-86 the amount of budgetary allocations for training was just $192,178. In 1986-87 that was increased to some $310,000. In 1987-88 to $400,000 and iri the current financial year to some half a million dollars.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. We in this sector of the Opposition are at a loss. I believe we are dealing with Head 33 - Probation, Subhead 1 - Probation Department. Is that what we are dealing with, Sir?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: It is.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I do not know where we are. I am hearing all kinds of things relating to the Civil Service.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am still to be informed as to what has the Honourable Member risen on.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Sir. Earlier today, before lunch, it was a different story in here.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I have not said anything, I said it was a different story. That is subject to several interpretations, but I thought we were dealing with Probation now.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let me say to you that I am entertaining the Prime Minister on the matter of Head 33 in relation to acting appointments. That is where he began, and he is talking about training. 4.15 p.m.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: That is your ruling, Sir.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Sir, we are talking about the public service in terms of the appointments acting or otherwise within the service, and we are talking about training and I am taking the opportunity to ensure certain matters are clarified.

Asides.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I am defending them now. You cannot tell me when to do anything. That is the difference, you see! Too many people want to tell me when to do something. That is the problem. He has never attempted to tell me anything like that. I am pointing in that direction. But this is the important thing as far as acting appointments are made, that the Ministry of the Civil Service has an important role to play. It has sought, in co-operation with the various Ministries, to ensure that they have personnel to carry out posts for acting appointments and it has sought that the personnel should be trained. It has sought within the resources available to try to do something about the accommodation for the members of the public service, because if you are holding an acting appointment you have to be accommodated somewhere, and it is the role of the Civil Service Ministry to do all of these things. To talk about the abolition of the Ministry of the Civil Service is really to sidestep the main issue which is dealing with those matters for which that particular Ministry has been established.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I believe that one should be very careful in understanding what is going on in this Honourable House. I recall on another occasion when the Ministry of the Public Service came under fire from within the then official Opposition, there was only one defender. That same defender today has risen, but if you note carefully he has risen under Head 33 entitled "Probation". That fact would indicate that there is a recognition that there is substance in the position taken by the National Democratic Party in this matter. We have no quarrel with the objectives as set out. The objectives as set out are perfectly clear and perfectly legitimate in respect of the Public Service. The problem

Asides.

Hon. M. A. KING: I said adequate, because the facilities have become run down and as a result we have had to rent physical facilities. The problem with all Government buildings all over the country is the same. There has not been much attention paid to them over the years, and as a result of which we find ourselves in the position where we have to be paying a lot of attention now to trying to get the physical facilities under which public servants are required to work in adequate condition for them to do so.

I just urge Honourable Members to recognise the fact that there is a lot of work which has to be done in relation to all Public Service buildings and that this Government is committed to putting those Public Service buildings into shape and to providing adequate facilities for all public servants to work in. The programme which we have for sorting out the Registration Office, providing an adequate Judicial Centre which will take care of all these needs, has to be looked at in that context. I am not going to give anybody the assurance that we can remedy things overnight because there is a feeling in this community that, once you are appointed to govern, you have to provide all of the answers tomorrow. I am not going to be so foolhardy as to make any commitment that we are going to solve all the problems in relation to housing and accommodation of public servants and storage of records and that sort of thing. I am not going to give any assurance that we can have them done overnight, but ! will give you the assurance that we will make the greatest possible effort to have all the problems remedied as soon as possible and within the financial capability of the Government.

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

HEAD 29 - PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, Head 29 Subhead 1 - Supplementary provision is being sought to provide for the maintenance of the Official car assigned to the Director of Public Prosecutions. There have been a number of outstanding repair bills which need to be settled and this provision is being sought here again.

I move that Head 29 stand part. Hon.

B. M. TAITT: I second that.

The question that Head 29 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 4.05 p.m.

HEAD 30 - POLICE

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, supplementary provision is being sought to provide furniture for the new Police Station which was opened at the airport in December last year. The furniture which was in the old Police Station at the airport is obviously very dilapidated and decrepit and not suitable for use in this new station. This supplementary is being sought to provide that furniture.

I beg to move that Head 30 stand part.

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

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

HEAD 33 - PROBATION

Hon. M. A. KING: Head 33, Mr. Chairman, relates to provision for meeting the expenses of acting appointments in the Probation Department.

I move that Head 33 stand part.

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

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, the whole question of acting appointments, appointments and other matters relating to Personnel Administration falls under the purview of the various Commissions in the Public Service, but the members of staff, some of them, relate to the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of the Civil Service, and I simply wish to take this opportunity to say that it is not the policy of the ruling Democratic Labour Party Government to abolish the Ministry of the Civil Service. That is not our policy, our policy is to maintain a Ministry of the Civil Service and to seek to provide for the 16,000 Public Officers, Civil Servants, the kind of career structure, advancement, security and other matters, whether they are holding temporary or acting appointments, and I merely wish to disagree fundamentally with the position taken by the Leader of the Opposition.

I did have occasion in the past to discuss with him these matters and instruct him somewhat on the intricacies' of administration, and to explain to him, but obviously he did not quite understand the force of my argument at the time.

As ties.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: No, these are some very intricate matters. I do not think his head is hard, except in politics.

has been how that Ministry in the context of Barbados and elsewhere has been able to function in relation to the traditional arrangements of the public service, the Public Service Commission and Ministers of the Crown.

I will say once again that even if there has been some amelioration of the problem as far as some Ministers may perceive it, I am saying that the problem exists in as acute a form in relation to the public officers of Barbados. It is a question of confidence, it is a question of the poor relationships which have been established between that Ministry and the rest of the public service, and I am very glad that the Honourable Prime Minister raised the question of the role of the Permanent Secretaries in relation to appointments in the public service or to indicate that there were mechanisms within the various Ministries where the Permanent Secretaries had an important role in recommending appointments and so on.

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Yes, you did say so. Well, if I may instruct you on this matter, they do in fact play an important role, and there are certain forms that have to be signed to go on to the CPO and so on. Let me tell you, Mr. Chairman, that it is a matter of fact that throughout the public service many a public servant has come to work and found persons appointed in his department and he knew nothing about it.

The P.S. never heard about it, the Minister never heard about it. Many a Minister has gone to work and someone has gone and the Minister never heard about it, the P.S. never heard about it. Now these are facts, and I would hope that the point be recognised that my own feeling is that whereas it might have been a laudable idea to establish such a Ministry, as the Honourable Prime Minister knows very well, I did not identify the person who told me that these things have given trouble wherever they have been introduced, he identified himself. I was very careful not to identify the person and all that has happened is that history has repeated itself in Barbados and probably in a very acute form. I have akeady made our position clear. 4.25 p.m.

Now, I have tried very hard to distinguish between the individual who holds the position as Minister of the Civil Service because, I believe, those kinds of matters are better discussed at Estimates whereas on this occasion one is dealing with the structure of the Ministry in relation to the other Ministries.

However, we have declared our position that we recognize the problems of the public servants of this country and an NDP Government will abolish the Ministry of the Civil Service and we would establish an institutional framework which would accomplish far more efficiently and far more effectively by all Hie laudable objectives of training, improvement of service and so on.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: We would deal with that but that, of course, would be Manifesto material. I do not think that I would have enough time to address this particular matter in detail but on Sunday, the 26th at 5 o'clock at the Foundation Meeting of the NDP at the Queen's Park Shed.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. M. A. KING: Just a brief response. I do know that it is a response to anything which was raised under Head 33 but just one small comment I want to make.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, the Leader of the Opposition, has made the point that an NDP Government would abolish a Ministry of the Civil Service and he went on to make the point that he was dealing purely with a Ministry and not any personalities whatsover, but I think the Honourable Member would admit that, however you deal with it, there has to be some Minister of Government who is responsible for the Civil Service.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir. Is the Honourable Member attacking the Minister of the Civil Service by implication?

