

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1986-91

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 17th January, 1989

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

PRESENT

His Honour L. A. WEEKES, J.P., (Speaker)
His Honour J. J. PAYNE, (Deputy Speaker)
Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, B.A., M.A. (Econ.), J.P.,
(Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs)
Hon. H. deB. FORDE, Q.C., M.A., LL.B. (Leader of the Opposition)
Hon. B. M. TAITT, B.A., (Hons.), M.P.A., LL.B., (Hons.), (Minister of Health)
Hon. E. E. GREAVES, B.A., Ed.M., (Minister of Trade, Industry and Commerce)
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.
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 Reverend Ivan Harewood.

Mr. SPEAKER: The House is in Session.

The Minutes of Tuesday, 20th December, 1988.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Minutes of Tuesday, 20th December, 1988 be accepted 'as read and be now confirmed.

Mr. SPEAKER: If there are no corrections, let those Minutes stand confirmed.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I have received a Message from the Honourable the Senate to the Honourable the House of Assembly respecting the National Health Service Board (Repeal) Act, 1988. It reads as follows:

"On Wednesday, 11th January, 1989, this House passed the National Health Service Board (Repeal) Act, 1988, with the following amendment:"

Delete "before the House of Assembly" from paragraph 4 of the Schedule and insert therefor "in Parliament".

This House invites the concurrence of the Honourable the House of Assembly in the above amendment.

Dated the 11th day of January, 1989."

I am also to announce that I am in receipt of the Accounts and Statement for the month of October, 1988, from the Accountant General.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the Annual Report of the Prisons for the year 1987.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Boundaries Act.

I also beg to give notice of a Bill to validate and continue certain benefits enjoyed by Gulfstream Industries (Caribbean) Limited which were granted otherwise than in accordance with the Fiscal Incentives Act.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, Hon. C. V. WALKER, Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN and Mr. C. L. TROTMAN entered the Chamber and took their seats.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

On motion of Hon. B. M. TAITT, seconded by Hon. M. A. KING, a Bill to amend the Parish Boundaries Act was read a first time.

On motion of Hon. B. M. TAITT, seconded by Hon. M. A. KING, a Bill to validate and continue certain benefits enjoyed by Gulfstream Industries (Caribbean) Limited which were granted otherwise than in accordance with the Fiscal Incentives Act, was read a first time.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON THE APPOINTMENT OF PERSONS TO ENQUIRE INTO THE BREAKOUT AT GLENDAIRY PRISON AND INTO THE DIPLOMATIC BAG INCIDENT

Following a tour I made on the 29th December, 1988 to Glendairy Prison, I indicated that I would institute a thorough-ongoing enquiry into the escape of both Antonio Pain and ten other prisoners. I now wish to state that the enquiry will be conducted by Mr. George Reid, former Commissioner of Police, whose terms of reference will be:

- (i) to establish the facts surrounding the two recent escapes from Glendairy Prison;
- (ii) to review the security at the Prison both in terms of the layout and structure of the building

and the procedures which are in use at the Prison; and

- (iii) to advise on measures to be taken to remedy any deficiencies identified.

In my New Year's Message to the Nation, I indicated that it was my intention "to institute a full enquiry into the recent incident surrounding the misuse of the diplomatic bag." The terms of reference for the conduct of the enquiry have now been determined, and they are as follows: 12.25 p.m.

- to investigate all the circumstances which led to the misuse of the diplomatic bag despatched from the Barbados Embassy at Caracas on November 24, 1988;

to examine all matters concerning the procedures for preparing and despatching the diplomatic bag from Caracas; and

to report to the Prime Minister by February 28, 1989.

In investigating the incident, the persons conducting the enquiry will be authorised to take statements or evidence from the staff of the Embassy in Caracas, from the staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and from any other persons deemed appropriate in the particular circumstances. I have appointed the following persons to serve in the enquiry:

Mr. Algernon W. Symmonds, GCM - Chairman
Mr. Samuel C. Corbin - Member
Mr. Clovis V. Boyce - Member

Mr. Algernon Symmonds who served as Head of the Civil Service before retirement was for several years Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Head of the Foreign Service. He also served as High Commissioner to the United Kingdom with concurrent accreditation to several European countries. A practising Attorney-at-Law, Mr. Symmonds will serve as Chairman of the enquiry.

Mr. Samuel C. Corbin retired as Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Legal Affairs and had been a member of the Barbados Foreign Service for many years. He also served as Deputy High Commissioner of Barbados to the United Kingdom.

Mr. Clovis Boyce retired as Deputy Commissioner of Police. He had served with distinction in the Criminal Investigation Department and the Special Branch of the Police Force during his career.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I urge any member of the public^ including Members of the Opposition, who has knowledge of illicit drug activities in relation to the diplomatic bag, to make that information available to the Commissioner of Police or to the persons conducting this enquiry.

Applause.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: Mr. Speaker, The *Sunday Sun* of January 15, 1989, carried a front page headline "Bid Brawl Brews" and a column headed "Government Challenged on Cultural Centre Contract".

In response thereto, the Ministry of Education and Culture wishes to make the following statement:-

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Pre-qualification for the Super-Structure (Steel-works) for the Examination/Cultural Centre, was done by public invitation in April, 1988 - three (3) firms pre-qualified, (namely Rayside Asphalt Paving Company Limited, Robert Johnson Construction Limited and Clarke Tucker Limited). These three firms were invited to tender for the work, but only two (2) responded - Rayside and Robert Johnson.

The Tenders Committee examined the two tenders and recommended to the Ministry of Education and Culture that the tender be awarded to the conforming tenderer, Rayside Asphalt Paving Company Limited.

It should be noted that the tender from Robert Johnson Construction Limited as submitted to the Chairman, Tenders Committee, did not meet all the stipulated requirements.

It is to be noted that Structural Systems Limited did not apply for pre-qualification and therefore could not be invited to tender for construction of the centre.

Government has offered contracts to Consultants to work on the design and construction of the centre. These consultants are free to consult and sub-contract other companies in any aspect of the work for which they were engaged.

Applause.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the following Standing Orders be suspended - Standing Orders Nos. 6,16,18,20,42(5), 43 and 44.

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

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

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE BOARD (REPEAL) ACT, 1988

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, earlier we received a Message from the Honourable, the Senate. I believe, Sir, that this would be an appropriate point to take that Message and I move that this Honourable House concur in the Message that the phrase "before the House of Assembly" from paragraph 4 of the Schedule be replaced by the words "in Parliament" in the National Health Service Board (Repeal) Act, 1988.

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

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, it appears that the Opposition may not have been circulated with the Message and, in those circumstances, I would move that the matter be postponed until the Opposition is fully seized of the matter. I was under the impression that they had, in fact, received a copy of the Message.

I would, therefore suggest, and with the leave of the House, we consider this matter later today after they have had an opportunity to have a copy of the Message.

Mr. SPEAKER: If there is no objection, then leave is granted.

ORDER NO. 2

Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Battaleys, St. Peter for the construction of the new Speightstown Primary School.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker, this present Cabinet ratified a decision made earlier on January 16, 1986 to acquire just over 8 000 square metres of land at Battaleys, St. Peter belonging to Michael Belle Limited for the construction of the new Speightstown Primary School.

A survey plan prepared by the Land Surveyor revealed that the land was slightly more than the 8 250 square metres. In fact, it was 8 588 square metres. 12.35 p.m.

The new Speightstown School, Mr. Speaker, is a primary school and it is one of the several schools being constructed under the Second Education and Training Project which is financed by the Government of Barbados

and the World Bank and the IADB. As a result of this programme, new primary and secondary schools will be constructed in most parishes throughout the island.

