

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1986 - 91

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Monday, March 13, 1989.

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 10.20 a.m. o'clock.

PRESENT

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

Hon. H. deB. FORDE, Q.C., M.A., LL.B.
Hon. B. M. TAITT, B.A.(Hons.), M.P.A., LL.B.(Hons.), (Minister of Health)
Hon. P.M. GREAVES, Q.C., B.A., (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Transport, Telecommunications and Immigration and Leader of the House)
Hon. E. E. GREAVES, B.A., Ed.M., (Minister of Trade, Industry and Commerce)
Dr. R. C. HAYNES, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.P., (Edin.), (Leader of the Opposition)
Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN, B.A., M.A., (Minister of Transport and Works)
Hon. M. A. KING, Q.C., LL.B., (Attorney General 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)
D. A. C. SIMMONS, Esq., Q.C., LL.M.
O. S. ARTHUR, Esq., 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)
L. L. BRATHWAITE, Esq., J.P. (Chairman of Committees)
E. BOURNE, Esq.
Dr. E. A. SIMMONS, M.D.
Hon. W. W. HALL, G.C.M., H.B.M. (Minister of Tourism and Sports)
C. A. NEBLETT, Esq., B.A., (Parliamentary Secretary, Prime Minister's Office)
R. L. MORRIS, Esq., B.A., Cert.Ed
P. J. M. MILLER, Esq.
R. P. BYER, Esq., LL.B., L.E.C.
D. J. H. THOMPSON, Esq., LL.B.

Mr. SPEAKER: In the absence of the Chaplain this morning, I will call on the Chairman of Committees to say prayers.

Prayers were led by Mr. L. L. Brathwaite.

Mr. SPEAKER: The House is in session.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: There are two sets of Minutes to be confirmed. The Minutes of Tuesday, 28th February, 1989.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I move that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 28th February, 1989, be taken as read and approved, Sir.

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

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

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I am unable, Sir, to move that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday,

9th March, 1989 be confirmed for the reason, Sir, that I believe that I have observed an error in the recording.

On page 2 of the Minutes the very third line after the word "ADJOURNMENT", I note, Sir, that the Hon. B/M. Taitt moved the following motion: "that this House do now proceed to the Senate Chamber to wait upon Her Majesty", et cetera, et cetera. In fact, Sir, that motion was moved by myself.

For that reason, Sir, I am asking that these Minutes be deferred until the correction is made.

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, since I am able to confirm that I did not move it, Sir, I think we could amend them and move that they be confirmed, as amended.

Mr. SPEAKER: If the amendment is accepted then and there are no other observations or corrections, let those Minutes then stand confirmed.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think you would want to see the amendment before you can move the confirmation.

Aside.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I have moved nothing here, Sir. All I have done is that I have suggested that the Minutes be deferred until I can see that the Minutes are correct.

Mr. SPEAKER: If you listened carefully, I said if there are no other corrections or observations, I would allow them to be confirmed.

But the Honourable Minister is asking that they be deferred. And if there are no objections, then those Minutes will be deferred.

PAPERS

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay:

The Annual Report of the Registration Office and Supreme Court Registry for the year 1987.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded by the Cabinet to lay:

The Annual Report on the Immigration and Passport Department for the year ended 31st December, 1989.

Asides.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Looking now, Sir, at the document itself to be laid - I read from what is placed before me - looking at the document to be read, Sir, in fact that Report is for the year ended 31st December, 1986, Sir.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES Hon. P. M.

GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I give notice of:

A Resolution to grant the sum of \$7 500 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. 24.

CONGRATULATORY SPEECHES

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, since the last Meeting of the House, Sir, we have learnt that Her Majesty the Queen has been pleased to elevate the Honourable Prime Minister to be one of Her Privy Councillors. And for this reason, Sir, I think this is due reason for this House to be pleased and proud that yet another of its sons has been so elevated.

The Honourable Prime Minister, Sir, has served with distinction as a Government Minister as well as, on, the Opposition Benches. He first served as a Senator between the years I believe 1967 and 1971, at a time when I too, Sir, was a Member of the Other Chamber.

Subsequently, he was elected to be a member of this Honourable Chamber from the year 1971 and has been representing a particular constituency ever since. During that period he has served as Minister of Education and as Minister of Health between the years 1967 and 1976. The Prime Minister has also served again as Minister of Education from 1986 to 1987. And from 1987 he has served as Prime Minister of this country.

The Prime Minister has taken a keen interest in matters pertaining to the political life of this country. I believe he taught a course in civics, or some such course, at the Community College where he worked as a Tutor previous to his Ministerial responsibility, he himself being a teacher.

I believe, Sir, and I repeat that we should feel pleased that Her Majesty the Queen has seen so fit to make the Honourable Prime Minister, to give him now the title of Right Honourable, by making him a Privy Councillor. And it is my pleasant duty, Sir, on behalf of the House to offer our congratulations, Sir, if that I can do, if that is the will of the House, I am sure it is, to offer those congratulations, Sir, to the Prime Minister.

I am not assuming, Sir, your responsibility to speak. I believe you are the only person who can really and truly speak on behalf of this House, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: I give you the nod.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Thank you, Sir.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is not a petty Opposition and the Honourable Leader of the House can be quite sure that in such matters that he can speak firmly in the belief that when one of us is elevated in any way that the entire House including this Opposition would certainly wish to offer congratulations.

Mr. Speaker, I have known the Honourable Member for many years and I am always very pleased with any progress which he has made in life. Although politics and political actions might sometimes in the national interest lead to an element of divide, such action should never blind one to the more positive aspects of the character or certainly prevent one from wishing well and sharing in the progress of our colleagues on both sides of the House.

I think it is correct to say that the Honourable Prime Minister has served in a public capacity in this country for many years and that he has made a significant contribution in the area of education. We all hope that in the interest of the country that he will in due course make that same type of contribution in the other areas which he has undertaken.
10.30 a.m.

I, therefore, wish to associate myself totally with the remarks made by the Honourable Leader of the House and I take this opportunity on behalf of the National Democratic Party Opposition to congratulate the Right Honourable Prime Minister of Barbados. Thank you very much.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is significant that the Rules of the House have a Head of Government Business designated Congratulatory or Obituary Speeches. During my 17 odd years in this House, I have noticed that it is perhaps the only Head which binds Members of the House together and which probably provides Members of the House with opportunity to show their true feelings about each other to the public of Barbados. It is a pity that this should be so because were it not for that particular Head the public would probably get the impression that the Right Honourable Member and ourselves stand across a divide that can never be in any way brought close together.

I had the good fortune to know the Right Honourable Member prior to his coming to the House for several years, Sir. I also had the good fortune to have evinced an interest in politics at the same time that he evinced an interest in politics and the opportunity to share with him and the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister on many occasions for

discussing political matters at a high intellectual level. It was not surprising to me, therefore, that the Honourable Member entered into active politics and entered into it as early, I think, as 1965, I believe, and then became a Member of the Senate in 1967. I think my dates are correct.

The Honourable Member is, therefore, by virtue of his service in the Senate and by virtue of his service in this House the Father of the House. With the death of the Right Honourable the late Errol Walton Barrow, the Honourable Member assumed that position. We both had the distinction of coming into Parliament, in the Lower House of Parliament, on the same day and we both represent adjoining constituencies. I would say, Sir, that we both have represented our constituencies with some distinction. At least it is reflected in the fact that the Honourable Member has never like myself ceased at anytime to be a Member of this House since he came into Parliament.

I believe that the Honour is a signal honour, Sir. It is an honour that is conferred not on all Commonwealth Prime Ministers but on some and, therefore, it is not an honour that is given merely because one occupies the office but it is given I think from Her Majesty's Sovereign, and carries recognition of the contribution which a particular Member has made to his nation and to the Commonwealth as a whole. I certainly would like to congratulate the Honourable Member from my heart.

I recall some months ago the Honourable Member made the fact that we had been friends and this is so, Sir. It is one of these matters that in politics sometimes one's own party and indeed the country do not understand that persons can be friends and genuine friends and yet differ because of their views on particular political matters. I believe that the Honourable Member has always showed me personally and my family that hand of friendship despite the difficult political roles that we both have been called on to bear and play at this particular time of our country's history.

The Honourable Member has served the country with distinction, Sir. One must recognize that he has made a very significant contribution in many spheres of public life and particularly, as the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central has said, in the field of education. So far today I do not think anybody would seek in any way to deny the Honourable Member the very significant role which he has played in this field.

I believe, Sir, that it is an honour conferred not only on him but conferred on this House when he is elevated to Her Majesty's Honourable Privy Council and I believe that it is a role that he will perform with distinction as he has performed his prior role, Sir. Therefore, I join in the sentiments which have been expressed and congratulate the Honourable Member not only on behalf of myself but on behalf of the Barbados Labour Party Opposition and the Barbados Labour Party family.

Mr. SPEAKER: In accepting the contributions by Honourable Members it is difficult for me to add much more and I can only assure the Honourable Member of my best wishes for the future and that he will continue to serve the country as well as he has done in the past. Thank you.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I rise, Mr. Speaker, to offer my deepest thanks and appreciation for the more than generous comments that have been made by you, Sir, by the Leader of the National Democratic Party Opposition, and by the Leader of the minority Barbados Labour Party Opposition and the family of the Barbados Labour Party as he put it.

I am deeply honoured and also humbled by the very high distinction that has been conferred upon me in being called to service as one of Her Majesty's Privy Councillors. The Privy Council is a body bowed down in antiquity and it is one which historians normally place in terms of its origin somewhere in medieval times. 10.40 a.m.

Those of use who delve a little further recognise that it had its origins, as indeed Parliament itself did, in the old Anglo-Saxon body called the Witanagemot, which I think in terms of the old English Language was a meeting of the wise men, and it was a deliberative and administrative body, and that developed into Norman times into the *magnum concilium* of the Norman Kings and then later into the *curia regis* and other bodies.