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member could never draw any conclusion or that conclusion from any thing I said. I was dealing with a comment made by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central when I said that whatever you do in relation to abolishing a Ministry of the Civil Service, whatever anybody does about abolishing a Ministry of the Civil Service there still has to be a Minister of Government who has constitutional responsibility for the Civil Service so it is only a matter of use of language.

You cannot say in one breath that you are not against a particular incumbent but yet, on the other hand, you are going to abolish the Ministry and then what are you going to do? Some Minister has to have that responsibility so I do not think you really mean that you want to abolish the Ministry of the Civil Service.

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

Item l(c) - Resolution to grant the sum of $2m from the Consolidated Fund and place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1988/89 Part I - Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1988/89 No. 21 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution

HEAD 34 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE - $2M

Hon. C. V. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, the official estimate of the damage caused by Hurricane Gilbert estimated that the cost of repairs to the university would have been some Jam. $40 - $45 Million and the total, including the Hall, some Jam. $70 million.

In keeping with the spirit of CARICOM the Vice Chancellor explained that the order of strategy for the rehabilitation was to request the countries owing arrears of contribution to pay up their arrears.

Now, Barbados is not in arrears and, indeed, the option, therefore, was not available to Barbados because we are not in arrears. However, it was considered that Barbados should make a prepayment out of the 1989-1990 estimate which will be laid in here in the future. However, we also know that there was a commitment by the Prime Minister in his speech at the university at the Cave Hill Campus some time, I think it was November 12 ...

Aside.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: ...at the Graduation Ceremony of the Cave Hill...

Aside.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: ...at the James Street Methodist Church Ceremony of the Cave Hill Campus. I see you go to church from time to time.

The Prime Minister made the point that the Government was thinking of ways in which they could give assistance to their rehabilitation and that commitment was akeady made.

I would also like to say, Mr. Chairman that the provision under the 1988-89 estimate was some $16,210,153 which, without reflecting at one point where we queried whether or not we were, in fact, making a provision of what was less than necessary for the university and we had to make the point earlier that it was not that we were making a commitment of less than what we had done the year before or previous years but the fact that Barbados has always prepaid, and, indeed, we are in a position now that we are not in arrears.

With those words, Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that this Head do now stand part.

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

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, Sir - I always behave myself in here in a very parliamentary manner.

In November, late October, the Barbados Labour Party issued a public statement after the announcement by the Prime Minister that he had decided to make a contribution in these terms, $2 million, to the University for the amelioration of the problems caused by Hurricane Gilbert to the University Campus in Jamaica.

I want to reiterate the theme in that public statement and it was in this context that from all published accounts Government has of October 1988 seemed to have benefitted by $30 million more than in the period of the previous year.

We were able to forecast and project, particularly with the assistance and the skills of the Honourable Member for St. Peter that Government would have been in a comparatively healthy fiscal situation by the end of the financial year coming up in March.

Given that framework of comparative good fiscal health, but given the disquiet among the public workers of Barbados, and Government's tardiness in settling the wage claims of the public workers, the Barbados Labour Party asked Government to consider justice settling with the public workers first as a matter of nationalism rather than paying the $2 million to the university.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am giving you the background. You have to allow me some flexibility to develop the argument.

I am glad today, despite the criticisms of that public position taken by the Labour Party late last year, that today precisely what we advocated has been done, that is to say, that Government settled with the public workers, albeit by legislation and now after that have come today...

Aside.

4.35 p.m.

That is to say that Government settled with the public workers last week albeit by legislation and now after that have come today...

Laughter.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Am I not right, Sir?

Laughter.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Tell me, Sir. Am I not right? Am I telling any lies in this House? Am I distorting anything?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You took a very long path to that.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: It took a long time, Sir. Government settled with the public workers, albeit by legislation of which we disapprove the methodology, and today have come with this Resolution...

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: ...having organized and sorted out its priorities. We have no quarrel now with voting in favour of this pre-payment.

Aside.

Laughter.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Yes. We took all this time to say that because it took them four months to do precisely what we advised them to do and what they criticized us for four months ago.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: It seems at last as though the constructive opposition from this sid£...

Laughter.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I said from this side. They were not over here at the time. But I am satisfied, you see since you provoke me, I am satisfied that the constructive opposition levelled against the Government today in respect of the Ministry of the Civil Service will have a salutary effect also. When the Leader of the Opposition was finished today and the Ministry of the Public Service, Civil Service, fourteen I counted them and made a note, fourteen out there kept absolutely silent. Not a man moved. Not one of you, not one of the Government was able to get up and defend the Ministry of Jie Public Service.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: We are going to be like stinging ants.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: All on this side now, if that is what you are going to do.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Are you still on Head 34?

Laughter.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I was ...

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: So I just wanted to make the position clear, Sir, so that nobody misunderstands the position of the Barbados Labour Party again. It is quite simple that we feel that charity should begin at home, as the proverb goes. Charity should begin at home. Settle with your public workers first and then let us help our brothers in Jamaica. We are grateful that mat ...

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I never said you should bring it four months ago. He did not understand what I was saying.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I believe you understand, Sir, that four months ago when they announced what they were going to do we said the priorities were wrong. You had a problem in Barbados with the public workers that needed sorting out first before we paid our attention to our Jamaican brothers. Now we are grateful that...

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Yes. You followed good advice. You listened to good advice. You need to do it a bit more often. Then you would start getting a thousand people in the square on Independence night, if you continue to listen to good advice. Otherwise you would still be down in the 555 that you had last November.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am still hearing the Honourable Member for St. Thomas?

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I want to ask the Minister before he sits down, it has to do with the UWI. I know we have been very good as a country in making our contributions to the UWl. 1 know that there are some of our brothers in the region who are not as prompt with the payments to the University. I want to ask a question, Sir. First of all, are we in arrears in relation to the Law Faculty at all? And, secondly, does Government ...

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: ...the Council of Legal Education, does Government think that the time has come when we should rethink the scope of the course being offered at the Council of Legal Education? It is presently a two year course and most Barbadians go to Trinidad. One or two go to Jamaica to do the practical course. At the Council of Legal Education in August 1985, in the meeting in Antigua, I had made it known that the Barbados Labour Party Government's position at that time was that we would allow the course to continue for another two years. But thereafter we would want to see a complete revamping of the course to limit it to one year,

I really feel that, if properly organized, there is no need for a two year course which bears heavily on our own Barbadians who have to go down there and get the training. I think that you can be taught enough in a year, if the course is properly organized, to turn out well trained lawyers given the sound academic background that they are given at Cave Hill for the LL.B. There really is no need, in my view, not even in 1989, nothing really has changed, to convince me that what is being taught in Trinidad is fundamentally of such great magnitude that with a reorganized course could not be taught in a year. Those of us who studied in England will know that people doing the practical training course after the Bar Exams *m* six months qualified and were able to come back to all parts of the Caribbean, all parts of the Commonwealth, and do excellent work as advocates. I think a year is the maximum now that is necessary. But there has to be a completely different organization of the course content.