Government is embarking upon a second stage of school construction under the construction and civil work aspects and also expansion aimed at rationalizing primary school accommodation as well as increasing and improving the accommodation at certain secondary schools. Other components of this programme include technical assistance and institutional improvement for the Ministry of Education.

So approval is being sought by this Resolution, because I think that we did go through the Resolution already dealing with the acquisition of other lands for schools and this Resolution seeks parliamentary approval to acquire this 8 588 square metres of land at Battaleys for the construction of the primary school in St. Peter.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: I beg to second that, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Peter.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am going to support this Resolution.

Applause.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Since the Government, Sir, is in a mood to acquire land at Battaleys, I must remind them, Sir, that - I would refer to the Minister of Sports in a short while - the *Nation* today has carried a story saying that the Minister of Tourism and Sports has committed himself to building a gymnasium and a football stadium in St. Peter. I was there, Sir, and I do not recall the Minister of Tourism and Sports having said that.

• *Laughter.*

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: But since, Sir, there is this public commitment to build a gymnasium and a football stadium in St. Peter, I would want to urge upon the Government that since we are acquiring lands at Battaleys, St. Peter, Sir, and given the Minister's commitment, Sir, we could also look as well to Battaleys for land for such a purpose. But I admit, Sir, I do not remember the Minister having made that commitment.

Laughter.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Anyhow, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support this Resolution. I support it on the grounds of overwhelming need. The fact, of course, that this is a matter that has been carried over from one Administration to the

other Administration is to my mind, Sir, the best of the matters in the particular case. Overwhelming need.

The two schools in Speightstown, Sir, are very badly located, one in the midst of congestion and the other in a position that makes it prone to flooding. And the objective of amalgamating the two schools is really to give that area primary school facilities of character that would allow us to overcome these problems.

I want, Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I support this Resolution, to make a number of observations. I should like to urge, Sir, that the new school to be built in Speightstown be called the Roland Edwards Memorial School.

Aside.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Roland Edwards Memorial School. Last year on the 22nd Anniversary of Barbados' ** Independence, I started a memorial fund for Mr. Edwards in Speightstown, so as to have a suitable memorial of some sort erected or established for the person who composed the music for Barbados' National Anthem. Mr. Edwards was a product of the Speightstown area. He, I think, was a product of the Speightstown Boys' School and I really do believe, Sir, that it would be a fitting tribute to the person who has composed the music to our National Anthem to have that school named after that distinguished son of St. Peter. And I ^ am saying that, Sir, putting it out for what it is worth. But I do feel, Sir, that it would be a fitting tribute to Mr. Edwards if the school should be called the Roland Edwards Memorial School.

Secondly, Sir, I am very conscious of the fact that this school is being built under the auspices of the World Bank, the second education project. The World Bank education projects, whether they take place in Barbados or Togo or Mauritius or any other part of the world, seem to be ^ characterized by one distinguishing feature, the uniformity of the structures which are erected. And if you, Sir, were to take any sample of all schools built under the World Bank projects, whether in Barbados or any other place we come across, Sir, we come up against the same kind of structure irregardless of time, place or circumstance.

I do feel, Sir, that we have to be careful. I want to make a plea, particularly for Speightstown. Speightstown has been in the process of being developed and a very ** conscious attempt has been made by both the public as well as the private sector to retain a certain character to the manner in which physical development takes place in the Speightstown area.

Now if other Members of Parliament, Sir, want to have the kind of structures that have been erected under World Bank projects erected in their constituencies, I want to make a plea that we try to make the new school that is being built in Speightstown congruous with its

environment. You will find, Sir, that the private sector that is now developing parts of Speightstown, is trying to give certain classical features to the buildings that they erect. And you will also find, Sir, that the old buildings that were previously built by former Governments, the old health centre in Speightstown was an attractive building to behold.

But I do feel, Sir, that when you look at the schools that have been built under the World Bank education projects, they remind you of the criticism that was levelled by the former Prime Minister of this country, Mr. Tom Adams, that the architects seem to have relied upon match boxes to create a design and looked thereafter to the use of materials to distinguish one from the other. It is not only that the schools are uniform in design, but they are also very characterless.

And I really feel, Sir, that if we examine the difference between the old schools that used to be built in Barbados, and the new schools that are now being constructed, most of the old schools had a distinctive character. Nobody can doubt that Combermere has a distinctive character that distinguishes it as Combermere. Nobody can doubt, Sir, that the old Alexandra School had a distinctive character.

But all of the new schools that are being built, Sir, are built in accordance with a World Bank format. And I do not believe, Sir, that it is beyond our imagination to build some features into these schools that would allow us to distinguish between a school in St. Peter and a school in St. George. And for that reason, Sir, I am urging upon the House that a special care be given to integrate the new Speightstown School or the Roland Edwards School as I would now want to call it, Sir, into the environment, the architectural environment that we are seeking really to preserve and to promote in that part of the town.

I am not going to labour the origins of this project, Sir. The people of St. Peter well know where this project has come from. It is going to be built. I am pleased for that, Sir. And I hope that this particular school would be a credit to the people of St. Peter and will serve their needs for many years to come.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not intend to delay the Honourable House in this Debate.

However I rise to support this. Of course we have already discussed in this Honourable House, the present phase of construction which is now going on, and indeed the acquisition here today relates to the school which is already under construction. 12.45 p.m.

I have already alerted the Honourable House that St. Augustine, Selah, St. Matthews, and Speightstown Schools are currently under construction and I would only assure the

honourable Member that due consideration will be given to the name that has been suggested by the honourable Member who represents that constituency. I would also like to give him the assurance that we have already paid attention to the complaints and the suggestions coming out of those complaints, in terms of the modification of the standardized design that we have become accustomed to under this project. Coming out of that, Sir, we have already, within the design of those primary schools, covered court yards, which will be dual purpose. Not only will they change or modify or enhance the design if you will, but they will also provide what we consider to be adequate space to deal directly with the community for more community involvement so you can have more cultural activities even within the school setting.

This, as the Honourable Member mentioned, is an ongoing process. Now I have stated here, Mr. Speaker, recently that we will be constructing not only the primary schools but we will be constructing secondary schools. I am amazed to read in the local Press that someone would get up and say that we have abandoned the Wotton School. I have given this Honourable House a commitment that Wotton School will be built indeed. The engineers and the consultants are already working on the allocation to submit to the Tenders Committee for a construction company to build that school. I think if we would check the reports of this Honourable House and if we would check the dollars within the Development Plan which includes the construction of the school!

And to think that a Senator from the Other Place could state that we have abandoned the Wotton School. I want to reassure this Honourable House, Sir, that we have not and we will continue to carry on the project. I thank you, Sir.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker, I just like - Well, why did you not get up then?

Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to give my support to this Resolution and to congratulate the Government on moving onto this matter as speedily as they have. I recall, Sir, that during the bye-election campaign in St. Peter, it was one of the strong points made by our candidate in that election that there was need for provision of that kind of facility in St. Peter and I would like to congratulate the Government on having moved so speedily in this particular direction.

From my own position, Sir, and dealing with the acquisition of land for the provision of school places, Sir, I would just wish to lend my voice to the need for the replacement of the St. Matthews Composite School as an accredited place, Sir, for the needs of the people of the constituency.

I am aware, Sir, that I am dealing with an acquisition of a particular area of land. But Sir, the need is so great that I would not wish this opportunity to pass without asking.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Just to mention it.

Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE: Just to mention it, Sir, that the need is great, Sir. What is heartening in this bit of legislation, Sir, is that I am somewhat amazed that for as long as it has been the two schools in St. Peter, seem not to have taken the eye of the let me say the various Administrations for the need - for the kind of improvement that is now envisaged.

While you are looking at the total education of our children, we have to consider very seriously accommodation for their physical education and in this regard, Sir, I am very sure that I can be safe in congratulating the Government in moving this speedily. Thank you, Sir.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker, I just want to make one brief comment on a statement made by the honourable Member for St. Peter and he said that the two schools in St. Peter are in bad condition. I would like to say, Mr. Speaker, that not only the two schools in St. Peter are in bad condition, but many schools throughout Barbados are in bad conditions.

Aside.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: I am going to get to that. The National Insurance Building, Treasury Building, Police Stations - all because for ten years, the Barbados Labour Party did absolutely nothing to repair any one of these buildings. With those words, Mr. Speaker, I beg that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

NATIONAL HEALTH BOARD (REPEAL) ACT, 1988

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Message from the Senate be agreed by the House.

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

The question that the Amendment as contained in the Message do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

ORDER NO. 1

Order No. 1 was called - To move that this House resolve itself into Committee of Supply to consider the grant of sums of money for the service of this Island.

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY Mr.

CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1988-89
NO. 11 - \$5,938,525 PART I - CURRENT

HEAD 36 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH

SUBHEAD 3 - CENTRAL MAINTENANCE SERVICES

SUBHEAD 16 - DRUG SERVICE

SUBHEAD 35 - SANITATION SERVICE AUTHORITY

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if we will take these three Subheads in order, the necessity to supplement the vote is as usual an indication as we come toward the end of a financial year, that all of the sums voted in the respective Heads did not reach their objective in meeting the requirements for the particular Head.

In the first instance, Maintenance of Property. As you may be aware, Mr. Chairman, the Ministry of Health now has the responsibility for maintenance of the entire compound at Jemmott's Lane, where is housed the Ministry of Education and Health. There is a common electrical power supply and during most of last year and continuing into this year, both Ministries have been experiencing frequent power outages. The air conditioning units have had to be switched off and there has been generally a discommoding of the people who work in these Ministries. 12.55 p.m.

As you know, Sir, this compound used to be the old Barbados General Hospital, and except for a few of the - I suppose we will have to call them buildings - except for a few of the additions that have been made from time to time, the property is old. It also benefits, or fails to benefit, from the system of electrical wiring which existed in days gone by, and so after consultation with the Government Electrical Engineer it was determined that some works have to be carried out.

A sum of money, \$120 000, has been voted for the purchase of a transformer and other work associated with the electrical work. These matters require designs and they require some other preliminary work which had not been completed in time, and so included in the sum of \$215 000 will be a vote of \$120 000 so that this work can be completed.

Subhead 16 deals with the Drug Service, Sir, and you will recall that after making a commitment to the community that revenues from the Drug Service would in fact be paid into the Consolidated Fund, a commitment was also given that to the extent necessary to maintain the Drug Service, such funds from the Consolidated Fund as would be necessary would be removed.

As of the end of December, funds allocated under the Estimates indicated that a sum of \$2 823 525 would be required to meet our costs until the end of the financial year. We therefore seek to supplement the vote accordingly.

Similarly, Sir, in the supply of the sanitation services in the country, a sum of \$11 million had been provided in the Estimates for this year under Subhead 35. This amount has proved to be quite inadequate to meet expenditure for the entire financial year, and it is calculated that the sum of \$2 900 000 would take the Sanitation Service Authority to the end of the financial year.

I believe, Sir, that in the not too distant future, another two months or so, there will be an opportunity to discuss and debate the various services, and I do not propose to engage in long debate. However, I stand ready to answer any questions which any Honourable Member might have in this regard and would therefore beg to move that Head 36 stand part.

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

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, the House has recently had a very extensive debate on Health and the Minister has promised us that in the course of the next two months we will have additional opportunity to discuss this matter.

I want particularly, however, Sir, to address a few concerns to Subhead 16, the Drug Service, and the increase being sought of \$2.83 million. Ordinarily, and with the Estimates of Expenditure debate soon to arise, I would not be spending too much time on the supplementaries, but what is remarkable about Subhead 16 is that the increase being sought is a 33% increase. It is anticipated that the amount of \$8.56 million be supplemented by an amount of \$2.82 million, a 33% increase.

I think the Minister would agree that when a supplementary as extensive and as large as a 33% increase is being sought in the course of a financial year, that a full explanation is warranted. To be sure, there is nothing in the consumer price index which would suggest that a 33% increase can be warranted on the basis of an increase in prices. Indeed the consumer price index is simply telling us that prices for medical care and drugs and so on increased only by 6%, so the Government cannot really say that a price factor of more than 6% is involved here.

The Minister has not really said either that there is, or is likely to be, an expansion in the Drug Service between the start of the financial year and today, and to the end of the financial year, that can warrant a 33% increase. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, if we cannot explain it on the basis of price increases nor can we explain it on the basis of an expansion in the service, we really have to look to more serious issues, or to look for alternative issues.

I really want to put to the House, Mr. Chairman, that the Government might have been doing some false economies in the manner in which it has provided for the Drug Service in this year's Estimates. The Minister would realise that the amount provided and approved in this year's Estimates for the Drug Service for supplies and materials is no different from that which was provided last year, but if you will recall, Sir, during the course of the last financial year the House had in fact to supplement the provision for the Ministry of Health, the Drug Service, by an amount of \$3.8 million.

The House in the last financial year had voted \$10 million for the Drug Service and in the course of the last financial year we were called upon as a House of Parliament to supplement that by \$3.6 million. This financial year, disregarding the experience, and indulging in what I call false economies, the Government proceeded to vote the same amount: for supplies under the Drug Service as they voted last year, disregarding the fact that from last year you knew already that the amount voted by the House was insufficient for the purposes.

I am saying, Sir, that this false planning, bringing a 33% increase in the item to the House during the course of a financial year, is bad financial planning, particularly when in the course of the previous financial year you had seen that the amount of an even larger magnitude than this had proven insufficient for the purpose.

We hear statements by the Director of the Drug Service making extravagant claims as to how much monies are being saved, but the magnitude of the amount we are being called upon to vote today is giving a lie to that particular matter. I therefore am anxious to hear the deeper reasons which would justify this House today agreeing to vote a 33% increase for the Drug Service over and beyond that which we voted in March, and I am making this call for the Minister to speak in a more forthcoming way, because as you will remember, Sir, in the course of the Budget debate the Minister of Finance had indicated that every request for additional funds this year would be given the greatest scrutiny, and so serious was the Government in its bid to hold all requests under the closest scrutiny, that the Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Finance was to be entrusted with the responsibility of making sure that all these things went through a very thorough investigation. 1.05p.m.

I am asking therefore what has become of that particular commitment, and by what process of financial evaluation are we now today to justify the Government in supplementing a vote by 33 per cent? Has this gone through the close scrutiny? I think the Minister understands the gravity of the point. We on this side last year were accused of having given all our support to supplementaries that were brought before the House and were held responsible, Mr. Chairman, for having participated in the overspending. We are not going to easily agree with Government and I am making it as a statement of principle on behalf of this Opposition that to the extent that Government has committed itself to giving the greatest scrutiny to all requests for increased funds, we on this side are by no stretch of the imagination going to give any support to Government for any increase in any Head by an amount of 33 per cent without the clearest possible justification by the Minister concerned. I therefore in that spirit await the response of the Minister in the matter, Sir.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I rise to support this Resolution, but in doing so I want to make some comments arising out of what the Honourable Member for St. Peter said. In his summary he said that maybe his objection to not supporting this is because last year they supported Resolutions and they were criticised for it, and therefore this year they are not going to support any Resolutions. I would have thought that would be a very immature approach to take because if something.....