It is good sometimes to reflect on the lineage and the developments of these bodies, because then there develops a kind of bifurcation where one set of advisers developed into the Parliament, a meeting place for kings, lords and the Commons, and the other path led to the development of the executive advisory bodies such as the King's Council, the Cabinet and also the Privy Council. It would represent one of the more interesting political, historical development and analyses if the lines of development were set out in a method and manner that people could read simply and not necessarily have to delve into the tomes of deep historical research. Maybe some time in the future I may be given the opportunity to reflect on these matters in a little more detail.

I, however, wish to say how appreciative I am of the comments that have been made, and let me not exclude the Leader of the House for his comments. Both the Leader of the House, the Leader of Her Majesty's loyal Opposition and the Leader of the Barbados Labour Party Opposition have been my very close friends down through the years and I will not reflect at this stage on the causation for any differences which may have existed, but I would like to state that personally I bear no enmity and no malice against anyone in public life, and I believe this is the vein in which the Leader of the Opposition has spoken.

I think that the politics of Barbados are such that we can conduct our business with the highest level of sophistication and civility without descending from the high ground which the politics of this country, I am hoping, would take hereafter.

I would like to say also, Sir, that your own comments bear testimony to the relationship that we have had down through the years and I have always appreciated your frankness and the integrity with which you have conducted your personal relationships.

Let me say once again how very deeply appreciative I am of the honour that has been conferred. I join with the Leader of the minority Opposition, the member for Christ Church West, in openly stating that in my view it is not only a conferment upon me as Prime Minister, but it is very significant that it should take place during the year that this country is celebrating 350 years of the existence of parliamentary government, and so I believe that it is recognition of the evolutionary stability which we have been able down through the years and the century to register in this country and a tribute to the institution of Parliament and to the people of this country as a whole.

I am grateful to you, Sir, for the opportunity.

Applause.

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 we proceed further with the business of the day, I at this point move that the following Standing Orders be suspended: Orders Nos. 6, 16, 18, 20, 42(5), 43 and 44 for the remainder of the sitting.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 1.

THE APPROPRIATION BILL, 1989

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, once again the annual cycle of parliamentary business takes this Honourable Chamber into consideration of the Appropriation Bill, on this occasion for the year 1989, and our practice separates the provision of the financing of public expenditure and the raising of revenue in relation to that expenditure into two parts. In terms of one part we deal

with the provision of expenditures and revenues in order that the appropriate authority should be in place so that such expenditures may take place by 1st April of the new financial year. 10.50 a.m.

Then some time thereafter any adjustments in terms of revenues or in terms of adjustments to the finances of the country as they affect the broader economy are dealt with in terms of the presentation of the Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals.

We have been following this procedure for countless decades and, once again, on this occasion it is my privilege and honour and duty to present this Appropriation Bill, 1989, and to seek the approval of this Honourable Chamber for the provisions contained therein.

Sometimes we get caught up in public debate and public discussion and we seek to score political points, we seek to hang on to those areas which may give some aid and comfort to our particular line of analysis because it may serve the purpose of advancing that particular argument or maybe serve the purpose of advancing, we think, our political causes. Sometimes we generate sophisticated arguments about the level or rate of growth in the country, and we develop sophisticated arguments about the levels of taxation in the country, and sometimes we even state that we have reached the taxable limits that a country can bear, all with a high degree of righteousness or self-righteousness as though these matters have been laid down like the laws of the Medes and Persians.

Mr. Speaker, the truth is that political economy, economics and the public finances are not anchored in that degree of exactitude, and certainly for me, it is still not only scientific but there is also an art in the business of public administration and the administration of the public finances. So whether we get into the area of whether our starting point is from the point of view of the approach of positive economics, whether we deal with the actions and the consequences of actions, or whether we are into the area of the normative economics where we invoke all kinds of value judgements on those actions, or whether we talk about magnitudes, there may be differences and there are differences in all of these areas. So speaking from different perspectives there can be endless contention about actions taken, the consequences of those actions, the impact upon the actors and players in the economy, and there are those who are always ready and willing in office or out of office, in season or out of season, to Advance some different kind of course that the country should be on.

'One thing is sure Sir, that at the end of the day there are certain sums which have to be expended, by statute and certain sums which have to be expended in terms of what we wish to do, or to meet the problems facing a

country, and one thing is sure also, that the revenue to meet these commitments has to be provided and it has to be provided either out of our own resources and our own economic activities, or it has to be borrowed. These are hard facts, and in the end, any Minister of Finance observing the scene and analysing the problems takes decisions in the light of analyses, in the light of political philosophy and in the light of political and economic objectives.

I have made my position quite clear. Any action I take is grounded upon the principles which I enunciate. You can disagree with the principles, and you can disagree with the actions taken, but in the end I set it out quite clearly so that all who wish to understand and not to distort can understand, and I have set out certain basic principles certainly in my 1988 Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals which said quite clearly that it is my approach that as far as current revenues and expenditures are concerned in this country, I will seek as far as possible to equate revenues with expenditures on the current account, and strive for some small surplus to be expended on the capital development and improvements to the capital stock of our country. Those are my principles. You can get up and disagree with them, but that is where I stand, and if we take decisions that there should be a certain level of expenditure on current account, then it follows from that principle that I have enunciated that there are certain consequences which flow from that, and I seek at all times to attain the objective which I have set out. 11.00a.m.

We may reach the objective. We may fall short of the objective but the direction in which we are going will be clear for all to understand.

Now, when we look at the fiscal performance for the current year I think we have a story of success to tell because, once again, through the actions of the Government we have been able to manage the public finances of this country in such a way, not only of preserving the integrity of the public finances and to keep the national economy on a path of growth and achievement which quite a number of countries cannot boast, but we have also been able to do so in a way that has not created unnecessary strain upon the flow of funds for private sector development, that has not created undue strains on our balance of payments and upon our reserves, and in such a way that we have not been running up excessive debt to present major problems for the servicing and management of that debt or to compromise the credit-worthiness of our country.

I think that sometimes we are so modest and sometimes we get so blinded by the comments that are intended to confuse - I am talking about public comments - or to distort, that we lose sight of the achievements which are registered in our country from time to time.

Nineteen hundred and eighty-eight to 1989 as a financial year I would describe as one of moderate success for our country and it is because it was necessary to hold things together to try to stabilize the various elements that constitute our economy, that it has been necessary to ignore the demands and the different positions for expansionary policies which would have created unnecessary strains and over-heating and leading into higher levels of inflation in order to get the economy right back on track again. We have been able to do this while meeting our commitments, while seeking to deal with those other commitments, which as a country we have had to meet, to honour those commitments; and to the extent that we have been able to pull these different aspects of the economy together and keep them in a kind of equilibrium that we can speak of moderate success.

Of course, we would have wished if there could have been a higher rate of growth, whether we say it in the north, we say it in the centre of the island or we say it in the south of the island. We all would wish that we could get a higher rate of growth. Some say 5%, some may even go higher but, of course, increased rates of growth have other implications as well and it is very significant that those who call for those high rates of growth, 5% and more, have not said what are the implications for that higher rate of growth; and more than that, have not indicated that throughout the decade of the 1980s we have never, on average, reached that rate of growth. Indeed, we had three years of negative growth and in one year in the decade so far, I believe, we have actually reached that rate of growth. Let us not be pie in the sky. Let us be realistic.

I know we search around and we seek around to indicate alternative courses of action and alternative fiscal policies but in the end it is right for the stability of this country and its orderly economic growth that we should aim at the attainable, taking into account the resources available, the internal economic situation and the regional and other external factors that impact upon our ability to survive as a nation. 11.10a.m.

Those of us who have the responsibility for managing the economy and the public finances cannot afford to indulge in speculation and such activities and to make proposals that cannot be sustained on the basis of present economic realities, whether it is in the area of the rate of growth, whether it is in the area of what revenue.....

Aside.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: may be raised or indeed how the revenues may be diminished, the removal of certain kinds and types of taxation. And I believe there will be opportunity for going into these matters a little later because in my own reading, and I looked at a volume, I believe it was published somewhere in 1879, and there was

a book, I do not remember the name of the author, maybe the Member for St. Peter can refresh my memory on this, I think it was entitled "Progress and Poverty" and 1879, I think, is the year of publication. In that particular volume, there was the argument and thesis advanced that property taxes should be abolished and that by itself would create all the stimulation and would be the kind of panacea for the economic woes of the United States. I really cannot say what impact the publication of that volume would have had on the thinking of economists in Barbados or indeed whether they are aware of the volume.

But let me say that just as at that time the proponents of that particular school of thought were dubbed as one-tracked persons, so I would say today that we have to keep a balanced view and to keep our minds open for any new ideas and if occasion arises in the future where new thinking can make an impact or old thinking dressed up in new clothes, that maybe these can be examined at some future date. But at this particular point, we have to go very cautiously on such a proposal.

Asides.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Let me say that current revenue reached \$683.1 million and it increased by \$131.8 million or 23.7% up to the end of the 31st January, the date for which we have very firm statistics, 31st January, 1989. The expenditure up to that date as well, the current expenditure during that period was some \$673.99 million showing an increase of \$11.34 million or 1.7%. So that up to the end of the 31st January, 1989 the deficit on current account had been eliminated and there was a small surplus of about \$9.02 million achieved by that date. Capital expenditure fell from \$141.06 million in 1987-88 to \$122.61 million in 1988-89 giving an overall deficit of \$113.59 million compared to \$251.78 million in 1987-88.

So that up to the end of January the public finances were well on track in terms of the principles which I enunciated. We had reduced the overall fiscal deficit substantially. And we had eliminated the deficit on the current account. So that we were on the way to bringing the kind of stability back into our public finances and to laying the ground work for the development of policies and programmes that would impact more significantly upon the other problems in those public finances and in the economy generally and also in terms of unemployment and the other social issues that are facing the country.