I would like to know if this Government has considered that matter and if so, what are Government's feelings, what is Government's attitude towards a reduction in the time for the course? Because, as I said, it is very hard financially on. the Barbadians' who have to go to Trinidad having regard to the cost of living and all that is involved in living in Trinidad.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. John,

Mr. D, I. H. T[T]>07* PSON: Mr. Chairman, with regard to this Resolution, I should Uke to begin by saying that I give my full support to the decision by the Government to grant this sum of $2 million which really is not charity and should not be described as charity. It is a particularly offensive position in my view, and I mean offensive, to persons who have attended the UWI to understand that it is not just a regional institution like let us say CARICOM or something, but it is part of us here in Barbados as it would be part of the people who attend it from any part of this region.

Even if you give $2 million to the Mona Campus, it is as good as $2 million to Cave Hill, because of the interrelation between the University, campus to campus, and also the fact that although it is a regional institution, it is our University in Barbados. So that this concept that is being touted by the Opposition that it is charity, that you are giving Jamaica $2 million, that is rubbish. It is a pre-payment as the Minister has indicated on money that anyway would be due. It is not charity. It is a pre-payment which the Government is making, as I understand it, in advance, and it is being made to an institution that is part of the region and that is important to Barbados.

So the concept of saying that you could settle with public workers as a matter of nationalism, that cannot be a reasonable position for any mature political movement or political party to adopt. Because the university is part of our national development too. Just because it is called a regional institution does not mean that when you make a contribution to it, you are not making a contribution to the improvement of yourself. I am really a bit horrified.

I am surprised that the Honourable Member for St. Thomas would even wish to remind us of the Labour Party's statement some months ago. It is not in my view the kind of impression that one would wish to convey to the public of Barbados, that the University is out there not performing a role and that, if you contribute to it, it is charity. 4.45 p.m.

I did not write it. I have not written any article. I did not even remember it.

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: No, I do not write anymore. I do not write anymore! When I write anything, I write my name. I did not. If I wrote, I would say so. I have never hidden it. When I write it and the Honourable Leader of the Opposition comes and attacks me — I say yes I did write it. But it is not my style. You can believe or do not believe. On the occasion when I have written an article even if I do not put my name to it, I own up to it and that is well known. Anyway, let us not be side tracked by that.

I am saying that the statement of the position of the Barbados Labour Party is a particularly divisive position. It, is in my view, does not engender the support of the public of Barbados and the public servants most of whom would have been educated in the University of the West Indies. It does not give encouragement. In fact, as I said, it is a particularly retrogressive statement which surprises me.

Now, Sir, I am also happy that the Government at some stage — I cannot remember who the particular Minister was — made the position of this Government very clear on the question of students paying for university education. I do not wish to deal with that now, but I can say that I am in support of the present position where university education is offered to the citizens of Barbados free of cost and they are able in many cases, even while they are working, to attend the university and further their education largely because, of that particular benefit. As long as we can continue to offer it as a service for the public of Barbados, as it is an integral part of our development, we should do so free of cost and not be minded to follow the people from the Other Place and some people speaking in the Other Place and elsewhere who would wish to force upon us the position that all Barbadians should pay for university education. I am totally in support of free university education as it is provided at the University of the West Indies and that as I understand it, is the position of the Democratic Labour Party and will remain so.

The third point which is the substantive point made by the Honourable Member for St. Thomas which may not be directly related to this but it is critical of the Law School which really is often linked to the University and particularly in Trinidad and Jamaica, since its location is so near to the university. It is thought to be part of the University network which it is not really. We have to determine whether the Law School programme is going to be a theoretical programme and a rehash of what is being done at Cave Hill or whether it is a practical programme. As it stood when I was at the Law School and I understand that is still the position now, 90% of the work was done in a classroom, the lecture-note system. There was a beautiful Law School built with a moot court. The present President of Trinidad was our trial advocacy lecturer and we probably met about once per term for moots. But there was no occasion when we were given the opportunity to exercise our practical skills. So, for example, if you had a legal problem coming before you, and in the profession as it stands most of us would try to settle a matter before it goes to court, that is not even impressed upon you at Law School. You answer it according to strict legal theory. So if you put in a sentence at the beginning saying that I will try and settle this matter out of court, you do not get any more marks because the Law School is geared in large measure to a theoretical kind of situation where we are bound to the textbooks and are not allowed the creativity and the practical experience we should.

The Legal Aid Clinic in Trinidad is a disaster. The standard of lecturing is a disaster. The attendance of lecturers is a disaster. I must say that when you are at Law School there is a tremendous fear about saying anything because of the insulate nature of the institution. I held it in for a long time and the Barbadian students took particularly strong objections and positions from time to time and we were heavily penalized also from time to time because of our position. But the truth of the matter is that we were led to believe that the Hugh Wooding Law School is a practical programme and when we got there we had very little legal aid experience. We had very little practical experience. Not until the Hall of Justice was built in Trinidad did we get a chance to go into the courts. There was a big hustle and bustle and confusion as to which court you could go in. Before I began to practice I had never been involved in a Chamber matter. Chamber matters consume a lot of our time and they are things that we should be involved in. I am concerned that to date there has been no serious attempt to get the views of the students and/or the persons who attended the Hugh Wooding Law School about the functioning of the institution to see if there is some way in which we can make some kind of recommendations for change. But at the end of the day what happens is that the only valuable aspect of the Law School is in-service training and if you do not do your in-service training with a person who is going to make you go out there and learn on your own, or if for example you do it at the Attorney General's chambers, you may not in fact be achieving that much and I think we should be very conscious of that kind of thing.

1 really would like to support the position taken by the Member for St. Thomas on this particular point, not on the other point because I have made my objections clear to those others. But with regard to the Law School, I believe all of us who attended Hugh Wooding Law School or Norman Manley or whichever are well aware of the conditions which have been obtaining there.

In the days when the Honourable Member for St. George South went there, they were in an old building. In my day, they were in a beautiful new building but the conditions were exactly the same, and it is really unfair that you should have as a student to go and borrow $10,000 or $15,000 from the Students Revolving Loan Fund which you have to spend a number of years paying off to go and do the same thing down there that you did at Cave Hill. At the end of the day you are really not effectively prepared for the profession. You do not understand the difference between private practice and working in Government. You have no concept in my view of what life in the law is about and that really is the major problem in the Law School. Whether it is a theoretical institution or whether we are going to deal with it from the point of view of getting practical experience, I believe that the 3 years at Cave Hfll are adequate for dealing with the basics and then let the youngsters or the oldsters as the case may be at Law School be given an opportunity to be involved in practical work and to come into contact with persons who have been practising for a long time.

When I was at Hugh Wooding, we were able to introduce special courses for the Barbadian students and we brought in — and this is a very funny thing — Barbadian law in some measure, thanks to the Honourable Member for Christ Church West and his progressive reform of the law for which I know he takes great pride in those achievements and when we are overseas we take equal pride in extolling the achievement. But you are not going to get that from me in here.

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: The Honourable Member for Christ Church West, not you. You were not there long enough to reform anything.

Laughter.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: When the Honourable Member for Christ Church West was in his heyday, the reforms that took place in the law .....

Asides.