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: On a point of order, I am sure that the Honourable Member knows that his remarks are offensive and I insist

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Make the point that you want to make. What is the point of order?

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member is virtually insulting me by calling me immature. I am insisting that the remarks be withdrawn.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: I said Mr. Chairman, that he ended up by saying that last year they supported many money Resolutions and they were criticised for it, and along that basis he was going to disagree, and I do not think that is a good basis for disagreeing. I would have thought that a competent economist as the Honourable Member for St. Peter is, would first have studied the possible reasons for the increase. If you were to analyse the drug service from its implementation under the Barbados Labour Party, you would have seen that every year the cost of drugs had increased tremendously.

He talked about false economies. We know that the system that operated in assessing the amount of money spent on drugs in this country was not foolproof, therefore it would not be unusual for the Government to take a

position where they took a base line and then came back for a supplementary. It is nothing to do with false economies.

If you were to look at what has happened to the drug service in Barbados over the last two years, there has been a complete revamping of a lot of the nonsense medicines that were on the formulary, and what you are having now is a Committee that is putting first rate medicines on the formulary. Now if you improve the quality of the medicines on the formulary, it stands to reason that the cost * will also increase, but one cannot state in 1987 the degree of increase because even the producers of medicines in the developed countries cannot tell you today what the improved medicines of tomorrow are going to cost, and there are good medicines coming on target every day, the cost of which nobody can predict.

I make that point because if we are going to be analytical and talk about increases of drugs, from an * economic point of view and from an analytical point of view, this is one of the things I would have thought the Honourable Member for St. Peter would have looked at, not just to get up and say he will not support it because they supported such last year.

Another important factor is that those of us who are at home and watch our television will see that there has been a deliberate Government programme urging people to make use of the drug service, and if you advertise and you inform -people of the importance of a drug service, you will then have an increase in the clientele, and those of us who practise medicine know that patients come in and say to you, these drugs are on the formulary and I can get them free; so you think I should take these drugs in preference to any other drugs? So you have to analyse the situation. So when you seek a supplementary for something like the drug service, there are certain indicators that must be looked at in order to determine whether or not it is justifiable, and I am * saying that from my position as a practising physician, I know that there has got to be an increase and the increase is justified, and therefore I support this Resolution. I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: I have to respond to this, Mr. Chairman. I know the Minister, the real Minister of Health is anxious to respond to the proper comments that have been put by the Opposition, and lest I misunderstood, Mr. Chairman, this Opposition is not going to support the * Government bringing any 33 per cent increase in any supplementary to this House this year without the fullest possible explanation. Beyond that, the responsibility for explaining the basis for it does not lie with the Opposition, as the Honourable Member would want to impute. He is imputing before the House that I ought to know that there is a revamping of the formulary. I am not the Minister of Health. I do not work in the Ministry of Health; I am not a physician and I am saying that if a Minister of Health brings a 33 per cent increase in a cost item before this

House, particularly one that is costing as much as \$2.83 million, we do not know and I rather suspect that his other colleagues do not know either, as a responsible House that must agitate over how the public funds are spent, we have a responsibility to act.

I want therefore to know in what respect a revamping has taken place. How much is that aspect of the particular programme costing? What does the revamping of the system mean? What are those new medicines of tomorrow which we are paying for today? I want to join these particular things from the Minister of Health, and Mr. Chairman, after the Opposition has heard the Minister of Health justify for the benefit of the House the basis for an increase of 33 per cent, we can thereafter take a position as part of the financial managers of this country. But I want to stay on the point that last year, and this is a point that the Government must really take into account, when you are doing Estimates of expenditure it is artificial to put under supplies and materials the same amount every year, because that does not even make allowance for changes in prices.

The Honourable Member says that I am criticising the Government unfairly for false economies, but if you anticipate increases in prices, clearly it must be ridiculous financial planning to put \$8.56 million in the Estimates one year for supplies and materials under the drug service and then in the following year with an increase in price put the same amount. That is the point the Opposition is putting before the Government, that it is foolishness to do that and it is a waste of the House's time therefore for each year this kind of artificial budgeting to take place and put the same amount for supplies and materials as if the prices would not change, and then have this House come back and meet on supplementaries to hear Ministers say we have had to come back to the House to increase the amount for supplies and materials because prices have changed. That is the point that this Opposition is making, and I would be obliged to the Minister to deal with the question of the revamping of the system, and also to let us know what are the improved medicines of tomorrow that we in Barbados are enjoying today.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I really do not believe that this Committee ought to be drawn into a debate that will on fact debase the quality of the drug service. I do not propose as Minister of Health to get entangled in discussions about the drug service in such a manner as to reduce it to a political football. The Barbados Labour Party initiated the drug service, the Democratic Labour Party has continued it. I wish to see it left untrammelled, untouched and untarnished by the methodologies that have been used traditionally in this country to make issues into political footballs and then thereby reduce the currency of the particular item.

Now the principle which the Honourable Member is raising is a valid principle, that if we come back for \$2

million after asking for \$8 million we must have under-budgeted. I am going to ask him and other Honourable Members of the House, however, to take this point into consideration. 1:15 p.m.

The Drug Service after eight or nine years of operation, was functioning in a manner that was acceptable, that -could even be described as good, but there were areas connected with the administration of the Drug Service which required, if you will, some adjustment.

The adjustment which the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East spoke about in relation to the quality of drugs, was one of them and that is occurring but that is not the principal reason. I think the Honourable Member was responding to the question whether drugs had gone up to that extent of 33%, bearing in mind that the index of prices did not show a 33% increase and, to that extent, my colleague is quite correct to draw to our attention, and I will speak on it in a little more detail, that there is a decidedly increasing quality of the drugs which are being supplied.

The point is that in an organisation that is spending \$10 million to \$15 million a year, the necessity for stringent and constant checks and balances on the expenditure is a fundamental requirement of public administration and it is one which this Government intends to discharge continuously. Therefore in the pursuit of such stringent adjustments, stringent application of financial management principles, it was recognized, at the beginning of the financial year, that, in fact, the numbers would be the same as the previous year; and it was decided at the beginning of the financial year, that we would wish to see certain principles apply and to the extent as time went on that it became necessary we would come back to the Parliament and ask for the funds.

In other words, we the shareholders, or we, the directors on behalf of the shareholders which is the public, were saying to the managers, we are going to do some zero base budgeting. We are going to give you X amounts and you justify its expenditure, not in the terms you justified before, but in real terms and at the end of the day if your management is satisfactory and we need to inject more funds, we will.

Now, you will recall that we made an undertaking that once we caused funds to be put into the Treasury, that the Government would give every single dollar that is necessary for the efficient running of the Drug Service and I want to make it clear that this administration will not participate in any tomfoolery about the quality of drugs which we deliver.