It is estimated that at the end of the current Financial Year 1988-89 the revenue should be in the region of \$886.4 million compared to \$727.4 million for 1987-88. And this would be an increase of about 19.1% in current revenue. This is my best estimate at this stage. Current expenditure I project to reach \$870.3 million as against \$817.8 million for the fiscal year 1987-88. I am projecting that by March 31st of this year we will either have a small surplus on Current

Account or we will have a small deficit on Current Account but certainly nothing to compare with the \$90.4 million. That was the position at the end of 1987/88. I expect that Capital Expenditure will be about \$202.6 million by the end of the fiscal year and that the overall deficit should be in the region of \$206.5 million. That is the overall deficit taking Current and Capital into account which should be some \$75.2 million or 26.6% less than in the financial year 1987/88. 11.20a.m.

So those who say that we should be taking steps to control our overall "def-i-cit" or "de-fic-it" on Current Account and to keep a close watch on expenditures, they can rest assured that we have been very careful in terms of the management of the public finances, keeping before us at all times the requirement to live within our means.

I believe that during the debates on Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure, looking at the pattern over the years in this Honourable Chamber, Sir, that there has been an increasing amount of time spent on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill and correspondingly less time spent on the examination of the departmental Estimates. I believe that it would be appropriate if this Honourable Chamber and if Members would be able by their own discipline and under your guidance, Sir, to try to reverse that trend so that we can spend more time in the examination of the Estimates for the various Departments rather than being excessively long on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill.

(Asides)

Rt. Hon. X. E. SANDIFORD: I am not telling them not to speak because if you speak they will have to reply to you. It depends on what matter is raised. But I seriously believe that the debate on the Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals provide ample time for Members to go into detail on the broader aspects of the economy and indeed on the role of the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure in that regard, but the actual examination of Departmental policies should properly not only be the subject for consideration in this House and in any Committee of Supply which may be set up but that we should try to devote time to that.

So I do not propose to delay the House much longer in terms of going through the various Supplementaries that have been raised in order to put the expenditure at the level that it is. All of these matters have been debated and canvassed in this Honourable Chamber. So they are within the knowledge of Honourable Members. I would just like to say that those who talk about increases in expenditure and reliance on debentures excessively for financing, I would like simply to say that a substantial part of the debentures went towards bringing to account the Caribbean Airways debt. The Caribbean Airways debt, some \$35 million of the

figures which may be quoted in other places, a substantial part of it was to bring that into account so that the Barbados National Bank would not be in a position of having to bear that particular responsibility. So it is either there or it is here, and we chose the method of debentures in order to deal with that particular point. But a substantial part of it was in order to bring that particular matter to account.

I do not think, Sir, that there is anything else that I wish to state at this time - anything additional - in relation to the 1988/89 Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure. But in terms of the Estimates for 1989/90, I would like to say that during our consideration the requests from the several Departments and Ministries exceeded expenditure. They exceeded a billion dollars.

(Asides)

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: That is no matter. It is normal to exceed a billion. It must have been normal in your time. We have had to exercise considerable restraint and prudence in terms of this and may I say that the figure of over \$1 billion was after the Ministries themselves and Departments had done some trimming.

So we are ever mindful of the need to keep expenditures to a level that is sustainable and from time to time in that exercise we have to come for Supplementaries if the amount provided prove to be insufficient. During the coming financial year our Current Revenue is estimated at \$905,194,430 with Current Expenditure at \$986,174,680 for a Current Account deficit of some \$80,980,250. That is on the Current Account. To that we have to add the Capital Expenditure of \$218,765,267 and that would give a fiscal expenditure of \$299,745,517. 11.30a.m.

That projected fiscal deficit on that basis which would include the amortisation in the current expenditure is about 10% of our Gross Domestic Product. If we exclude the amortisation it would be 5.2% of GDP for the coming financial year on the basis of our projections, as compared with 5% in the current year.

As far as the revenue is concerned, I have given the figure and that is projected to be some 4.5% greater from existing sources, excluding those which will come to an end at the end of the current financial year - just 4.5% greater than in the 1988-89 year when the figure was \$866.455 million.

Let me repeat again, the surcharge on incomes and corporations will end automatically on 31st March, 1989 as I indicated during the 1988-89 Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals, and as the legislation relating to that matter stated. I have not included any projections for revenues from that source in relation to the 1989 - 90 year.

Indeed I could not, because that would be a matter for the 1989 Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals.

I would like to say that in terms of the revenues we have had increased levels of efficiency in the Land Tax Department particularly, and that particular Department has been successful in securing into its coffers funds which are legally due to that particular Department, and I would like to compliment that Department on the major efforts it has made during the year. The other Departments are also working on their programmes - the Inland Revenue Department and the Customs Department - and if when the programmes are fully in place we are able to get even higher yields from those Departments and maintain existing levels of efficiency, our need to raise taxation by new measures would be considerably reduced. So one of our methods is to bring about a greater measure of tax efficiency in the revenue collecting departments, and not only talk about it but actually to take measures to raise the capacity to achieve those objectives.

I think, Mr. Speaker, that the Estimates for 1989-90 are set out quite clearly. There is a considerable amount of front matter in the Estimates which would lead, through interpretation, to an understanding of what we are proposing to do in the year 1989-90 and also sufficient background information to analyse trends over the past five to ten years and on which we can possibly make projections.

It is therefore my honour to move that the Appropriation Bill, 1989 be now read a second time.

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

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, it has been my honour and duty over the past 10 to 11 years on one side or the other of this Honourable House to address this House on the Appropriation Bill before it.

The Appropriation Bill, Sir, represents in my view a matter of great pride for the Ministry of Finance, and it has been my experience that in analysing a Bill of this nature and addressing the House on this Bill that in the past one was able to detect policy directions as set out in the Appropriation Bill and the accompanying Schedule normally referred to as the Estimates. However, this year and last year it would seem to me that the only policy enunciated in the presentation of the Appropriation Bill is that current revenue should approximate current expenditure.

As a philosophical position, Mr. Speaker, that does not vary from any position of anyone who has occupied the position of Minister of Finance of this country. It has always been the aim and the objective of every Minister of Finance. The question which arises is how do you seek to

generate that level of revenue. Do you seek to generate that level of revenue through economic development? Through a balanced expansion in the economic base of the country? Or do you seek to generate such a position by excessive taxation and inordinate expenditure?

These are fundamental issues which are raised by not only this year's Appropriation Bill, but last year's Appropriation Bill and last year's Estimates, and I shall, before I take my seat, demonstrate beyond a shadow of doubt, not based on my views, not based on the views of any economist who is not in this House, not based on the view of any economist who is in this House, not based on speculation, not based on any document which I might have prepared, but based on the figures presented in these Estimates, I will demonstrate beyond a shadow of doubt the unfortunate lack of fiscal marksmanship which characterises the 1989-90 Estimates and which is reflected in these Estimates here today.

I think it is important, Sir, that we make a fundamental distinction between revenue, levels, that is, money paid into the Treasury and levels of taxation. The two are not necessarily synonymous. You can have higher levels of taxation and higher revenues. You can have higher levels of taxation and the same revenues, or you can have higher levels of revenue and less revenue; so the two things do not necessarily equate. What is important is that at the end of the day one should assume a tax posture in Barbados which generates propriety in your fiscal system which ensures that public expenditure does not get out of hand, and therefore make it necessary year after year to come in here raising higher and higher levels of taxation with the inevitable consequences as far as the economy is concerned, and therefore, Sir, it is necessary for me to properly examine the background to this Appropriation Bill.

Last year, Sir, we were presented with an estimate of revenue of \$753 million. Prior to the Estimates outside of this Parliament and on the floor of this House, I pointed out that that estimate was ridiculous. It was ridiculously low and if a proper estimate was made of revenue potential at the existing levels of taxation, then there would be no need for any taxation last year at all, and if one felt a little uncomfortable, then the maximum amount should be not more than \$20 million. It is clearly set out in Hansard, and I will demonstrate it from the figures in these columns because in the columns of these Estimates you will see what were the Estimates last year and you will see what are the revised estimates now, and you will see what are the estimates for 1989-90. There are columns and every comment that I make from now on will be based on what is before this House contained in the Schedule presented by the Government itself.

I also pointed out that there was absolutely no threat to the balance of payments or foreign reserves of this country

in. March last year, and I think the record as set out in these Estimates will further demonstrate that. I also pointed out that unnecessary taxation will inevitably retard the rate of growth in the economy of Barbados and trigger higher levels of expenditure, and if we are not careful we will find that such escalation in the public expenditure of Barbados must create serious instability in our monetary system at some point in time.

There is no developing country that has got into trouble because of revenue restraint. Every single one of them has got into trouble because of ever increasing public expenditure and the methods by which that expenditure has been financed. That is why you see that those countries, either prior to independence or since independence, which have not had total control of their fiscal system either because of lack of Central Bank or sharing of Central Bank with other countries, for example, the Eastern Caribbean, you have never seen developed the kinds of problems which the larger territories have developed over the years; and it has always been irresponsible levels of public expenditure that have been one of the primary causes of creating serious economic problems for those countries in the past and at present, and therefore when corrective measures have to be taken at considerable pain either to the entire country or to the public servants of the country, it is always in the area of controlling public expenditure. I dare say, Sir, with all humility, that the Estimates of 1988-89 and the Estimates of 1989-90 will go down in the financial history of this country as two of the worst conceived documents ever brought before this Parliament.

There is no policy. I am not surprised that the Honourable Minister of Finance could not address any policy apart from the puerile policy of enunciating that he will seek to balance current revenue and current expenditure, as though this is a new policy. There was no policy addressed in the presentation of the Appropriation Bill because there is no policy involved here. I will demonstrate, Sir, and I do not speak of numerical errors, that you will see an unprecedented range of errors in these Estimates which will be an embarrassment to one and all and would indeed make people wonder whether or not they should not have had the foresight to recognise what I was saying a year ago.

The Estimates, Sir, I will demonstrate at the expenditure level shows no regard for fiscal propriety, and indeed I can only conclude that an examination or a comparison of the two years' Appropriation Bill has really reached into the bizarre. There are certainly no signs of concern over the levels of public expenditure and this in my view reflects a complete and total break down in the expenditure management systems in the Government of Barbados. I say that, Sir, because I am fully apprised of what these systems were when I was in the Opposition, I was more apprised of them when I was Minister of Finance, and what has happened in the past two years in respect of

expenditure should never have happened, if those systems were in place.