Mr, D. J. H, THOMPSON: He is an outstanding lawyer. I mean nobody doubts that. It has never been in question. When we talk about politics, it is a completely different matter. But I am talking about a Barbadian student in law school in Trinidad telling people - we are not back in 1920, We are in 1980. But it is not only a credit to him but it is a credit to our political system and it is a credit perhaps to the work that was done by the Attorney General's Chambers as well. It is a credit to Barbados as I am certain the Honourable Member will agree, the fact that our legal tradition has perhaps taken a different course to many of the other islands. But we tried to introduce a programme, and this is an initiative from the students, to deal with Conveyancing, Family Law and special areas where Barbadian law differs from other law and at the end of the day we received tremendous resistance from the Law School. They did pay to bring the people in but refused to meet them at the airport and we had very great difficulty in ensuring the continuity of the programme, even though it becomes important, because each of the territories still has different kinds of law. The Guyanese system of conveyancing is different from our system and the registered system which we are now introducing obviously needs attention too. These are the kinds of things that the Law School should be looking at. 4.55 p.m.

The Law School too, as far as I am concerned, should be in the vanguard in research and also on the question of harmonisation of various kinds of laws in the region. Why is it that you go to law school with 12 territories and each territory has its law at a different stage and yet the lecturer feels he can teach from wherever he comes? If he is Guyanese, he teaches Guyanese law, if he is Barbadian he teaches the Barbados position, if he comes from the States he may even want to teach the American position, and you are expected to go and find out for yourself what your position is without any guidance or assistance.

Those are very real problems and I think that nearly ever person I have known who has-been through the Law School, apart from enjoying Trinidad and Carnival, etc., will tell you that the experience at Hugh Wooding has been horrendous and that it is something that we should not continue, in my view, to waste money on unless we are sure that we are getting the best that is available out of the system.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has one minute.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I have not determined whether it should be shortened or not. I believe, however long it is, it should be based on practical work and ongoing assessment rather than on a simple exam system which is done at Cave Hill. You are doing the same thing as at Cave Hill. I am talking about the course content. It is for other people to determine how long it should take. I am easy with that either way.

With those few words I support the Resolution, Sir.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, I have had a long and I judge, Sir, a very productive relationship with the University of the West Indies stretching back over 21 years. It is the only university that I know and I have been in the happy circumstance of teaching at the University of the West Indies since 1971, except for the 18 months that I worked as a Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Finance, and, indeed, I make my substantial living outside this Parliament as a lecturer at the University of the West Indies. It is the university that has given me the opportunity to publish, to do research and generally to develop myself as a West Indian person.

The comments that I have to make in this particular debate stem from the fact that I have had 21 years of association with that University, and I ara concern only with the question as to how better the University of the West Indies should be developed as the main educational institution in the region.

In that particular respect, Mr. Chairman, the position of the Barbados Labour Party in relation to the prepayment is a simple matter of our asking Government to get its priorities correct in circumstances where the Government could send the wrong signals to the rest of this population where it was pre-paying an

institution but not settling with its own citizens. I will come back to that matter later.

The first point I want to make, Sir, I would like the Minister of Education to give us an indication of the level of arrears that are now owed by other persons to the University of the West Indies. There are a lot of people in the Caribbean who believe that it is enough only to say that they have a commitment to regionalism and that in saying that, and saying that alone, their conscience has been assuaged. But the sad record is that most of our regional institutions have floundered largely as a result of the failure of persons who have this strong commitment to regionalism, to pay.

We have seen the case of the West Indies Shipping Corporation. We all recognise that functional co-operation in the area of shipping is necessary to the promotion of regional trade, but the same people who are in the forefront of spelling out how deeply committed they are to the development of the regional movement are the same people, Sir, who are always the most reluctant to pay.

I think it is a great shame, Sir, that in the year 1989 there could be any people in the Caribbean who are reluctant not only to pay for the University of the West Indies, but who allow it to slip into arrears, and I really believe that those of us who value the existence and the contribution of the University of the West Indies must mount pressure on countries which believe that it is proper financial policy for them to allow their commitment to the education of their citizens at the tertiary level as a matter to go into default.

I feel we have a public responsibility, Sir, as West Indian people, to know who the culprits are, and to hope that, with the exposure of the situation, we may be able to separate not only the sheep from the goats, but might be able to bring pressure on the part of the people to honour their commitments to the University of the West Indies, I would, therefore, be glad if the Minister of Education could tell us what is the extent of the arrears and if it does not entail, in his view, a breach of propriety, to let us know as Caribbean people who the culprits are.

Mr. Chairman, I must also say this evening that, having been teaching at the University of the West Indies for 17 years, it saddens me that the University of the West Indies is no longer attracting the cream of the Caribbean. It is a very serious and very dangerous development that the intellectual cream of the Caribbean is no longer interested in going to the regional University.

I remember the years 1971, 1972 wnen I was doing post graduate work at the University of the West Indies. It was still typical to find at the Mona Campus a collection of Caribbean people. We used to come in those days on the Federal Palm and the Federal Maple, stopping on the islands as we came down, but the regional spirit was very strong precisely because the University of the West Indies then was still seen as the place to which the intellectual cream of the Caribbean should go.

I believe, Sir, that since the early 1970's the role of the University of the West Indies as the place where some of the best brains in the Caribbean should be trained and developed is a principle that has gone into virtual recession, and to my mind we must be concerned about the rote that the University must play in relation to the development of programmes that are relevant, not only for the Caribbean, but programmes that can foster the spirit of regionalism in the Caribbean.

I would like to see us reach the stage, Mr. Chairman, if financial resources would allow it, that a student doing a course in any one campus of the University of the West Indies should have as a matter of compulsion to spend a year in some other Caribbean country. The University is becoming too insular. When I left Jamaica the Mona Campus had largely become a Jamaican campus. I find that Cave Hill is becoming a Barbadian campus and, to my mind, the University was always at its strongest when you had a confluence oi persons from different subcultures in the Caribbean exciting intellectual interest and working on research programmes that kept the University vibrant as an institution.

It is now, I think, about 15 years since we have had in the University of the West Indies a movement of the intellectual strength of the New World Group that was there in the late 1960*s and early 1970's, and the New World Group, Sir, if you will remember, was a coming together of persons from Guyana, Jamaica, Trinidad, Barbados and all parts of the Caribbean, but on no campus at the University of the West Indies can you now find evidence of the coming together of Caribbean people. It is a matter, Sir, if we allow it to continue to drift, which is going to make the separate campuses of the University of the West Indies more and more insular in their research programmes, more and more insular in their academic outlook, and perhaps will eventually make things such as the separation of one campus from the entire structure more feasible. 5.05 p.m.

It becomes more feasible, for example, for Jamaica to want to establish its own University if the Mona Campus is allowed to evolve purely as a Jamaican campus, and I really feel, Sir, that the question as to the regional character of the University of the West Indies has seriously to be addressed if the University is to retain its place.

I could talk indefinitely about the question of research. The University of the West Indies, to my mind, has not really been seen as a serious research institution. This has been a shortsighted position, as far as I am concerned, on the part of successive administrations throughout the entire Caribbean, who do not recognise the direct relationship that must exist between research and academic training in the pure sense. I think that among all Universities, the University of the West Indies might be singular in the extent to which research is underplayed as an aspect of intellectual curiosity, and it is reaching the ridiculous situation, Mr. Chairman, where members of the University Faculty seem to believe that they do not have to publish anything at all, but yet they maintain an existence and a security of existence and tenure at what ought to be a serious institution.

I feel, Sir, that we have a responsibility in this House where we are spending so much money on an institution to talk about these things but the University of the West Indies must also become interested in research, and the members of the academic Staff at the University of the West Indies must also see themselves as justifying their existence upon the basis of what they can publish. The standards of education throughout the entire world are such that the measurement of persons' productivity at the University level is judged in terms of their contribution to scholarship and their contribution to literature, and we have in the Caribbean, unfortunately, a lot of people who are parading as scholars but you cannot see any evidence of their scholarship with the naked eye, and it is a matter that bothers me.