We are not going to give the most expensive drugs, merely because they are the most expensive or merely because they have a brand name but we are going to seek the best advice possible from those who are qualified to

give it, to wit, the committee that my colleague from St. Michael South East referred to, and then we would decide - in fact, not we - the committee which had been set up, the Formulary Committee - in conjunction and consultation with all the persons concerned, including the consumers, which are the best drugs for us to use in our Drug Service, so that the sum of \$2.8 million that we are seeking now is a 33% increase in the amount of money we are going to spend. It does not represent a 33% increase in the price of drugs.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I am saying it for clarification. The Honourable Member may not have said it but the Honourable Member left the impression that could be taken by someone who is not versed in these matters, to mean that there was a 33% increase in the price of drugs. After all, Su% when you look at the Price Index, so I would help him to see what would have led anyone to conclude that He took up the Price Index and he used the principal of *reductio ad absurdum* and he said, it is not this, it is not that, but he did not say what it is. He left me to answer and I have answered him and I am being paid to do it and doing it fully.

I do not now wish you to be saying that you do not wish a full explanation. You asked for a full explanation and I am giving you a complete explanation. At the end of the day if you are not satisfied, I will give you some more.

The fact is, Mr. Chairman, the amount of money to run the Drug Service, has to come out of the Consolidated Fund. The total amount as verified by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Finance has to be given and, therefore, it was stringently being monitored.

It is clear, however, that the point made by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East must be taken. One cannot predict with any certainty, or one should not predict at all what the price of drugs will be next year, because even the drug houses are not able to predict.

What we are able to do is based on the bids that are made, as the Honourable Member for St. Peter well knows, since he participated in cost cutting exercises when he functioned in the Ministry of Finance, since he is aware of how the Estimates are put together, and how they are hammered out and how, whenever in doubt, the Ministry of Finance will say, "Well, let us see how you go."

The Honourable Member is aware that the system of financing the Drug Service is by a series of contracts and contractual bids which are done in advance and that there is a certain leeway allowed those who would supply by contract so that if changes are made in the formulary, if changes are made in the drugs, then a certain amount of leeway is given.

But, to the extent that it was feasible to predict the numbers which were predicted, allowed for us to take the path we have taken. The numbers which were predicted may have been in excess, as perceived by the layman, of what was considered reasonable, so as to look at what was

in the amount last year

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The Honourable Member, Sir, if he wishes to take the other side of his argument, here is what would happen. If we predicted this year, that we will spend \$12 million and at the end of the year, we have only spent \$10 million, then the following year, we should reduce the numbers by \$2 million but, in fact, because there is an area of uncertainty, we would leave the numbers as they are.

The amounts that are lapsed do not come before this Honourable House. There is no list which points out how - much money was lapsed in each vote every year and so although we say we spend X million dollars per annum at the end of the year, the fact is that you do not spend that large quantity so in some votes you are up and in some votes you are down.

Now, we have a line item budgetary system in Barbados. If we had virement, if we were permitted virement, this discussion would not be going on; but because the Democratic Labour Party in 1964 wanted to and committed itself to proper financial management, the Financial Administration and Audit Act was put on the Statute Books and all Governments in Barbados have scrupulously insisted that there be no virement. Therefore, some votes will be in excess and some will be under. In this case, on this occasion, the Drug Service is one and so we come and ask for the money up front, clear and unambiguously we ask for the money.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I stand ready to answer any other questions which the Honourable Member may have.
1.25p.m.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, perhaps the Minister could help us in relation to his request for the supplementary in the Sanitation Service and explain the difficulty which appears to have been occurring on some of the collection routes of the Sanitation Service. My information which I myself have not had the opportunity of checking since I received the information, but I believe it is along Highway 1 since Saturday, there has been great difficulty in collecting garbage on that route. I know for a fact, that in certain parts of St Philip, in the St. Catherine's area, when you drive through from time to time, you notice that the garbage has remained there for longer than is normally the position. I believe that there used to be a regular day for collecting on that route and it seems no longer to be insisted on.

.And I think as well, Mr. Speaker, that there seems to be a re-routing of the trucks along various other routes, I understand, to accord with the old Local Government routes. In fact, I recall a statement within this House, made by the Honourable Member for St. Thomas. And perhaps the Minister would let us know what are the provisions made to ensure collection, particularly from the new developments, which have sprung up over the country in the last few years, last 10 years or so in a very significant way.

I am not sure that the service itself has an adequate fleet to manage the problems that are confronting it. And still, Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am myself very disturbed about the littering, indiscriminate littering, which is occurring on the new highways. I do not think that we can be serious, if the moment that a new highway is brought into being, we find that people are going to take litter from one part of the country, to another and just indiscriminately throw it out of their vehicles, whether it is the cars or anything else. And this is not only confined to the new highways, but it is particularly noticeable in these areas. And perhaps we should join together and use our voices as Legislators to appeal to the public to understand that this poses certain serious health hazards, in addition to, of course, the unsightly state which it creates.

I wonder what steps are being taken by the Ministry to enforce the Health Service Regulations and the various provisions dealing with the wanton and indiscriminate spreading of litter in Barbados.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I just want to put it bluntly, Sir. Some time ago, it was in December, I had occasion to comment on the Sanitation Authority. I asked a question then and I was assured that the matter would be investigated and we will get an answer. And I think it is appropriate now for the Minister to answer.

The question that I asked was this: Is it correct that a high official in the Sanitation Service Authority said on the broadcast media that the policy of the Sanitation Authority would be to revert to the routes which were in place during the days of Local Government? Because if that is the official policy of the Sanitation Service Authority, the Sanitation Service Authority is 30 years out of date.

Laughter.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Local Government went in 1958. And since then, as the Honourable Leader of the Opposition has insinuated, there has been a mushrooming of new developments all over Barbados to such an extent that the physical landscape and character of Barbados has changed. And it would be a foolish policy

Aside.

Laughter.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The Minister says he agrees.

Laughter.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I do not think I need to talk anymore.

Laughter.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The Minister says he agrees. I do not need to go on any more then.

Laughter.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: It is a very foolish policy for anybody in 1988 to come and articulate a policy for 1988 that does not take into account the changes in the physical landscape.

I would be grateful for the response. Because I know people who heard it and it was reported to us. And it was unbelievable.

But I should be grateful if the Minister wants to respond, Sir, and in that spirit, I will ask now that the public be given the true and up-to-date position on that.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I support all that has been said about littering, Sir. We had a debate on that, so I am not going to repeat it.

But I just want the updated policy of the Sanitation Service Authority.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, other Members wish to ask other questions and I think I am going to respond here to two things.

First of all, the last comment by the Honourable Member for St. Thomas. I did investigate, as I promised I would. At a meeting of the Planning Committee of the Ministry of Health, I raised this question with the Sanitation Service Authority representatives. And they said that they were misreported. They said they were misreported. In the light of what the Honourable Member for St. Peter said today that he saw something in the newspaper which he did not hear the Minister say, I am not getting into whether it was right or not. I am saying, however, that they said that it is not so, that they did not say that.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: But could I say for the benefit of the Honourable Member and Members of the House that what is happening is that we are in fact, with the assistance of Mr. Arthur Archer, who is the foremost Environmental Engineer in Barbados, planning new routes for the

Sanitation Service Authority. This is an exercise that has been going on for the last six months or so, maybe a little longer, since I became Minister to take account of changes that in fact have occurred. And when that happens and we have the concurrence of the union, and all the other things that go in place, because you cannot simply bring in new routes and change patterns without concurrence, then we will in fact be right up-to-date.

But I agree that it would be very backward to simply go back to routes that were by the Local Government. I do not think that the question has ever arisen. Certainly if it did arise, it is not a matter that this Minister or this Government would condone. We are trying to increase the routes. We are changing the equipment.