Now, Sir, I shall begin my analysis to demonstrate to you, Sir, beyond a shadow of doubt precisely what I am ilking about unnecessary taxation based on errors in estimates. Last year, Sir, we had the thoroughly ridiculous situation where Estimates were brought to this House purporting that Government, without any new taxation, would raise \$753 million, an increase of \$26 million or 3.5 per cent over the previous year. 11.50a.m.

At that time, Sir, the Government had already projected a rate of growth somewhere in the region of about 2% to 2.5% for the year. The Government had already indicated that the inflation rate would be somewhere between 3% and 4%. The Government, therefore, must have been seised of the position that the nominal GDP growth would have to be in the region of 7% - 8%. Yet, Sir, they came with Estimates showing approximately 3.5% increase in revenue based on the existing taxation at the time or \$26 million more than the previous year.

Now, this was fundamental, basic that in the absence of a catastrophe, in the absence of a severe retardation of growth which was not projected, that could not possibly have been the fiscal out-turn or in the absence of some fiscal intervention on the part of the Government.

Now, in 1986/87, for example, that was the year in which we actually brought in measures inside here to reduce taxation substantially. Nevertheless, revenue grew from \$648 million to \$669 million, a 3.24% increase in 1986/87.

Now, in 1987/88 and in 1988/89 when you are not planning to introduce similar cash reductions you are actually projecting a lower rate of growth. That was the fundamental error that was made and it was made by people who knew better. It was made by people who intended to demonstrate that the Democratic Labour Party's fiscal policy was totally irresponsible, out of order, and all of you sat down there and allowed that to happen. However, let me get back on track.

Now, what I have said is that anyone who is remotely familiar with the fiscal out-turn in Barbados over the past 20 years could never have come to the conclusion that revenue would grow only by 3.5% in 1988/89 particularly coming after a year when you have introduced indirect taxes in the previous year. It just simply could not happen, not at the same time you are projecting growth in the economy of about 2% and projecting an inflation rate of somewhere between 3% and 4% because your nominal GDP growth must be in the area of about 7% to 8% and that is the basis on which a proper projection should have been made.

It is not a philosophy, Sir. It is not an arithmetic attitude towards projects which is being invented by me today. That is the way it is done. There is a rhythm and there is a method in the forecast in the Ministry of Finance and that is why the Ministry of Finance has always been relatively on target with its projections except for 1988/89.

When I demonstrate to you the range of errors it is going to shock people in the Honourable House that this could happen in Barbados and in the Estimates of Barbados.

Let us start one by one because, as I said, I am not now dealing with what Richie Haynes said, or what Richie Haynes predicted. What I am saying now is based on the Estimates of 1988/89. Anyone who is familiar with these Estimates would see what were the original Estimates; you will see the revised Estimates in the light of the performance of the economy up to the time when these Estimates were printed and you will see the Estimates for 1989/90 and all the figures I shall quote shall be based on the presentation here today, quite in order in accordance with the Standing Orders of this House.

Let us take, for example, the estimates of Corporation Tax. Last year for some reason best known to those who proposed them, those Estimates came in here with a suggestion that Corporation Tax would drop by some \$6 million to \$7 million to \$65 million.

Now, in the revised Estimates they are now projected as \$78.5 million. That, Sir, constitutes an error of \$13.5 million or a 20.8% error in relation to Corporation Tax. If there is one tax in Barbados, Sir, where there should be no significant error it is in relation to Corporation Tax and I will tell you why.

Corporation Tax represents a continuity. In October the first half of that Corporation Tax is paid and in March the second half is paid and anyone who is addressing Estimates in February or January of any year must come within 3, or 4, or 5% of what should be the out-turn for Corporation Tax. Apart from the fact that you have the October position, all you have to do is to pick up the telephone and call three or four accounting firms in Barbados and check with them in relation to the levels of profitability existing in the corporate section of Barbados and you can come to a conclusion. I say, Sir, that it was highly irresponsible to make a projection of that order that has turned out to be completely erroneous.

It is there, \$65 million. Actual revenue 1987/88 \$72 million - Projected revenue - this is on page iv of the Estimates - 1988/89 \$65 million, projecting a fall in Corporation Tax and come back now, having introduced a surcharge on Corporate Taxes are now saying the correct projection is \$78.5 million.

Remember, Sir, in relation to the Corporation Tax and what I shall say on Personal Income Tax that these things have absolutely nothing to do with the surcharge. The surcharge is excluded from my argument completely so when we have a 20.8% error in the Estimates of Corporation Tax, it means that \$13.5 million in taxes would have been raised because of that error. That is just Corporation Tax.

One other point I would like to make in relation to Corporation Tax. If you were to look through the Estimates of 1986-87, which would give the actual out-turn for the year 1985/86, you would see that the Corporation Tax revenue raised in Barbados was \$56 million.

In 1986 that rate was reduced to 35%, a 10% drop in the rate, and there are many people around this country including people on the other side who went around saying that we gave away this money to white people and this kind of thing like that. What are the facts, Sir?

The facts are that since the reduction in the rate of Corporation Tax the revenue yield, the dollar bills that have gone into the Treasury have risen from \$56 million to \$78 million, now, an increase of 39% in the revenue from corporations in Barbados at the lower tax rates. It is a classic example how you can suppress revenue gains by excessive taxation or you can generate increased revenue yields by reducing and finding an appropriate rate of tax. .

I just want it to be on record that the revenue from Corporation Tax would have gone up, and let me simplify it, that the money in the Treasury from Corporation Tax would have gone up by 39% from \$56 million to \$78 million since the new Corporation tax rate of 35% was introduced and that does not include the surcharge, so that is the first \$13 million in unnecessary taxes in the first Budget.

Let us now look, Sir, at what is happening to personal Income Tax. 12.00 noon.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would just like to remind the Honourable Member that the tapping on the desk seems to interrupt.....

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Sorry.

Mr. SPEAKER: the tapping on the desk seems to interrupt the relay to the Reporters.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I was not tapping the desk, I was tapping the Estimates. Thank you very much, Sir.

In the area, Sir, of income tax, income tax was projected at \$80 million. On the Floor of this House during

the Estimates and I thought in good time, I pointed out that that estimate was low. I pointed out that it is low for very good reason because 1987 would have been the year in which you would have had very high levels of tax refunds and that that will not repeat itself again in 1988-89. And therefore that the projected increase was far below the level that it should be.

So now, Sir, the projection on which taxation was based last year was at the level of \$80 million and now this is now revised to \$95.2 million, page IV, Roman IV of the Estimates, another \$15 million in unnecessary taxation. But these are not my statistics, Sir. They are the statistics as presented here by the Government of Barbados. Another \$15 million.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: The Honourable Member for St. Philip South seems to be a bit lost. In the Estimates of Expenditure for 1988-89 you will see in the third column an amount of \$80 million. That is the amount that was included in these Estimates when projections were made of \$753 million. If you look at column number two you will see what now is the Revised Estimates based on the experience over the past year. And therefore the correct estimate should be more like \$95 million. The difference between the two being \$15.2 million. Therefore that is another \$15 million of unnecessary taxation which was put on.

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I will demonstrate it. I will demonstrate it to you as I go down the road.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please. Order. Order, please.

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I am very sorry if he cannot understand it.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will not permit interruptions like these.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: In the area, Sir - if it cannot be understood, I am sorry - of special receipts.....

' Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: the error there, Sir, was of the order of 12.7%. And in this exercise, Sir, I have excluded the Transport Levy which did not form part of the special receipts last year. If you exclude the Transport Levy, you will find that there are \$7 million inside there relating to misjudgements in terms of the revenue from the Training Levy by 24.7% and in the Employment Levy by a

figure of 35%. So another \$7 million in unnecessary taxation.

Then, Sir, in the area of Land Tax, you will see, Sir, that the projections were \$25 million. If by now, what they have in here as the Approved Estimates are not within 1% or 1/2 correct then something is terribly wrong. When you reach this stage and what is put in here are the Revised Estimates now, you can be quite sure that that should be pretty close within 1% or so of the actual out-turn for the year, particularly in the case of Land Tax because most of the Land Tax has been collected already. And if you look there under Land Tax, you will see a projection for \$25 million and the actual amount now being collected is \$30 million. That is a reflection, Sir, of the increased compliance particularly in the hotel sector in relation to reduced tax levels, and also to a programme, that programme was put in place before last year's Estimates were presented to this House. And therefore it was reasonable to anticipate that you would not have had Land Taxes at the level of \$25 million as more like \$30 million, a 20% error in terms of the revenue from Land Taxes.

In terms of Property Transfer Tax, an estimate, Sir, of \$8.5 million and now the Approved, the Revised Estimates of \$14.9 million, an error of \$6.4 million or 75% error. And note that all these errors have been in one direction, a severe under-estimation of revenue at existing rates last year. They have all been in one direction.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: The Honourable Member, if you look in the Estimates each year, you will see that there is a prediction. As a lawyer yourself, each year there is a reasonably accurate prediction. And as you yourself would know as a corporate lawyer and a lawyer who was involved in conveyances that any time you see increases of this order then you are dealing with large transactions, and if you know what is going on in Barbados as a Minister of Finance, you should know the large transactions that are on stream. You should know that. And you should also know this because those things will relate very often to applications that either have to come to the Central Bank or come to the Ministry of Finance in one form or another. You would know that. If Sam Lord's Castle is being sold or something like that, that will come by one means or another to the attention of the Minister of Finance. And you should know the volume of large transactions, not the small transactions that are in the middle in a given year. And the rate at which lawyers work in Barbados generally speaking, there is not much is going to be concluded in six months or nine months. You know that too.

Asides.