I am prepared, as a person who has been employed previously in a research capacity with the University of the West Indies, to urge Parliament that it is penny-wise and but pound foolish for us very often not to fund research projects. I remember, Sir, as a research fellow at the University of the West Indies that I could not get research fending to undertake a study pertaining to the development and management of service economies. That was in 1983. I was told that that was an issue of no relevance. It was the development and management of service economies.

The building up of the University of the West Indies, Sir, the building up of the research capacity of the University of the West Indies is a matter that you have shied away from too long. There is no relationsfup now between the productive systems of the Caribbean and the research capabilities of the University of the West Indies, and I believe that we have a responsibility to change that. We cannot have an institution of higher learning with potential research capabilities in our region where there is no relationship whatsoever between our production system and our research capabilities. We have to change that.

I, therefore, Sir, as I support this Resolution want to say that, to my mind, money spent on the University of the West Indies is money well spent. I am saying not only because I earn my living from the institution, but because I really do feel that the University of the West Indies has played a tremendous role in the past and that, if we were to continue to develop it for what it can become, then I really do feel that it has a tremendous rote to play in the future of the Caribbean. I am obliged to you, Sir.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I think that this debate has taken a turn which requires that those of us who hold goodwill for higher education in the Caribbean must participate if for no other reason than that the fear that silence might be misunderstood as not giving consent. I wish to associate myself substantially with what the Honourable Member who just sat down had to say with regard to the provision of higher education in the Caribbean.

It was unfortunate that the $2 million was in fact articulated by the Honourable Member for St. Thomas in the way he did. I think on reflection he will agree with the Honourable Member for St. John that the remarks were not necessarily the most fortuitous remarks that the Honourable Member for St. Thomas has made, because the $2 million must not be regarded in the context of charity when we are discussing...

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, to the extent that there is a quarrel about my use of language and the reference to charity, I accept the comments, but I am not changing anything that I said earlier today. I want that clearly understood. I still stand on the point that it was a case of misplaced priorities.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I do not wish to take issue with him on this capacity to be all things to all men at the same time; so I am not going to raise that question. I accept his point about the charity. I want to say this: on the question of research, the only point of departure I would have with the Honourable Member for St. Peter is this, a substantial amount of the research that is being done in the medical sciences is not being published for want of assistance with publication, but even to that extent, in the continuing medical education and the general attitude of those who fall within the faculty of medical sciences, there has been a substantial amount of research being done in the Caribbean at the University of the West Indies. I wish to share the view that no amount of money spent on research in the Caribbean can be money misspent. So long as care is taken to ensure that the matter being researched is relevant and that it will contribute to the store of ideas which exists as part of the body politic in the region, then I think all monies spent on research are monies well spent. That is

why in the Ministry of Health we have increased the amount made available and we have a vote in the Ministry of Health which we make available for no other purpose than research in the medical field.

I want to say that, so far as the law faculty is concerned, before the now Member of the House of Representatives in Grenada left the law faculty, that is Mr. Francis Alexis, a substantial amount of work was done by him in the law faculty, and indeed I think no one would hold it against me if I indicate that he wrote more than 80 percent of all the writing that was done in the law faculty in any given ten year period while he was around. Since he has left, the new Head of teaching in the law faculty has taken up the cudgel and is publishing substantially in a number of areas, but the West Indian Law Journal^ for example, which is the premier and indeed to a large extent the only publication of any substance in the legal field in the Caribbean, has been seeing very hard times. It has been unable to open its doors. It is based in Jamaica and depends to a large extent on contributions of persons in the region, and again since Alexis went home to Grenada to enter the field of politics and the late Aubrey Fraser removed himself because of retirement, the project has tended to come almost to a standstill.

Mr. Chairman, the question of the regional character of the University is affected by the things we have heard, but there are other factors which are important. The mores of the society in which we live tend to adjudge people's capacity and ability by their performance at secondary level more so than by performances subsequently. It is entirely possible for a person to do extremely well long after secondary school but for that person not to be acclaimed by societies in the Caribbean. 5.15 p.m.

Societies in the Caribbean, brought up as we were in the system where competition was so tough that persons were not expected to go beyond secondary level, still adhere to concepts that are long past and long gone and should long be forgotten and that is one of the reasons why the university has not been able to command its rightful place in the society.

Where, in a country like the United States, a college education is considered to be the level at which th3 departure is made by an adult in the society, in Barbados and other Caribbean countries the secondary level is where the point of departure used to be. Hence, it is perfectly possible, as has happened in Barbados, for there to be a graduation ceremony of the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus and for it be completely ignored by the media at the time it is occurring.

It is entirely possible for a Barbadian young boy or girl to get a First Class Degree in the hard Sciences and be given no more recognition or consideration than a little small piece somewhere in a corner at the time of the graduation.

It is possible for our graduates to go out and become involved in very esoteric and highly significant areas of education, of work whether in Science or in Letters and not be regarded by the society precisely because that young man or young woman is not someone who is easily recognizable or recognised.

All of these are things which we as leaders in this society have a responsibility to help to change. We have a responsibility to help to ensure that those persons who do well in the university do not have the difficulty which can attach to them of not being able to find a place in the society after they have graduated and after they have done well.

Most of us at my age when we left secondary school were guaranteed a job of some kind in the system. We have a situation now in the Caribbean where it is possible for a person to be a graduate in one of the faculties and suffer because he or she has not been able to find a job.

We have another phenomenon. There was a time not long ago in the Caribbean, after all the University is only, literally speaking, a few years old, it is still a young University, and we had the situation where leaders in the Caribbean were running down graduates of the University because they had graduated in the Social Sciences.

There was a time when people wrote and spoke pejoratively about the Social Sciences in this country and in the Caribbean. The Social Sciences are regarded and were regarded as poppy-cock and hogwash because some of the exponents of Social Science may have been very articulate in putting their particular political point of view. There was a breath of air that went through the Caribbean which suggested that because one taught at the University or because one was associated with the University, one was not entitled to have a political point of view. All of that was done in the name of democracy.

I have been mortified as a citizen of the Caribbean to come back from the United States in the 1970's and find that, whereas in the United States it was perfectly possible to accuse the President of the most heinous intellectual kind at any time in a 24 hour span, an utterance by an intellectual in the Caribbean against some political leader could be seen as dangerous to the society, and this was perpetrated by a lot of little minds.

There are a substantial number of little minds who manage to speak largely in the Caribbean and give the impression that they have the last word in all that

is great, and what tends to happen is that people are not regarded for their ideas. They are regarded by some other set of criteria that determine who they are or who they should be. So if Gear Box puts out the greatest idea in Barbados which he has done from time to time — those who listen to Gear Box would know that from time to time he has put forward ideas that are worthy of consideration — but if Gear Box puts forward an idea in Barbados, the fact that it is Gear Box who puts forward the idea condemns the idea without more.

On the other hand, if an Honourable Member of this Chamber, especially if he happens to be a Minister, puts forward an idea which may be utter rubbish, that idea would be accepted and embraced depending on the position taken by other Honourable Members on the other side and vice versa. That is the sort of intellectual climate in which many of the considerations about the University are engendered so we have this problem where people who discuss the university discuss it pejoratively.