I take this opportunity to respond to something the Leader of the Opposition raised. The problem has to do with equipment. We have some equipment in the Sanitation Service Authority, some of it is over 20 years old, some is 22 years old. And I merely think that, I am not trying to cast political blame, but I think that Governments have to have a regime for maintenance and for replacement. And during a substantial part of the time, well if the equipment is 22 years old, you would know that that 10 years ago it was ten years old. And this means that that equipment has not been replaced. And it is so much that it cannot all be replaced in any given year. Now some of the problems have to do with how long it takes for equipment that is ordered to arrive. So in essence, you could get, as is happening now where there are seven pieces of equipment ordered for the Sanitation Service Authority during this Financial Year which have not yet arrived. You could appreciate that within another two months if they do not arrive, we will have to be coming back to the House for revotes to say nothing of the amounts of money we will need for new equipment which we are ordering. And this is a continuing problem for agencies like the Sanitation Service Authority. Some of that equipment is a run over from the previous year. And we could go on and demonstrate this. But I think that we have to have a clear policy of replacement, refurbishment and preventive maintenance. To the extent that our finances can afford it, we are going to have to have this kind of system in anything that has rolling stock.

That is how the most efficient places in the rest of the world manage to run their affairs. So far therefore, as pickups are concerned, whenever there is a breakdown or an extraordinary breakdown of equipment, you have a back-up situation. If there is a back-up situation, invariably it has to be relieved during the weekend which is an overtime situation and the cost of removal becomes almost intolerable. One is trying to rationalize the whole question of the equipment. But to the extent that it takes long to arrive, to the extent that the lead time of 6 months turns into a lead time of 18 months, that is one of the problems we have with equipment. 1.35p.m.

On the question of littering on the highway, I think that the only thing that one can do is to speak about these matters "truthfully. It is nothing short of criminal activity. It is nothing short of criminal activity for people in Barbados to drive a car on a highway, take out garbage and throw it out. They call it in New York, in Harlem "flying garbage". In Harlem, anyone who has lived in the lowest parts of Harlem, knows that the people upstairs come to the window and drop their garbage down. It is a state of mind. It is a psychological problem. How can anybody walk around and say that they are decent people and say that they live in a civilized society and that Barbados has the highest rate of literacy and a whole number of other things, and then people drive around in motor cars and go and deposit garbage on other people's property. They deposit garbage on the highway. They have commercial vehicles in Bridgetown. They have people who are depositing commercial garbage who drive up to places like the gully in Lancaster and empty their garbage in the gully. Mr. Herman Lowe has actual photographs of trucks dumping garbage that you could identify. The problem that we have is one of prosecution. You can identify the garbage, industrial garbage. You can see where it came from. You do not have to wonder. It comes from stores in town. There are people doing it. This is not happening by machines. It is not happening by morons. Yes, it is morons but I cannot say that to the House, Sir. It is happening by people who walk and talk and speak and communicate with other Barbadians everyday. We cannot go on spending money over and over again to remove garbage because of anti-social behaviour because it is nothing short of anti-social behaviour.

I am grateful to the Leader of the Opposition that he has spoken so that all of the politicians can agree that the disposal of garbage is one of the things that we are going to quarrel with everybody else about if necessary. I do not know what one has to do. This is a beautiful country. The honourable Member, the Minister of Employment, Labour Relations, the Member for St. James South spends a substantial amount of time in trying to beautify this country and doing a successful job, and then you have people driving along Spring Garden Highway and throwing garbage out on a beautiful piece of Spring Garden Highway that workers have spent long hours picking up the grass and making it look beautiful. What manner of people are we?

I am beginning to become a little disillusioned, Mr. Speaker, with the amount of time that is being spent, having to educate people on trivia, things that ought to be taken for granted. We are a decent people or we are not. We cannot go on pretending all the time and we have some criminals in this country. They seem to feel that you cannot say these things or they won't vote for you anymore. That is not true. Most of the people who vote are not criminals and most of the people who vote are decent. They wish to live in a decent environment. It is going to take this country a substantial sum of money to clean up the gullies, and the garbage in the gullies was not put there by anybody from Trinidad and Tobago or anybody from Timbuktu. It was put

there by Barbadians and I would only take this opportunity, Mr. Chairman, to appeal by saying it in this House to the wider Barbadian public that we all are going to swim together or sink together in this sea of garbage. The Sanitation Service Authority, the G.I.S., the CBC spend an inordinate amount of time trying to teach people how to dispose of garbage. We are going into the schools and we are discussing it with the children. We are going to the institutions. We are discussing it with the institutions. We are trying and we appreciate the efforts of a number of volunteers. There are a number of people in Barbados who have concerns for this, and are taking their own time and they are trying. It is the small cadre of people who seem constantly to pull down everything you try to build up. But if by making statements of this kind, we could reach them, I would be most grateful. It is the most disheartening part of being in public life, if you are a Minister like my colleague and I and like other Ministers who have been responsible for the environment in which we live is to see the callous manner, or disregard in which this very important part of our heritage is being treated.

Mr. Chairman, I apologize for taking so long on this matter, but I feel very strongly about it. It is a political matter. At the end of the day, children who are six years old now, have to contend with AIDS. They have to contend with drugs. They have to contend with almost everything else. Do we have to make their heritage another hurdle for them to live in? When I see adults standing up and urinating in Barbados in public alongside the road in 1989, I know that we have a long way to go still. Mr. Chairman, we all are going to have to continue saying these things over and over again, because the vast majority of Barbadians do not do them and do not wish to do them and so we are going to try to get to the other small group.

I hope that I have answered the question. I know my colleague wants to speak on another matter and I will sit now, Sir.

Mr. C. L. TROTMAN: To some extent, Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Minister addressed some of the issues I wanted to raise. But nonetheless, I still wish to make a few observations and I would wish to start at a point near where he ended and spoke to the matter of the problem and the solutions of the problem of improper disposal of garbage, in fact littering and dumping. I am wondering, Sir, whether it is not a fact that even now, within the Sanitation Service Authority Act, that there are not provisions for prosecution, and if there are such provisions, when can anybody point to a time when such provisions have been used. It would seem to me that in my own experience, that it cannot be within the last twenty or so years. It must be a cause for some concern that we could have had this problem and yet perhaps not within living memory, has there been any effort made to prosecute persons, although we are hearing that there are persons who have pictures and who have knowledge of individuals and perhaps of

companies and institutions that are maliciously and calculatingly dumping in areas in this county where they ought not so to do.

As a matter of fact, Sir, it would seem to me that if we wanted to, we could go and stand in large enough numbers in certain areas of Barbados and wait, knowing full well that at sometime in the afternoon, especially on a Saturday, people are going to drive up in pickups and other trucks and they are going to dump in specific areas in Barbados. If there are provisions within the laws of Barbados for prosecution, my question is: Why is it that nobody at anytime, since 1962 or 1963 or thereabouts has endeavoured to take such action? Education has a role to play and I believe that we can endeavour to educate people. But there are some people who have passed the stage of education and who have to be prosecuted before the courts. 1.45p.m.

It is my submission, Sir, that if the law allows now for prosecution, that the Minister and the Ministry act with alacrity instructing that provision be made for hiring the people, if it is necessary, if they are not now provided, who are able to take such action as becomes necessary to save this country from the scourge that is resulting from the dumping which is taking place.

If no such Act is now in place, Sir, let me urge the Government to take whatever is required as immediate action to give teeth to the law to save Barbados from itself.