Laughter.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: So that the point I am making is this that whenever you see errors of this order being made and they are all being made in the same direction of under-estimation on taxation, what is being done is to force a Government to conform to a policy position. And also as a Minister of Finance, you are capable of sitting down and analysing what is put before you, you will fall into this trap. The figures are there. I am very sorry. It is no invention on my part. I did not bring the document to the House. I did not publish it. I did not print it. I did not lay it in Parliament. And I did not base anything on it today,

Now if we were to make a very simple arithmetic computation you would see what has happened. Seven hundred and fifty-three million projected. And the under-estimate for Corporation Tax was \$13.5 million. The under-estimate for Income Tax was \$15.2 million. The under-estimate for Special Receipts was \$7 million. The under-estimate for Land Tax was \$5 million. The under-estimate for Property Tax was \$8.5 million. 12.10p.m.

Asides.

At this point certain remarks made by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central were directed to be expunged by Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Member may continue.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I am just trying to make sure that my presentation remains unaffected and uncontaminated by any outburst that would not normally conform to what one considers to be reasonably good sense. The point is, Sir.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I may also add that asides that are also offensive to this Chamber shall be struck from the record and I will not permit any reply or any debate on those asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: If I may continue, Sir, if the Estimate of \$753 million is looked at and when you look at the under-estimates in the various areas that I have identified, and I wish to repeat them, Sir: \$13.5 million Corporation Tax, \$15.2 million Income Tax, \$7 million Special Receipts, \$5 million Land Tax, \$8.5 million Property Tax. When you add up all those taxes where there were under-estimates, the total figure is \$802 million. What was the expenditure projected last year at the time of the Estimates? - \$802 million.

I do not have to make this a document of the House, Mr. Speaker. It is already a document of the House. I refer to the Barbados Estimates 1988/89. On the cover it will be seen Estimated Expenditure \$802 million, Estimated Revenue \$753 million, estimated excess of expenditure

over Current Revenue \$48 million, which was the gap which one sought to bridge, which one had to bridge in a Budget. In other words, based on the revised Estimates as presented here today that would read Expenditure \$802 million, Revenue \$802 million, Estimated Excess' Expenditure over Revenue - Nil. That is what it will have to read. These are based on the figures here.

Now if you look, Mr. Speaker - you know there are certain things that you cannot run away from and I will tell you why you cannot run away from them. Because if I were totally irresponsible or if I did not feel that despite the fact that others may have different ideas that I should not give the House the benefit of my experience, I would not bring to the House's attention now that a similar error is being made in terms of the potential revenue yield for 1989/90. But I will deal with that later because here again we will find that expenditure is being projected at 4.2% when based on GDP growth estimates and based on currently quoted inflation rates that is far below what one would normally expect if you are expecting anything like a 2% growth. A 4.2% expansion in Revenue from 1989/90 is not realistic and that, too, constitutes some element of underestimation. I have not gone, through the various Heads. I do not propose to do thru until I come to the Heads to deal with it. But I will identify as I go along in the public interest where the same error is being made.

Now the point I wish to make, Sir, is that the evidence is there. You cannot run away from it, you cannot refute it, you cannot deny that this is what has happened because it is there before each and everyone of us. I am very happy, Mr. Speaker to be able this day to use a document presented by the Government itself to demonstrate the extent of the errors involved and the extent to which they were misled into soaking this country with taxation.

Now I have not adverted at all to other areas of taxation. I have just dealt with 5 areas which were totally unaffected by the Budget. Let us look now at those areas that were affected by the Budget and here you are going to see some remarkable things happening.

If you take, Sir, the situation in relation to Stamp Duties - now Stamp Duties were projected at the level of \$100 million or thereabouts. Now at the time when that Budget was constructed, and Sir, I refer to the Economic Review, Volume 15 No. 2, September 1988, Page 3 - at the time when the Budget was constructed this information would have been available to the Ministry of Finance. Indirect taxes rose by 7.8% to \$225.6 million. Consumption Tax Receipts expanded by 14% over the January to June period 1987. Although the 1988 Budget increased the Consumption Tax rates, these taxes increased by only 9.3% for the second quarter as compared with 19.3% for the first quarter of 1988. In other words, when the Budget was being constructed the Government would have had information

available to it that Consumption Taxes up to the end of March would have been growing at 19.3% and that Stamp Duties would have been growing by 7.9%.

Now those taxes do not change. It is a known fact that we have had this experience in Barbados again and again that indirect taxes never have their fullest impact in the year in which they are introduced. The reason for that - the reasons are two-fold. (1) They can only have a full impact when the total inventory of the Island is fully exposed to the indirect taxes and, therefore, you have a mixed situation in the first year where you have goods that have already come in and will pay the lower rate of tax and only the replacement of those goods in that particular year would be subject to the higher rate. 12.20p.m.

At the end of a twelve month period, then basically most of the inventory of the country will have been replaced and then you get the full impact of taxes. For example, you would not see the full impact of the consumption tax increases put on last year until this year, for two reasons. One, every inventory depletion and replacement, and secondly, the fact that you have a twelve month exposure to it this year whereas last year you only had a part of those twelve months. So that any reasonable person looking at those rates of revenue being generated by the consumption taxes could never have projected \$155 million. That should be more like \$189 million minimum, and I am speaking about minimum, at the old rates of consumption taxes before the Budget, and here you have a \$34 million error.

The same thing with the stamp duties. It should not be \$100 million, it should at least be \$107 million to \$108 million. So you have another \$32 million in errors. These are major errors. But I have decided, Sir, to separate those taxes that were uninfluenced by the Budget to demonstrate that according to this document the amount of taxes you collected was \$802 million and not \$753 million. These have been partially influenced and therefore can be subject to some kind of argument. That is why I have chosen to separate those that were uninfluenced and now deal with those that have been influenced.

Far from bringing to this House Estimates that showed a deficit of some \$48.6 million - the difference between \$753 and \$802 million - what should have been brought to this House should have been a surplus budget showing \$834 million. That should have been the amount against which fiscal policy was formulated last year.

Now, however embarrassing it is, it is a responsibility that I have as Leader of the Opposition and as Shadow Minister of Finance to demonstrate beyond any doubt, based on the information presented by the Government, the extent to which fiscal folly was entered into last year. That

should have been the estimate, and the information, Sir, is contained in these Estimates.

Now, Sir, there is something about financial policy in Barbados. In almost every other Ministry of Government in a non-financial section of a Ministry's activity you can, as Barbadians say, "cuffuffle". You can make all kinds of statements. They are largely subjective and they are never subjected to an objective test. When it comes to matters relating to Government revenue and Government expenditure, under the Constitution of Barbados, under the Financial Administration Act, under such rules and regulations that flow from that Act, every single bit of information is published down to the last dollar. Haynes could have said what he liked last year about what would happen, but when it has happened it has to be contained in the documents of this Government.

Mr. SPEAKER: But no Haynes will be saying it, because there was no Haynes in this House last year either.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Well, they treat me like Haynes, you know. I take your point, Sir. You can say what you like, but when it is inside here, and this is the thing about fiscal policy, that sooner or later all of us who make statements on fiscal policy, it can all be subjected to the acid test sooner or later, and it is simple arithmetic.

One of the problems I have found in this Parliament over the years is that there are very few people who go beyond social aspects of Government expenditure. Each line, each column in these Estimates tell a specific financial story. You cannot learn finance in the Ministry* of Finance, you have to have experience before you go in there, otherwise you can be in a whole lot of trouble. Every line, every column tells a story, and I regret I could make these statements, because I am examining what is reality, what is before us, which any economist, which any accountant, which anyone with any understanding of how these Estimates are prepared would clearly understand, that there has been a major and fundamental departure from the usual standards of prediction of Government revenue, and to an extent and in a direction which can only suggest to me that there were those who were determined to demonstrate that the fiscal policies of the Democratic Labour Party were not working, and the Government itself.....by your votes you endorsed their position. That is what you did.

I challenge any economist in this country, I challenge anyone involved in public finance to deny any statement that I have made, and if any statement I have made is incorrect, it is because the document itself is incorrect, and I do not believe that the document is incorrect.

So, Sir, we really have now a ridiculous situation where Government revenue was deliberately underestimated by \$71 million.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: \$71 million. If you work out 834, that is \$34 million, plus 57. Deliberately under estimated.

Mr. SPEAKER: Who deliberately under estimated? Dr.

R. C. HAYNES: I have no idea, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: You are speaking to myself as the Speaker.....

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: You asked me the question, Sir. I do not know.

Mr. SPEAKER: and you are also speaking to Members of the Honourable Chamber. I think you may very well be a little bit more careful in making statements such as these, since we do not have any access to the general public out there. We are speaking to Honourable Members in this Chamber.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I agree with you. I was just trying to be complimentary by assuming that some *mens rea* had been applied in the matter. But if I must be uncomplimentary, I will say that it was an error clearly out of ignorance in that case. But I intended to be complimentary by taking that line.

However, Sir, as I said, the facts are there, the figures are there and I guess that those on the other side will clearly understand why we are here and why they are there. It is because we happened to apply our minds to see whether or not those fiscal measures enforced at that time would have resulted in a revenue yield of only \$753 million, or whether it would have certainly met the projected expenditure and generated a surplus. Just six or seven lines in the Estimates you have to look at and the information is there.

I do not think, Sir, that there is anyone who could be so unaware of those basic facts as to challenge what was just set out before this Parliament, because if anyone is so unaware of the significance of Estimates and Revised Estimates, then they have a problem. The reason why Estimates are revised is because it gives the Ministry of Finance the opportunity to look again at those Estimates before they come down here with the Estimates for the current year, and in order to assist the House in determining the levels of taxation or otherwise that it should approve, and those Revised Estimates, if you check back over the years, are invariably very near the target.

I do not want to address the question of the surcharge. I believe that the Minister of Finance made a statement that there are not projections in this year's revenue in respect of the surcharge on incomes. That is not correct. 12.30p.m.