They regard the University almost as an enemy. There are many people in the Caribbean who speak of the University in those kinds of derogatory terms and once you have that kind of problem and you couple that with the economic difficulties which Governments have had where they have not been able to meet their commitment to the University and where, as a result, we had the spectacle - I have never been able to understand it but I recall when the Honourable Minister of Education at the time, who is now in the Other Place, I think she is still in the Other Place ...

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: ... Well, who up until the last sitting was in the Other Place, I recall when, as Minister of Education, she was in the forefront of what became known as the devolution movement which was engendered by the Jamaican concept of Prime Minister Seaga, a Jamaican concept which was very akin to the Federation arguments that had occurred a full 25 or more years before, which saw Jamaica as developing its own University at the expense of the regionalism of which the Honourable Member spoke because it caught fire and the same situation had started very quietly to creep up in Trinidad and Tobago.

When the petro dollars were flying the Trinidad and Tobago ministerial systems required that a University of Trinidad and Tobago be the order of the day and hence, the magnificent structure that has been put up at Mount Hope was the forerunner of a University system for Trinidad and Tobago.

Now, if we would, as a people, recognize that each campus really ought to become self-sufficient and then have exchanges up front so we can have the University Campus at Barbados, the University Campus at Trinidad at Port-of-Spain, a campus at Mona, each one capable of producing and serving all of the faculties and then agreeing on the University as a total system, then we would have none of the pretexts we have had and we would have now the hybrid situation which has been alluded to by the Honourable Member for St. John. That hybrid situation, with the Law Faculty being in Barbados and the two schools in Jamaica and Trinidad, is a political solution brought about from the concept that Engineering would be in Trinidad, Law would be in Barbados, Medicine would be in Jamaica, Agriculture in Trinidad. 5.25 p.m.

The point is, however, when people looked at their own needs, they still needed to find a little way to put a part of the action in their territory. So you have Law School in Jamaica, Law School in Trinidad and Tobago and Faculty in Barbados. We should really have a Law School in Barbados as well to allow those who wish to go to Barbados to go to Barbados and those who wish to go to Trinidad to go to Trinidad. In the final analysis what we have been producing, if you pardon the expression, Mr. Chairman, is some half breeds. We have been producing some intellectual half breeds. It takes about five years after they graduate with an LL.B. before they become lawyers. Not all of them. Some are luckier than others. Some manage to get into Chambers where they are allowed a certain breadth of expression and methodology and so they become unafraid of the law and the law courts. There are many people who studied law who still do not understand that it is not a thing to be afraid of. There are some people who will not forgive you if you manage to understand the law too soon.

But the fact is that, if you are given the opportunity to explore the beauties of the law, you are bound to fall in love with it, Sir. Ask the Attorney-General.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You have another minute to conclude your speech.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I am told by the Attorney-General that it could be misunderstood that I am discussing the people so I wish to withdraw any imputation that the individuals are intellectual half breeds. I do not mean it and I hope that it will not be put abroad that I accused every lawyer of being a half breed. I think you know what I mean in terms of not — in fact the Honourable Member for St. John alluded to it - getting the rounded opportunity or the opportunity to be as rounded as you should be. Not everbody gets it because not everbody is exposed to it. Those who

get to go in the good Chambers are exposed to it and become good lawyers in the truest sense of the terms.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: It is true it would happen to graduates from anywhere. But you see the graduates from anywhere are not required. The requirement to serve apprenticeship in the particular way that we have arranged it means that all you have to do is be attached and get the certification, when, in fact, those Honourable Members like the Attorney-General who went into Chambers elsewhere went into pupillage and were taught the intracacies of the law. And that is part of the problem we have.

Mr, Chairman, time is running out on me, but the fact is that the University is the best thing that ever happened to this region. The University of the West Indies is a basis on which the civilization which we know will survive. It is the basis on which the civilization we have will grow. Even though it is desirable that Barbadians and West Indians generally go outside of the region so that they do not fall prey to a certain incestuousness, we must be careful of this incestuousness where graduates of the University become teachers at the University to graduates at the University who in turn become teachers of the University and we say we want no one to come from elsewhere. We will then close ourselves off and become hybrids. The inbreeding will result in what happens whenever you have inbreeding.

I crave your indulgence, Sir. The point is that the University must be seen as a vibrant factor in the life of the community. Therefore the cost of it must not be judged in dollars and cents only. Yes, it is true that we must pay attention to whether we can afford it. But we must not pay so much attention as has started to happen and had started to happen in the region where we look at the university in the same way we look at whether we should build a road or not. The University is crucial and vital and if we are not careful and we adhere only to principles of money, we will lose the very vital juices which flow out of the University and which will help us to become the kind of nation we all dream that we can be.

I believe, Sir, that any time money comes here for the University that we should have no divide in the House as to whether that is money well spent or not. That is why I can support this $2 million prepaid with the ease and comfort that it deserves, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. R. P. BYER: Mr.' Chairman, until the Member for St. Michael West used the remark which he subsequently withdrew about intellectual half breeds, which I said he withdrew and which at the time I thought was a pejorative remark, I got the impression that it was being suggested in this Chamber that the legal education obtained at the University of the West Indies and also *it* any one at the Law Schools in Trinidad or Jamaica was not of the best quality.

I believe that there are merely structural problems in terms of the way the whole programme of legal education in the West Indies has suffered. But as to the quality of the education that is obtained at these institutions, I believe that that education is of a very high quality. I was one of the first graduates in Law from the University of the West Indies and also one of the first in Law at the Council of Legal Education in Trinidad. Those days were very difficult days but that did not stop the students at the time from absorbing the education that was dispensed to them. We had some very good teachers at the time. This is where I think that the emphasis ought to be put, in good teaching. Even in my very early days at the University of the West Indies the Member for St. Thomas was a teacher of mine and I can attest to the quality of the education that was dispensed at that time.

Now the education which obtains at the University of the West Indies and the Law School is to a large extent duplicated. For example, Company Law is taught at the University of the West Indies but when you go to Trinidad or Jamaica, you are taught the Law of Association which is an enlargement on the subject where you incorporate trade unions and co-operatives and so on. You teach Criminal Law at the University of the West Indies and when you go to Trinidad, you are taught Criminal Law and Criminal Practice. You are also taught Tax Law at the University of the West Indies and when you go to Trinidad a similar course is taught as well.

My own view about it is that if you address the matter in the way the Member for St. Thomas said and also as has been alluded to by the Member for St. John, you could come up with a situation where you need not spend five years as a minimum requirement pursuing a legal education, that it could be obtained in a matter of four years.

For my own view and my own way of thinking, I believe that the Council of Legal Education should be scrapped and that the entire course in Legal Education should be taught at the Faculty of Law in Barbados. You merely enlarge the Faculty of Law to incorporate those aspects that are now being taught in Trinidad and Jamaica. That I believe would help in a large way to alleviate some of the problems that the University has in terms of or the Governments of the Caribbean have in terms of providing and meeting the cost of legal

education in the Caribbean. It is a very costly exercise.^ For example, you have first year courses being taugriT at Turkeyen Campus in Guyana, the Mona Campus in Jamaica, St. Augustine in Trinidad and also here in Barbados. You have to maintain four libraries for the Faculty of Law in the University of the West Indies, four libraries. Then you have to maintain two additional libraries for the Hugh Wooding Law School and the Norman Manley Law School. Now this to me is a waste of resources, not only resources in terms of the libraries that you must have but also resources in terms of the teaching personnel and the faculty that you must maintain.