This is not a matter that we should merely talk about in terms of educating a people, because it is my submission, Mr. Chairman, that in those areas where the dumping is taking place, no education is required. The people who are dumping in the numbers that we know about and to the extent that we know about, already understand the implications of dumping, and that is why they do it so far away from their own homes. That is why they go away from their own immediate environment and go into areas like the Belle where our main water table exists, and they would consider that it is proper to go into the Waterford Bottom and to do the dumping in those areas.

You can name it and it is being dumped there, Sir. Commercial waste, dead pigs, you name it and it is there. And I do not believe that persons who do that are people who need to be educated. They are people who need to feel that somebody is not afraid of them, and that somebody is prepared to do something about them. It seems to me, Sir, that that is a matter that we have to address urgently.

I accept, Mr. Chairman, that we need to continue our educational programme at the level of the schools, especially when it comes to things like throwing sno-cone cups out of buses. I heard a Minister of religion as recently as Sunday, making reference to people dumping even in the Church, when they go to church on Sundays, and it seems to me that that is a matter for education, because people

might see that as being not a major matter, when you dump your sweet wrappers or you Kleenex tissues or whatever other brand of tissues you may have, but the thing is, Mr. Chairman, that that is one thing that the educational process will come to grips with, but the other one, the* major dumping in trucks and the rest of it, will have to be dealt with in a much more severe manner.

While I am at it, Sir, I would wish in addressing the matter of Sanitation Service Authority to make two observations, one of which is in the nature of a request and the other one in the nature of a compliment. As I have to do from time to time, I have gone to the cemetery recently to bid farewell and I must say that I felt it was useful to be able to compliment the Sanitation Service Authority and the Ministry of Health for the work they are doing in the area of the Westbury Cemetery. It is true that it can bring no solace to those who have departed, but I am sure that the families of those people who go to the cemetery, from time to time, must take comfort from seeing the cemetery being upgraded, attempts being made to make it look like a place where one would like to come to visit one's loved ones and to pay respect from time to time to the remains of the dearly departed.

I would like to think, Sir, that the Minister would continue that effort and that he would make some attempts to level where levelling can be done, and to keep the grass down so the place can look like somewhere where one would want to have one's loved ones remain in eternal rest, and that efforts be made not only at the Westbury Cemetery but at other cemeteries as well to bring the same kind of dignity to the place for the rest of the dearly departed.

Then, Sir, in the matter of the administration of the Sanitation Service Authority, I would wish to make some comments. The Minister has said that it is the concern of the SSA and of the Ministry to increase the equipment and the plant so that we might be able to have some rolling stock, and I do not say, Sir, increased rolling stock. I am amazed sometimes because of my closeness to the workers at Sanitation Service Authority to hear of the problems they have sometimes in being able to get some of that rolling stock to move from one point to another. The problem very often is that sometimes as much as half of the rolling stock cannot move out on a daily basis, because of age, but also because for too long the management of the Sanitation Service Authority, in my view, has been inadequate - one Transport Foreman to deal with all the problems of transport in an insufficient fleet. It would seem to me that it is necessary for us to move the route of having a Transport Manager at the Sanitation Service Authority and to give him support staff, perhaps an Assistant Manager, to ensure that we do not have the difficulties we now have - problems of eleven trucks in the north of the country and sometimes only three serviceable in any one day.

It is not something for which we can blame the individual, if he does not have enough staff, and enough

staff at the right levels, and it seems to me, Mr. Chairman, that it is very necessary that the numbers of staff in management positions at the Sanitation Service Authority be increased, and I would urge the Minister and the powers that be that they move quickly in this direction.

At the level of the Personnel Department as well, Sir, it is necessary in my view to elevate the office of Personnel Manager, so that we do not only have equipment, but we have equipment; which can be serviced by people who are knowledgeable, and that the people who are there can have the satisfaction of knowing that they are relating to a Personnel Manager and that the office is no less important than the office of other Statutory Boards.

Clearly there is much work to be done at all levels as well and I shall be in constant touch with the management with a view to upgrading especially the soil technicians, but that is another subject which I will deal with in another place, Mr. Chairman. I wish only to say that if we do not have adequate management in place in any institution, all the equipment that we may get, all of the rolling stock that we might get, cannot be properly restructured and reorganised to the satisfaction of the taxpayers, and in that regard, Sir, I wish to make a plea that St. Michael Central gets better service than it is now getting.

Thank you, very much.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, just like the dump at Mangrove Pond. I have been asking about it for a year. It is still stinking up the place. I have to put it crudely like that. All throughout the Christmas period and over the New Year holiday, I happened to be in St. Thomas quite a lot and using that road from Warrens to Rock Hall, the junction with Sea View and Rock Hall, and you could smell it from the time you leave the pavilion by Bagatelle and go across. It is offensive, persistently so, and I do not get the impression that anything is being done to help ease the stench for the people of Rock Hall, Arch Hall, Bennetts, Sea View and so on. All those areas are affected, Sir, and it really is bad.

I know the Minister in May last year made a statement in the House, and obviously tried his best to institute some measures, because as a result of correspondence passing between us - the Minister and myself, Sir - officials of the Ministry went to Arch Hall and interviewed a number of the residents and so on, but since the problem has persisted, notwithstanding any temporary measures that may have been introduced, it is now chronic and I think it behoves the Minister to do an in-depth study to see how he can reduce this malodorous effluvia. That is one of the problems.

The second problem in regard to litter has to do with the road leading from the main road up the hill to Mangrove Pond. That is in a shocking state of disrepair it is broken away at both sides and there is a paved area of about four feet in the centre. When I go down there, Sir, I have to put

the left wheels on the rough road where it is broken away and the right wheels on the strip of paved area. The trucks, and this is the problem, that are going up the hill to dump the garbage have a similar problem if they are passing vehicles, and the result is that on the road leading to the dump there is always garbage strewn about the road. I do not think the road is inadequate, Sir. The road could admit of the passage of two vehicles quite easily. To that extent the width of the road is not really inadequate. The problem is that the road is broken away right up the hill, and there is only a good piece of road of about three feet in the middle. It is not only the sanitation trucks, but the trucks of private people going to dump offal and waste and so on that have to use that road and have to use both the bad part and the good part of the road and they throw all this rubbish all about the road and it rots, and that adds to the bad smell of the area. 1.55p.m

So I would make two pleas for something very serious to be done about remedying the problem of stench on a permanent basis. The second plea is for MTW to be asked as a matter of dire urgency to do some repairs to the road. The depot at Bagatelle cannot do the repairs; they have to come from central MTW to do some repairs to ensure that when trucks are going to deliver garbage to the site the garbage is not thrown off the trucks by reason of the disrepair of the road itself. Those are my pleas, Sir.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Before the Minister replies, there is one point I would like to make. Some time within this Session of the House - I am not going to reflect on the vote - the House passed a Resolution for the sale of areas that were used as baths. One such area is at the corner of Dayrells Road. I think the bath has been removed from that area for some time, but however the area is not normally kept in a clean manner. Would the Minister tell us whose responsibility it is to look after the areas which were formerly used as bathing places or for baths and are no longer being used for this purpose? Some of them have been sold. I believe the House approved a Resolution for the sale of such an area in Vault Road in St. Thomas.

At Massiah Street there is a bath that from my looking at it passing there I think is used probably by less than three people. I do not believe that this has been sold. I do not know whose responsibility it is to keep the area clean. I have already mentioned the area at the corner of St. Matthias and Dayrells Road which becomes overgrown from time to time. It was cleared up on one occasion, I believe, by the Ministry of the Environment when there was a Ministry of the Environment. It seems to me that if we are going to have these areas no longer in constant use that the opportunity can be taken to beautify some of the areas which lend themselves to such beautification, and certainly the one at the corner of Dayrells Road does lend itself to such beautification. We could have a couple of seats built there so that it could be used by the people in that area including the Dalkeith/Paddock Road area as well.