Read the Estimates before you. If you look at the Estimates, Sir, on page 4, you will see Estimates 1989-90, Surcharge on incomes \$1.5 million, surcharge on corporations \$2.5 million. There is an estimate in there of \$4 million and correctly so, for the simple reason that the income year and the tax year of corporations may not coincide with the fiscal year of the Government, and it is right and correct that it should be included there; and it is incorrect to state that there is no provision in this year's Estimates for revenue yield from surcharge on incomes and corporation tax, and if my understanding of what is obtaining in the accountants' offices in this country at the moment is correct, then that estimate of \$1.5 million and \$2.5 million might well be another under-estimate, and I am suggesting that those estimates be checked, because it is in the nature of a surcharge for three months which is not spread over a twelve month income stream, that you might find that people would be paying high levels of surcharges in those three months, quite unrelated to their other tax liabilities over a twelve month period, and it is my understanding that the amount of tax yield might well be more than \$1.5 million and \$2.5 million presently being projected in the 1989-90 Estimates.

The point I am trying to make, Sir, is that the surcharge has now been clearly demonstrated to be completely unnecessary. But I will tell you what it has done. In these Estimates here, we have the extraordinary level of \$986 million in current expenditure. That surcharge would have been a major factor in determining the levels of wage increases demanded by public servants, make no mistake about it, and that will be a continuing effect long after the surcharge is removed. In Barbados as a whole in relation to wage settlements last year wages would have increased beyond what they would normally have increased because of the presence of that surcharge.

I need not bother with referring any longer to investment. Investment in Barbados, Sir, is largely a marginal operation, and when you change the rules mid stream particularly with a tax that is in effect a capital gains tax, it is bound to affect the investment in Barbados, and above all confidence in the Government is what it would have damaged. So therefore, Sir, you are talking now of destroying all those things, creating higher levels of expenditure in Government than would normally have obtained - for how much money? - unnecessarily. You are talking now of \$24 million, one-third of the amount by which revenue was under-estimated last year.

Mr. Speaker, if these were the only errors involved in the Appropriation Bill I would be content to take my seat, but, Sir, there are errors of even greater magnitude, and these should be cause for reflection. Last year, as I said, stamp duties were assessed at \$100 million. Now in the Budget - this is already a document of the House; this is the Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals of the

Minister of Finance and Planning, Thursday, April 28, 1988
- at page 35 was this statement:

"Revenue losses - removal of stamp duty on CARICOM imports - \$20 million - removal of stamp duty on extra-regional raw material and packaging materials - \$35 million."

In other words, according to this budget, stamp duty would have declined from \$100 million as was projected in the Estimates to \$45 million. That is a fact. That is what the Budget purported to do, to reduce the stamp duty by \$55 million. If you were to look in the same Estimates today you will see that the Revised Estimates now stand at \$80 million because the loss amounted to only \$20 million, so what you are facing here now is a 77.8 per cent error in a budgetary proposal relating to a major tax in Barbados. So that the fiscal out-turn that you are seeing today is because of the under estimation of those other taxes and over estimation of tax losses.

Now I did not intervene in this matter in the debate last year for two reasons. Firstly I had only half an hour to speak according to the rules of the House and secondly because I was recently Minister of Finance of this Country and I was aware of the discussions that had taken place between the Ministries of Trade within CARICOM and the position taken by the Ministry of Finance in relation to these stamp duties and I did not feel it proper for me to make an intervention. However, that matter is now concluded and I will say that those people including editorial writers who had pointed out that the tax loss could never be \$55 million and that it could only be \$20 million have turned out to be absolutely correct. So I hope that Honourable Members are now beginning to see what has happened. You are talking about a 77.8 per cent error in relation to a budgetary proposal in relation to a major tax in this country. So what is happening is that that was a major flaw whilst at the same time the under estimation of those revenues which had not been tampered with in the budget has continued to grow in relation to the previous fiscal arrangements. These are facts, Sir. As a matter of fact, that error is of such magnitude that it can only be deemed to be a major howler.

I happen to know that the maximum tax loss estimated for stamp duty for CARICOM was \$12 million and the extraregional thing depended entirely on the levels of manufacturing and so on and \$20 million was a reasonable estimate. The \$55 million was a totally unreasonable estimate, because those estimates I happen to know were as a matter of fact done in two* Ministries in Government whilst I was Minister of Finance, but as I say, I felt it was none of my duty to comment on it. So what can I say? You have a 77.8 per cent error in a budgetary proposal in terms of your revenue yield from stamp duties. 12.40 p.m.

I do not know whether I should but I think I have a bounden duty and a responsibility on behalf of the people of Barbados, on behalf of the new but vigorous National Democratic Party to continue and point out yet another major howler.

Now, Sir, Consumption Taxes were estimated at \$155 million. We have had a 50% increase in Consumption Taxes last year on the base rate in Consumption Taxes> It was 50%. I know the Honourable Minister of Trade got a bit upset when I said the Honourable Member for St. Peter had said a 50% increase but, in fact, it was. When you are dealing with percentages, it was not a 3% increase. It was really a 50% increase in terms of cost impact.

In other words, if an item was bought for \$1 000 and the Consumption Tax was \$60.00 and you raised the rate from 6% to 9%, then that person now has to pay \$90.00 instead of \$60.00 and, therefore, the cost to him has gone up by 50%. Now, when those taxes were increased by.....

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: It was important because some people felt this was not the case. If I know the Honourable Member for St. Lucy well I think he made the intervention and then he ran away. He did not stay. I think he went overseas immediately, if my memory serves me right, Sir.

If I may look at another area of a major error it is in the area of Consumption Taxes. As I said, the estimate was \$155 million. According to the Budget, Sir, let us read, the same page, page 35 -

"The measures which I have just outlined are expected to make a net contribution of \$55.6 million to the Consolidated Fund as follows:-

Revenue gains, Consumption Taxes on Goods - \$71 million.

Consumption Taxes on petroleum products - \$12 million."

If you were to look and do a little arithmetic you will see that the anticipated amount as a consequence of the Budget must be \$238 million, the 155 plus the difference which is raised here in the Budget. Not only the tax rate was given but a clear statement as to the amount of money which the tax was expected to yield, \$238 million, the \$155 plus what was said here in this Budget.

Now, Sir, the estimate is down to \$189 million, a difference of \$34 million or a 44% error. That is a fact. If you add 155 and you add the amount in this Budget here, what appear in the Estimates remain unless they are altered by a Budget. The Budget altered the \$155 million by \$71 and by \$12 million. Is that clearly understood?

In other words, if stamp duties are projected, let us call any tax, at \$100 million and in the Budget you increase the stamp duties by 50%, the figure that remains in the Estimates, if not reprinted immediately, would be \$100 million but you would get \$150 million so when the revised Estimates come out, we should see \$150 million there in the revised Estimates, if your tax works. If your tax is not working, or you are not yielding that, you will get the figure which is projected to yield so what is happening here is that if the tax had yielded the amount which was anticipated in the Budget, the figure there would be \$238 million, not a \$189 million as it stands now.

I know sometimes these things are difficult on the floor of the House but it is crystal clear and that is where the 44% error is.

Now, let us look at the \$189 million and relate it back to what I said earlier in relation to Consumption Taxes based on the Central Bank Report which had given the rates of increase for the first half of the calendar year and it is most interesting to note that the same \$189 million would have been achieved without any change in the tax rate for Consumption Taxes.

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I can say that against the background of a 2% growth in economy and against the background of a 4% increase in Consumption Tax and inflation rates. It would be higher if there was a higher level of inflation. It would be lower if the inflation rate was lower. It would be higher if there was a higher growth rate or lower if there was a lower growth rate but those taxes do not change if you look and see how they are computed and the items that they are charged on.

Any time you get a 2% inflation rate around 5% that would be the result, full stop, plus or minus maybe \$5 million here and there. That would have to be the result unless there was a collapse in the economy and if there is a collapse in the economy it does not happen overnight. You would have to have a hurricane or something like that in order to change those tax patterns. How do you think it is that the Ministry of Finance could normally at the end of June of any year almost give detailed and precise predictions, at least, they used to be able, as to what would happen in relation to any tax. They used to be able to do that but I guess that any professional person would understand what I am saying.

Now, these are serious errors. There can be no question that the revenue result which you have today really represents a major Budget failure in relation to the taxes imposed on the one hand, and on the other hand, you have the true expression in terms of revenue of those taxes that were not affected by the Budget.

One reason why I have always enjoyed speaking on finance in this Honourable House is because you are not, generally speaking, in areas that are a qualitative nature. You are dealing in areas that are quantitative and this is why today I regard it of such importance that I have constructed my speech and I have addressed only matters which are subject to quantitative review not by me but by those people working from the Government or Members of the Government itself.

I believe that I would have done this country today a major service by pointing to them exactly what has happened and I believe that anyone should be ashamed to get up and try even to dispute what has been said by me today because what I am saying amounts to the fact that the measures which you all supported and which you put in place were, in fact, working and were frustrated by a Budget last year. That is a fact.

I want to come to one or two other things, Sir. I do not think I would get through my speech for a little while yet. First of all, I believe that this document should be clearly understood by the general public. 12.50p.m.

What is being projected here this year is a deficit of \$298 million, almost \$300 million, the combined effect of a current account deficit of \$80 million. After last year's spate of taxation you are now projecting a current account deficit of \$80 million and capital expenditure of \$218 million making an overall deficit of almost \$300 million. That is what these Estimates are about. That is what this Appropriation Bill is about. And that is the gap that has to be bridged either by taxation or by borrowings. It is \$300 million you are talking about. And this is going to have to be subject to serious analysis, the size of that deficit.

It is one thing to brush aside and say, take out amortizations. I am going to deal with that. And I am going to spend the next seven minutes in an exercise which I think the Honourable Member for St. Peter will appreciate best.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: And the Honourable Member for St. Michael West.

Laughter.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Now it is one thing talking about raising enough taxation and enough revenue to cover Government expenditure. It is important to know what you are talking about. If you are talking about Government Expenditure, net of amortizations, that is, the capital payments for debt, if you are talking about Government expenditure net of that which is the way in which the Central Bank presents those figures and the way in which

the international accounts of Barbados are kept then that is a legitimate position and has always been the position, apart from last year. If you were to look you would see that down the years that Government has always had a surplus on current account including 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987. There was always a surplus of current account net of amortization.