I think that if we address the problem in that way in addition to what was said earlier on that, some accommodation could be met in terms of trimming the amount of work that one has to do to obtain a degree at the University of the West Indies. Also , well I do not know, at the Law Schools you study for two years but you are not given a qualification. You will see some of us who attended the Law School, we put the abbreviation after our names, LEC, Legal Education Certificate. But I am told that that is not a degree or a diploma of sorts. No qualification is given. It is something like the Inns of Court in England. I would have to rely on those of you who went to the Inns of Court to help me in this regard. But no qualification is given. So for that reason alone, I do not see the sense of maintaining six different Campuses for the dispensing of legal education. But, that notwithstanding, as it is the quality of legal education is good. What the Member for St. Michael West also alluded to as the pupillage system, I think greater thought ought to be given to that system, because as it now obtains it is not meeting the requirements as in earlier years. Sometimes when you return to Barbados you cannot get a job in anyone's chambers. I remember when I came home in early 1974 you could not get a job in anybody's chambers. Nobody would take you in. Today people will take you in. But I notice that a lot of those persons who are students at any one of the Council of Legal Education schools would want to be paid for the time they spend in chambers. Well, I tell them - look, I am open. Anybody who wants to come, come. But I cannot pay you. 5.35p.m.

Asides.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Yes, anybody who wants to come, come. So that most of the students will try to get into the Government Service so that they could obtain a wage or salary at the end of a month.

Now in regard to the West Indian Law Journal, it has been one of my criticisms that, in the University of the West Indies, a lot of research especially in the Law Faculty is not done, not enough to have the West Indian Law Journal being published on a regular interval and, up until now, I think there has only been on one occasion that any reference to law has been quoted in any English legal publication from the West Indian Law Journal. That was in relation to the now deceased Anthony Bland. He was quoted in Keeton's Law of Trusts. I do not know maybe that tells us something about the quality of the stuff that is put out. I do not know but it is something that might attest to the quality of the work that is put out by the West Indian ^ Law Journal. It has got to be published on a more regular basis than it is presently being published.

So I believe, Sir, that, even though the education at these schools is duplicated to some extent, the quality of the education is good. There are problems and I would not want to be put abroad that any person... and there are 2 of us who went to the Law School... who went to either of those Law Schools, did not obtain «* a very good legal education. I, for my part, did and I am certain that the Member for St. John did because I know some of those persons who used to teach him at Law School and I know that they are good teachers. This does not detract from the criticisms that were made about the Law School and I believe that we must push to have these concerns addressed to the extent that it is really necessary to address the problems that were
raised here this afternoon.

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, I do not want to prolong this debate unnecessarily. But there are a number of criticisms levelled against the Law School and I just wanted to make this point in response to them.

The Council of Legal Education is concerned about sorrje of the very criticisms which have been made in this Honourable House about the Law School. In fact, about a year ago I did seek to get the matter of the duration of the course of the Council of Legal ** Education set down as a substantive item for decision by the Council of Legal Education, because I did express the view at that meeting that I thought that the course could be constricted to 1 year. I raised some of the very points which have been raised in here, for instance, that some of the courses being taught at the Council of Legal Education are in fact academic courses and that that is where they should be dealt with, at the University. Let me say, however, that the suggestions ^ which I made in this regard met a lot of resistance from, I think, practically every member of the Council of Legal Education at the time and, therefore, I had to use a little tacking to get the matter of the duration of the courses set down because I did propose and it was accepted that the whole course of education at the Law School should be re-examined. A special committee has been set up to examine the courses which are being done by the Law School, the methods of teaching, and that kind of thing and I was able to get included in that analysis ** and in the work of that committee ti,; possibility of

examining the duration of the course. As I said, when you examine the courses which are being taught, then the duration of the course must bear some relevance if you are to come to any sensible conclusion in relation to the effective teaching of legal education.

So that I just wanted to respond to Honourable Members to let them know the issues which they have raised during the course of this debate are in fact being considered by the Council of Legal Education and it is just going to take some time before we can get down to something on them. But let me also indicate this, that my assessment is that it does not seem at present an awful lot of support for reducing the duration of the course from 2 years to 1. There seems to be quite some resistance to that.

Asides.

Hon. M. A. KING: Yes, Barbados has to send its people to Trinidad and Jamaica for 2 years. So you see there is a lot of resistance to reducing the course from 2 years to 1. I strongly believe too that the emphasis on the practice of law must be in the system of pupillage because that is where you do really learn your law. I am not satisfied myself that the kinds of academic courses you get in the Council of Legal Education are an adequate substitute. But there it is that there is this resistance. It is a matter which has to be dealt with.

From the point of view of the actual courses of law which are being taught, there has been a lot of adverse comment within the Council as well as to the quality of the instruction, quality from the point of view that a lot of the members of Council are not satisfied that what is being taught as a practical course is, in fact, being effectively done. We raised concerns for instance about the number of occasions where students require to participate in group discussions, and the number of occasions in which they are required to be present in Court to see how actual trials are being conducted. I remember on the last occasion we met we had insisted that the Principals of the 2 Law Schools send us a full record of the type of questions which had been set down and the practical as distinct from the academic exercises that students were asked to complete for the purpose of their school training.

So I just wanted to assure Members that the issues and the concerns which they have raised in relation to the Council of Legal Education were, in fact, being addressed by the Council, but it was a question of getting the Council as a whole and as a regional institution to sort of agree with the positions which we were taking.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, just a few quick responses. I think that, as far as the Law Faculty and the Courts of law, the Attorney General has responded to tht queries made by the Honourable Member for St. Thomas. I would also like to say, however, the query of the amount spent for the year 1988/89, that is $16 million and also I would like to respond to the poir' about the dollars already given to the University of the West Indies. 5.45 p.m.

To the Honourable Member for St. John, I would only like to say that the commitment is still there that we will continue the free education at the University.

The Honourable Member for St. Peter, his query as to the arrears by various territories. I will not attempt to do a mathematical calculation based upon the figures here, because this file really deals with the payment of subsidies, but, however, I can give him the assurance that from the file with the UWI payments which embraces all of the territories, I will then bring him an up to date figure.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1988-89, No. 20

HEAD 37 - MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND LANDS

Hon. H. A, BLACKMAN: Mr. Chairman, this Resolution seeks parliamentary approval for the sum of $305,350 under the various Subheads. The first is under Head 37, but I will go through the various Subheads.

The first one is Subhead 1 where $16,250 is needed because we have some problems at Marine House and the Legal Section of the Ministry had to be transferred to Windsor Arms Hotel for the time being. That $16,250 will cover the amount of money needed for the rent at Windsor Arms until the end of the financial year March 1989.

Subhead 6 — Operating Expenses, supplementary provision is needed of $3,250 and it is because normally there are about four trainee Surveyors who usually take the qualifying examination each year, but this year the number has increased to about ten and therefore you have a corresponding increase in the number of papers to be set and corrected by the examiners. Hence the increase in fees charged.

Under this same Subhead we have Object No. 24, $25,000 had been approved to purchase a four wheel drive jeep for the Lands and Surveys Department. That amount of money has proven to be inadequate for the type of vehicle that is needed by the Lands and Surveys Department, becasue the persons in that Department have to go into some rugged terrain and so forth. The

figure quoted for this type of vehicle now is between $38,000 and $45,000 and therefore we need an additional $15,000 in order to purchase this vehicle.