What I want to find out, Sir.....

Asides.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Half of Paddock Road is still in my constituency. The Prime Minister is anticipating the Parish Boundaries Act. Half of Paddock Road is still in my constituency and the other half is in the Prime Minister's constituency. The full thing used to be formerly in his area, but that is a problem that we have, and since we share the responsibility for the Paddock Road area, I have to raise the fact of the well. I drive through there when we have some water and it really is in a bad state, and as a result it creates other health problems. I do not know which department is really responsible for some of these things, because when I raised it with an official, I was told that it was not the responsibility, I believe, of the Ministry of Health; that it might be somebody else's responsibility, but perhaps the Minister could verify this for the benefit of the Committee.

Mr. E. BOURNE: Mr. Chairman, I have listened to much discussion on dumping and littering, but I would like to know from the Minister of Health why is it that his health inspectors would make people put the garbage at the side of the road, garbage like old fridges, old bedsteads, bits of box wood and a number of old stoves and would let these things remain there for three or four months. Now people passing an area and seeing these things lying around would soon get callous and feel that they can litter every street. I think that dumping, like the Minister said, and littering is a state of mind, but if the powers that be do not insist that a clean-up campaign is an on-going process, then time and again you will have to come to this Chamber and talk about dumping and littering over and over again.

Another thing I would like to draw to his attention is that there is an old church building at the corner of St. Christopher/Silver Sands Roads. This was in a state of disrepair for many years now. Several people before my time have asked that this building be removed because it is not only a health hazard, it is a danger to passersby as well, and I would like to know from the Minister when his department will do something about that building. Thank you, Sir.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I think I can answer all of the questions that have been asked. First of all I would like to thank the Honourable Member for St. Michael Central who was very complimentary about the work we are doing in the cemeteries, and he wondered whether we were upgrading the cemeteries other than Westbury, and I can say to him that the plan is that we will upgrade every single cemetery in Barbados. We are going to try to bring them to a level, we are going to try to get the land where they are located brought to a point where they would look more like gardens and lawns than some of the things which now exist.

The Honourable Member is raising inferentially *sotto voce* the question about the church yard and I can say that that is a matter which is having the attention of the Government, but that is a little more complicated than the Westbury and other public cemeteries.

The Honourable Member also made a very important point concerning the staffing in the Sanitation Service Authority, and I would like to tell him that that is having active consideration. 2.05 p.m.

The Sanitation Service Authority has been directed to submit a comprehensive paper on the upgrading of the management of the Sanitation Service Authority. There is a lack of middle management and, as he said, Assistant Managers, and I must confess that I was appalled when I discovered that with over 500 people on the payroll the level of Personnel Manager is still at the level of Personnel Officer and I agree with him that the upgrading of that area is important and I can say it is having the attention of the Authority. I expect to have from the Authority within a very short time, within a matter of weeks, the recommendation of this particular aspect of our operation.

To the Honourable Member for St. Thomas, I have to say that the dump at Mangrove Pond is causing us some concern as well.

First of all on the road - the road was closed on the 15th for repairs so we have closed that road for repairs and we expect that repairs will be completed within a reasonable time so his input is timely.

On the question of the Pond, we are monitoring the Mangrove Pond and trying to monitor it in relation to the smells. One of the things which we discovered again has to do with the illegal dumping of offal on the site which was designed for solid waste.

There is a site next door which would take a different treatment where offal and other liquid waste should be disposed of, but we have discovered that there were some persons coming like Nicodemus in the dead of the night and dumping illegally on this dump site so even where we have made provision for proper dumping, there are some people who still feel they have to do something illegal.

The other thing was the dumping of oily waste from garages and places like that. We have had the Medical Officer of Health responsible for the Environment and the Engineering Division in the Ministry of Health hold meetings with all the garages and we have worked out a regime for the disposal of oily waste.

We have also asked the Chief Agricultural Officer to identify any areas in St. Andrew for disposal of similar oily waste where it would be acceptable from a health point of

view and an agricultural point of view without any detriment to the society. So I wish to give them the assurance that the Mangrove Pond Dump is getting the continued attention of the Ministry. It is only a matter of time really before we will come down to the House- to discuss a comprehensive plan for the disposal of solid waste in Barbados.

To the Honourable Member for Christ Church West - the question of the bath at the corner of Dayrells Road and other areas. I am sure his comments will not fall on deaf ears. Between the Minister responsible for Employment who has the NCC and the Minister responsible for Housing, who is responsible for the sale of the properties, we will seek to have this matter cleared up once and for all, no pun intended.

To my colleague from Christ Church East, we recently awarded contracts for the demolition of old houses, derelict buildings and the first contract has been awarded.

One of the problems with the destruction of a derelict building is that in keeping with the constitutional requirements, even though the Law gives the Minister authority to destroy and demolish certain derelict buildings, there are a number of constitutional steps which are required if one is going to do this properly and so it takes some time and has taken some time from the inception of the idea that a particular building ought to be destroyed until its actual destruction.

One of the ways in which I have been administering the Act is that where we have been able to identify the owner of a property, and that owner indicates that he or she is seeking to do something with the property, we have been giving that owner some time in which to effect the repairs or the changes.

I believe even though the Law allows it, it might be unconscionable if as is the case in many instances, the owner is a pensioner who is unable to effect repairs and is waiting on his children or some other relatives to do particular repairs but I can state that the contract has been awarded properly, that they have started the removal of such derelict buildings and I also can say that we have been asking the Public Health Inspectors and the Public Health Assistants to be much more diligent in the discovery of such buildings.

In my own constituency there are a number of buildings that are derelict and ought to have been demolished some time ago. Even those are taking time but I give the Honourable Member the assurance that the particular house he described at St. Christopher will be dealt with during this contract period.

Mr. Chairman, I believe I have answered all the queries raised by honourable Members and so I beg to move that this Head stand part.

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ARTHUR, Mr. O. S. (St. Peter) BOURNE, Mr. Edgar (Christ Church East) BLACKMAN, Hon. H. A. (St. Philip South) BRATHWAITE, Mr. L. L. (St. Michael North East) FORDE, Hon. H. deB. (Christ Church West) 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) TROTMAN, Mr. C. LeR. (St. Michael Central) WALKER, Hon. C. V. (St. George North) WEEKES, His Hon. L. L. (St. Michael North West)

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

On motion of Hon. B. M. TAITT seconded by Hon. MA. KING, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to HIS HONOUR THE SPEAKER the passing of one Resolution in Committee of Supply and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On separate motions of Hon. B. M. TAITT seconded by Hon. M. A. KING the Resolution was read a first and second time and agreed to.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, that brings us to the end of Government Business.

We had hoped to complete the Parish Boundaries Act today but, after consultation with the Leader of the Opposition, he indicated that their papers had arrived yesterday and that sufficient time has not been accorded them to study the Bill as they would wish. We on this side accept that and so will defer.

Mr. SPEAKER: Before I move the motion for the adjournment I want to return to "Announcements by Your Honour".

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR •
THE SPEAKER

Mr. SPEAKER: I want to announce that I am in receipt of the Auditor General's Report together with the Appropriation and other Accounts for the year ended March 31, 1988.

The Honourable Member can now proceed.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, January 31, 1989 at 12 o'clock noon.

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

The question that the House do now adjourn until Tuesday, January 31, 1989 at 12 o'clock noon was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly. 2.15p.m.