So if that is your objective then the objective has always been achieved. But suppose let me give you some idea now. You take for example Treasury Bills in Barbados. If Treasury Bills were not dealt with as below the line transactions and you attempted to cover Government expenditure on the basis of Treasury Bill transactions then you could only be crazy.

Similarly, Sir, Government debentures are not dealt with as a below the line expenditure. And my own feeling is that there is a need for an amendment to the Financial Administration and Audit Act. As a matter of fact, I had given instruction to investigate it when I was Minister of Finance. Are you going to tell me that if you have \$80 million in debentures that mature this year and roll over which become part of your expenditure that you are going to tax \$80 million for that when the proper way of financing that is by borrowing? So you have to know what you are talking about.

But as I say, sometimes one is torn between one's political positions and what should be your national objectives. And I raise that in good faith. If the statement is going to make sense, you have to define what you are talking about. And if you apply the definition of revenue or expenditure net of amortizations then Barbados has always had a surplus on current account!

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I have said it before and I am going to emphasize it. It has always been the case. And last year, even last year the deficit on current account would hardly be less than \$5 million. The deficit would be less than \$5 million on current account, if you take amortizations out. But we must compare like with like in order to understand what trends are taking place in terms of Government expenditure and in terms of fiscal deficit. And there is no point coming in and saying that you are projecting a deficit which is 10% of estimated Gross Domestic Product and then saying that that includes amortizations and therefore the deficit is only 5%. Although I would be surprised if that were the case because you have to have an awful lot of amortizations to reduce that by 5%.

I think what the Minister probably means is that if you take the deficit in relation to the consolidated public sector and then you exclude amortizations then that figure might well arrive at about 5% because you would need an awful lot of amortizations in order, let me see 10% of \$3 billion is about \$300 million, \$150 million dollars, \$180 million and

you are really looking at eighty something million dollars. Anyhow I have not checked that figure. But never mind I will not pursue it.

The point I am making is that you either compare like with like, that is that you use the revenue and expenditure pattern as required under the Constitution of Barbados and under the Financial Administration and Audit Act and which the Accountant-General and the Auditor-General of Barbados must abide by because of the appropriate legislation. And that is the landmark against which we must compare trends from year to year. You cannot start jumping into this area of excluding amortizations. And therefore the deficit projected is 10% of Gross Domestic Product after outrageous taxation a year ago and massive expansion that we have here today in our expenditure patterns.

Aside.

Laughter.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Now, Sir, I suppose there are some Members who might be concerned and there are others who would not be concerned that after such taxation last year, you should not end up with a deficit of somewhere in the region of \$206 million projected.

Now, where are we going? Are you going to continue to push up the tax effort of Government? Are you going to continue to levy more and more taxation on the people of Barbados and end up every year with higher and higher deficits? What has happened to the policy as enunciated in the Manifesto which assisted, I would go no further, in bringing the Government to office, in terms of expenditure restraint, in terms of positions which will relate expenditure to what normally happens in any country.

I am telling you that if the United States were to increase its expenditure by the same rate by which the Barbados Government increased expenditure over the past two years, it would throw the whole world economy in chaos probably for ten years.

What figure are we talking about? Sir, we are not talking about little numbers. I recall on the Floor of this House for many years supported by charts, I was joined in an honourable fight by the Honourable Member for St. Michael West as we fought to keep Government expenditure under control. Because he knew and I knew that the rate of escalation was a matter of concern.

Now during that period, it is important to review that period. You are talking, Sir, of a period in 1981-82 when Government current expenditure was \$473 million. And we are talking today of \$986 million being brought before this Honourable House. We are talking of a situation, Sir, in

1985-86, the last year that the Barbados Labour Party held office in this country.
1.00p.m.

The maximum expenditure by them was \$663 million on Current Account and in 2 years, Sir, we are now coming with \$870 million last year and \$986 million, and should we not be ashamed? Where is that word called "kudos"? It was right. It was right for us to take the position of pressing the Barbados Labour Party Administration into effective control of expenditure. It was right for us to do it. It is right for me now, equally right, and this party, the NDP, is a party that bases all of its positions on principle and integrity only. It is equally right for me now to demonstrate beyond a shadow of doubt if I am to remain loyal to the traditions of this Honourable House.

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I will not finish until such time. By what time? If it is 3 o'clock, it is all right.

Asides.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I move that the sitting be now suspended until 2 p.m. today, Sir.

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

The question that the sitting be now suspended until 2 p.m. today was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed. The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, just before the luncheon break, I was addressing the nature of this alarming debt with which we are now presented. I have sought to demonstrate that perhaps what is normally the pride of the Ministry of Finance must be now an embarrassment to that Ministry by its usual standards to come down here with Estimates showing a deficit for the year 1989/90 of just under \$300 million. I also sought to make a technical point that it is inappropriate not to compare like with like. The comparisons that I said under the Constitution and the Financial Administration Act of Barbados and such legislation as flows from that means that you must make a comparison from year to year comparing like with like. Unless that is done then you are in problems.

Secondly, that this comes hot on the heels of a major deficit last year which is being projected at \$206 million at a time when the Capital Programme of Government was

coming to a close in the past year and there are very few new projects if any that have been undertaken.

Now I want to make one or two things clear. The first is this, that the persons who should be more concerned than I am over the events which I revealed today, events based on the Estimates brought before this House, should be those who would have been taken for a ride. I was very careful, Mr. Speaker, so far to avoid any form of subjective judgments whatsoever and to stick exclusively to the data presented to us here today in the Estimates and there is only one logical conclusion that you can come to - that the major area of growth in the revenue last year was in those areas which were unaffected by the Budget and that the Budget in fact interfered with the growth in the other areas and the yield was substantially less in those areas than anticipated. The only logical and reasonable conclusion that one can come to is that, in fact, the fiscal programme that was in force before the Budget was working effectively.

Now the Honourable Member for St. Peter is a gentleman for whose knowledge of fiscal matters and economic matters I have the greatest regard. Last year in August or September after the publication of the Quarterly Report of the Central Bank I issued a release and he issued a release that came to the same conclusion. Because essentially the difference of opinion between us on economic matters have been not in terms of objectives or not even terms of how you get there. The argument that we have had over the 1986/87 period has largely been an argument in relation to the pace at which it will effect fiscal change in order to achieve a desired objective and to his eternal credit he has always remained steadfast to his position but he has not blinded his eye to the fact that those objectives were being achieved and clearly would have been achieved in the circumstances. Quite different, Sir, from another economist whose name I should not call in this Honourable House because I do not think it would be right to use the word "economist" and call that name at the same time in this Honourable House, because I believe this is a matter really which I shall make a document of the House at the time of a Budget when the entire nation should see exactly the views expressed in his own handwriting, pointing out to me that my failure to introduce all the measures at one time in 1986 and spreading them over 1986 and 1987 had substantially reduced the impact of those measures in terms of investment, in terms of job creation, etcetera, etcetera, etcetera. I think that this will have to be made a document of the House at Budget time, in handwriting.

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: That is the first one. The second point I want to make is that I cannot speak for the Budget Department of the Ministry of Finance because they have certain views where they always, not in the past, but in recent times take ideological positions, examine things in a

static rather than a dynamic form. But I am absolutely sure that the officers in the Ministry of Finance would have gone no further in those Estimates than one would have expected. But it is the responsibility of the Minister of Finance to be sufficiently in touch with what is going on in the environment around him to make value judgments and other judgments in relation to information coming before him. I regret to say and I believe that it must now be absolutely clear to one and all why you all are over there and why I am over here. I do not blame you. I do not blame them in the sense, Mr. Speaker, because these are financial matters and there are not many people in this House who are committed in the same way in analysis of financial matters. However, I will be very interested to see how persons who have been elected on a particular programme, who have supported a particular programme, who have now had demonstrated to him the impact of that programme in terms of final out-turn in the areas of taxes which I have listed -1 will be very interested to see how they can get up and deny it. Because what I plan to do -1 plan to get an ad in the newspapers of this country under the NDP, pointing out clearly the Estimates, the Revised Estimates, the tax errors on each line, and demonstrating beyond doubt based on these documents of the House exactly what would have happened going right back to 1986. That's right, and that is why I want to go back to 1986 very soon and demonstrate exactly what happened.

Now Sir, these Estimates also reveal a very alarming thing which again impinges very fundamentally on this Appropriation Bill. I would like to draw Members attention to Page 2 of the Estimates. If you look at those Estimates, Sir, you will see 1988 Japanese Bonds Special Deposit \$79,844,501.00 in brackets. What does this mean? 2.10p.m.

This means, Sir, that that is the extent to which an error was made in over-financing the deficit of 1988-89. It means that the Government would have gone to the market and borrowed \$80 million, that those dollars are sitting somewhere on deposit on a Savings Account or other Deposit Account, and the taxpayers would be paying the differential in cost between what the Government is getting for the deposit and what they have to pay as interest, the gap. That is a daily cost to the Government of Barbados.

It also means something else. It means that, as I said early in 1988, (1) there was no problem in financing the deficit, (2) there was no balance of payments or foreign reserves problem, because if you look at the gross reserves of Barbados today and you take out that \$79 million, you will see that there has been very little change in the reserves from year to year, from point to point within those reserves. That is an error of financing and it would appear that the Japanese had more sense than the people who went to borrow the money, because they lent them half the money. Instead of \$160 million they lent them \$80 million.

You would never see that in brackets anywhere in any previous Estimates. That is an over financing item there that the taxpayers of Barbados are paying for dearly at the moment. Over financing of a deficit with foreign currency on the presumption that you would have had a balance of payments or a foreign reserves problem which did not materialise.