Under the same Subhead, Object No. 25, we need an additional sum of $20,600 to purchase a Xerox 2510 plan copier and one theodolite. We need the copier pretty badly. It is a large photocopier and it is capable of copying any document up to 36 inches wide by any length. This is needed particularly at this time, now that the Land Registry is coming on stream and the institutions like banks and so forth may not want to part with the conveyances for any length of time, therefore you need to copy them.

The theodolite is a type of equipment used by the staff at the Lands and Surveys Department, and because of the increase in cost the amount of money which was in the Estimates has proven inadequate and therefore we need an extra $9,000 for that.

Subhead 8, because of the reorganisation and the staffing of the Land Registry section, four Commissioners of Title and four Registration Officers have been appointed, and these funds are to cover the fees for these officers up to the end of the financial year.

I must add here, Mr. Chairman, that the amount of money being sought under this Head for the Commissioners of Title and Registration Officers will, to all intents and purposes, be collected in fees after the titles are registered. In actual terms, in respect of the parish of St. James comprising Paradise Heights, West Terrace, Oxnards, Husbands and Wanstead, we will receive money in excess of the money that we are asking the House of Assembly for, so this will actually pay for itself.

Therefore, the House is being asked to approve this supplementary for $305 350 to supplement Head 37. I just want to make one slight adjustment here. I said that the money needed for the payment of rents at the Windsor Arms Hotel was $16,250. It is $16,500.

With those remarks I beg to move that this Head stand part.

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

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, just one quick question. I was not clear what the monthly rental was for the Windsor Arms where the Ministry of Legal Affairs is sited now. I thought I heard the Ministry say $16,000 odd, but I wonder if the Minister would let us know what the rental is.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: It is $16,500 per month, and therefore between now and the 'end of the financial year we need $116,500. I am sorry about that. The Ministry will require a supplementary provision in the sum of $116,500 under this Item at a rate of $16,500 per month.

The question that Head 37 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On the motion of Hon. P. M. GREAVES, seconded by Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of three Money Resolutions in Committee of Supply, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly. 5.55 p.m.

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

ADDRESS TO HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I believe that before this House rises that we should conclude the matter of the Address to Her Majesty the Queen which is to be approved by Honourable Members.

Mr. Speaker, the text of the matter that I have before me appears to be giving some small difficulty. In that case, Sir, I am suggesting that the House be suspended for fifteen minutes to give the Committee an opportunity to look at what changes are being suggested and at the end we will report to this Chamber.

I therefore beg to move that this sitting be suspended for fifteen minutes.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly. 6.05 p.m.

ON RESUMPTION

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I am advised, Mr. Speaker, that the Committee has not yet completed its work and might require another half hour or thereabouts to complete it.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: In those circumstances, Sir, we have no alternative but to once more move that this sitting be suspended until 7.00 p.m. this evening.

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

The question that this sitting be suspended until 7.00 p.m. this evening was put and was resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly at 6.31 p.m. 6.31 p.m.

ON RESUMPTION Mr.

SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Committee I am advised has completed its work. The text of this draft is with us and therefore I move, Sir, that the House approve this text, as amended, as the draft for presentation to Her Majesty the Queen on the occasion of her visit to Parliament.

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

The question that this address, as amended, do now pass was put and was resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think the Leader of the House would like to express that the text itself would be circulated as soon as possible.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, that brings us to the end of Government Business for today, Sir. I move, Sir, that the House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 28th February, 1989 at 12.00 o'clock noon.

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

The question was put and was resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the sitting accordingly at 7.07 p.m.

CONTENTS

MINUTES

Confirmation of Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, 7th February, 1989..... 3257

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. SPEAKER.....3257

Receipt of Accounts and Statements for the month of December, 1988 as prepared by the Accountant-General.

MESSAGES FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Mr. SPEAKER.....3258

Message No. 1/1989 informing of the appointment of Dr. Richard C. Haynes as Leader of the Opposition with effect from 14th February, 1989 and the revocation of the appointment of Hon. Henry deB. Forde, Q.C. as Leader of the Opposition also with effect from 14th February, 1989.

PAPERS

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD.....3258

The Customs Prohibited Imports Toy Guns Order, 1989.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. P. M. GREAVES.....3258

Resolution to grant the sum of $305,350 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1988-89 Part I Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1988-89, No. 20.

Resolution to grant the sum of $2,000,000 from the Consolidated Fund and place it at the disposal of the Government to Supplement the Estimates 1988-89 Part I Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimates, 1988-89, No. 21.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICES

Mr. SPEAKER.....3258
Hon H. deB. FORDE.....3258

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS.....3259

Hon. P. M. Greaves, 3259.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, 1988-89, PART I - CURRENT NO. 19.....3259

HEAD 12 - PARLIAMENT

Mr. R. P. Byer, 3266; Hon. H. deB. Forde, 3259, 3272; Hon. P. M. Greaves, 3259, 3269, 3273; Dr. R. C. Haynes, 3262; Mr. R. L. Morris, 3267; Mr. D. A. C. Simmons, 3260; Dr. E. A. Simmons, 3264; Hon. B. M. Taitt, 3264.

HEAD 16 - MINISTRY OF THE CIVIL SERVICE..... ,3273

Dr. R. C. Haynes, 3273; Hon. L. E. Sandiford, 3273.

HEAD 28 - MINISTRY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS 3275

Mr. R. P. Byer, 3276; Hon. M. A. King, 3275, 3278; His Hon. J. J. Payne, 3277.

HEAD 29 -PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS.....3279

Hon. M. A. King, 3279.

HEAD 50 - POLICE.....3279

Hon. M. A. King, 3279.

HEAD 33 - PROBATION.....3279

Dr. R. C. Haynes, 3280; Hon. M. A. King, 3279, 3281; Hon. L. E. Sandiford, 3279; Mr. D. A. C. Simmons, 3280.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESOLUTION 1988-89 PART I CURRENT NO. 21.....3282

HEAD 34 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE - $2,000,000 3282

Mr. O. S. Arthur, 3286; Mr. R. P. Byer, 3291; Hon. M. A. King, 3292; Mr. D. A. C. Simmons, 3282; Hon. B. M. Taitt, 3288; Mr. D. J. H. Thompson, 3284; Hon. C. V. Walker, 3282, 3293.

HEAD 37 - MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND LANDS - $305,350 3293

Hon. H. A. Blackmail, 3293,3294; Mr. P. J. M. Miller, 3294.

ADDRESS TO HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN..... .3294

Hon. P. M. Greaves, 3294.

SUSPENSIONS..... 3273,3294,3295

ADJOURNMENT.....3295

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

ARTHUR, Mr. O. S. (St. Peter) BLACKMAN, Hon. H. A. (St. Philip South) BYER, Mr. R. P. (St. George South) BRATHWAITE, Mr. L. L. (St Michael North East) FORDE, Hon. H. deB. (Christ Church West) FRANKLIN, Hon. W. O. (St. Philip North) GREAVES, Hon. P. M. (St. Michael North) HAYNES, Dr. R. C. (St. Michael South Central) KING, Hon. M. A. (Christ Church West Central) MORRIS, Mr. R. L. (Christ Church East Central) SANDIFORD, Hon. L. E. (St. Michael South) SIMMONS, Mr. D. A. C. (St. Thomas) SIMMONS, Dr. E. A. (St. Michael South East) TAITT, Hon. B. M. (St Michael West) **THOMPSON, Mr. D. J. H. (St. John) WALKER, Hon. C. V. (St. George North) WEEKES, His Hon. L. A. (St. Michael North West)**