Whilst I get to that, Sir, I am absolutely sure that this business of slashing people's incomes to protect imports into Barbados has also been a failure. Whereas I have not seen the final out-turn results for imports, I can guarantee you that imports into Barbados are going to be much higher in 1989 than they were in 1988, for this particular reason. Any time you reduce the marginal incomes of people to a level where they cannot make a capital investment, then there is an automatic switch into consumption expenditure. In other words, the man who would have qualified for a house, but due to an increase in interest rates and a decrease in his disposable income through a surcharge no longer qualifies; he is going to spend that deposit. So that there becomes a critical level in one's life when one converts the money one has, whether by way of salary or otherwise, into capital investment or into expenditure.

When I was a student, for example, the whole idea of saving money never occurred to me, because you just had enough to live on. It is only when people get a salary at a level which makes it worthwhile for them to convert that into a saving and an investment that that becomes a viable proposition. So there is a fundamental fallacy in the financial argument that if you reduce incomes by X you protect the balance of payments and imports by X. It does not work that way. Indeed, where you have a situation where you have had a surcharge that yielded \$24 million and you are going to tell me that that is going to cause a balance of payments crisis in Barbados, then something is wrong, however augmented that \$24 million is, by credit or whatever else you might think.

So that there has been a fundamental error not only in tax yield but also in the abuse of fiscal policy through over taxation in order to protect a non-existent problem in the balance of payments, and the two flow together. You have a non-existent problem in relation to revenue, and therefore now you convert that non-existent problem into a balance of payments problem that does not and did not exist. So long as the Barbados economy is generating tourism growth at the rate at which it has been growing since 1986, and so long as Government expenditure is kept within reasonable limits, then it is virtually impossible in Barbados to have any serious balance of payments problems. Last year will show a large surplus on balance of payments, and I think that even if you take out the proceeds of the Japanese loan, you are still going to end up with a surplus on your balance of payments.

Another point I wish to make, and this point again I think the Honourable Member for St. Peter would readily grasp, the moment you go out there predicating fiscal policy, monetary policy or any other kind of policy in an open economy like Barbados to generate substantial excesses in your balance of payments, all you are doing as a trading community, you are borrowing money to lend to the rest of the world. That is all you are doing. You are paying the cost of borrowing money to lend to the rest of the world, and that is precisely what has happened with the Japanese loan here. In other words, the objective must always be to try to have a balance in the balance of payments of your current account to be safe if you can generate some slight surplus, but you should not be out there aiming for large surpluses on your balance of payments when you are borrowing money to achieve that, because ultimately your balance of payments is the difference between your trading position *vis-a-vis* the rest of the world, and when you generate large surpluses, it simply means that you are lending to the rest of the world, and if you are lending to the rest of the world with borrowed money, then I say that you are doing foolishness. It is as simple and straightforward as that.

So that this question of using broad sweeping fiscal policy as a measure of protecting the balance of payments has to be looked at carefully. It is the kind of foolishness that often you get from certain organs of Government outside of the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Economic Affairs. It is something that has to be guarded very carefully, because in the final analysis all they do is to force you to over-borrow and over-tax people, and in the long run you find yourself then in a situation where the same system then generates levels of expenditure that are unacceptable in terms of proper management of the economy.

This is what has been happening. I think it is most unfortunate. I think it is unfortunate that it should have happened, it has happened and, as I have said before, not out of generosity but out of concern for Barbados, I think the Minister of Finance should have a serious look at those Estimates of Revenue this year. Unless he feels within himself that there will be no growth in the economy and at the same time some decrease in the rate of inflation, then I think 4.5% natural increase in revenue is an incorrect estimate and an under estimate.

It is important to look back through the Estimates over the years and you will see precisely the kind of percentage you get in terms of increases relating to nominal growth in the Gross Domestic Product. Then you will come to an answer. An economy does not suddenly overnight behave in a different kind of way, it does not suddenly overnight behave that way, so I would urge that some concern be given to the question of whether the revenue this year is not again under estimated.

Now, Sir, there are other areas I wish to cover. This question of expenditure management. What has gone wrong? I believe that something has gone fundamentally wrong with the management of Government expenditure in Barbados. There is no way that if you were to do a historic analysis of the increases in Government expenditure before 1985-86..... you are talking about over a ten year period.
2.20 p.m.

Over a ten year period the Government expenditure would have increased by roughly \$400 million, an average of about \$40 million a year that includes - this is current expenditure - major salary increases in that period as well. You are talking about a rate of increase of about \$40 million a year.

Now in 1986/87 when the DLP won the Government, in the middle of a major fiscal expansion programme that was taking place before we took office and one that was given further fillip by the tax concessions of June 1986, in that situation the Government current expenditure was held to \$685 million, an increase from \$663 million the year before to \$685 million. Government revenue never declined as I keep repeating. I think the revenue in fact grew from \$648 million to \$669 million, so that the current account deficit in 1986-87 was a mere \$15 million in an economy that was about \$2.5 billion. That is what it was in 1986-87.

Now the argument has been that some \$24 million in backpay was not paid out in that year. Everybody knows the reason for that and nothing could have been done about it. Now Government accounts are something that when they are being looked at adjustments can be made and will be made in your calculation of what is happening to Government expenditure. Let us assign \$24 million from 1987/88 to 1985/86 and you are left with a deficit of \$39 million. That is the size of the deficit. Take out the backpay from 1987/88 and put it in 1985-86 as the IMF would do and as any other institution would do. Now whatever you do you are still left with the most appalling situation in relation to the growth of Government expenditure. What has actually happened in this year's?

Now in 1986/87 there was a pernicious and wicked rumour that the reason why expenditure reached \$817 million was because bills that were submitted in 1986-87 were not paid. I had the opportunity as I always do to examine the appropriation accounts which, I believe, as part of the traditions of the financial structure of this country, are submitted to you, Sir, on behalf of all Members of the House as a matter of courtesy, in that you sit in the Chair when this Appropriation Bill is done, and therefore as a matter of courtesy through the financial officers of Government you and other people including the Minister of Finance would get a copy of the Appropriation Account. That Appropriation Account reflected accurately and precisely in every detail the reply to a question asked by the Honourable Member for St. Thomas. It was a wicked

question in a way that caused the Minister of Finance, wicked in a generous sense.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not want it in a generous way. I would prefer the language to be much more moderate.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: It was one of those questions which the Honourable Member knew you could not answer until the end of the year, so it remained on the Order Paper for a whole year/and when you answered it then it caused you to work for three or four months in order to get the proper answer, and that coincided exactly and in every detail with the Appropriation Account which is signed by the Auditor General and the Accountant General before it is presented to you. So I just want to get that out of the way and the interesting question arises, if the \$817 million in 1987-88 was partially due to paying bills due from 1986-87, why did the expenditure not drop last year? Did you pay the bills twice? Did you pay them in 1987-88 and in 1988-89 and you are going to pay them in 1989-90? Because what we see here is a movement not from \$817 million downwards, but far from moving downwards we see a movement from \$817 million to a projected one now of \$870 million. So I would like to ask all those people who sought to confuse the public of Barbados with an allegation of that kind, not supported by any supplementaries before the House to explain the fact that the expenditure did not go down but has gone up by \$53 million this year. I would like to hear the answer.

Sir, I believe that the Government should withdraw these Estimates and take another serious look at this expenditure. You are talking, Sir, in a matter of a short period of time of spending almost \$1 billion, and I am sure it is going to be more than \$1 billion on current account alone, because looking at the personal emoluments section here I do not see any evidence of any provision in these Estimates for the cost of regrading in the public service. Over and above that, when I examine the Estimates critically, I suspect that in other payments there is probably somewhere between 3 per cent and 5 per cent reduction below certain levels, I will not go any further than that, which would reflect in supplementaries like this year in this Honourable House. That is my suspicion. These numbers have come out a little too close percentage wise and I know how the pruning is done, and when you look at the pruning and then you work it back, you see it is about a 3 per cent to 5 per cent pruning somewhere along the line there; so I think that this country can brace itself for over \$1 billion of expenditure on the current account, and I believe that this is something that as a responsible House we need to examine and ask ourselves what was done and what is not being done.

Now I believe that the response of the Barbados Labour Party's administration to the excesses of 1981-82 was to put in place a series of techniques to try to control growth in expenditure and keep it in line with what was

realistic in terms of inflation rates and growth in the gross domestic product. That is what I inherited. I added certain things to that too. One of the things that I did, in fact the very first thing I did was to recognise the commitment we had made in the manifesto of the Democratic Labour Party in terms of a reduction in capital expenditure and in current expenditure, the latter by $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

At the Planning Committee immediate steps were taken to spread out the existing programme over 18 months to two years to try to conform as closely as possible through this three year period to a capital expenditure around \$150 million a year which was an amount which one felt, based on one's projections prior to even bringing a programme before the House in the budget reply of 1986 was what was sustainable. In about three month's time when that was done specific attention was paid to the commitment side of current account to control expenditure and not only through the Ministry of Finance but specifically the Minister himself met with every accounting officer in the Government, every Permanent Secretary, together and separately, and tried to impress on them the direction of Government policy, to recognise that the true damage in terms of expenditure control arises on the commitment side, and that is where the trouble arises. It is clear to me that that whole process has broken down. 2.30 p.m.

It is clear to me that there could be and should be no circumstances in Barbados, whose population has not expanded, where there have not been any dramatic changes in the welfare of Barbadians for the better.....How on earth, then, can we deal with a situation where you are having increases of this order, both percentage wise and in dollar terms and it is important that we not only look at percentages increases but that we look at these percentages in dollar terms as well in order to understand the enormity of the problem with which we are faced today.

We are talking, Sir, of increases over the 1985/86 level of, I think, the figure was \$323 million and thereabouts, and over the 1986/87 level you are talking of expenditure of \$301 million. You are not talking of two cents in a short period of time and you are talking, Sir, of a situation where the inflation rate in Barbados has, in fact, not grown that enormously.

If I wish to be dishonest I would say that there is over 300% increase in the rate of inflation between 1986 and 1987 but when you are dealing with small figures like that percentages do not make much sense. It has really moved from 1.3 or thereabouts to 4.3 so you have a relatively stable rate of inflation.

You have growth rates only in the region of $2\frac{1}{2}$ % subsequent to the 4.5 to 5% that we had in 1986/87 and yet you have a \$300 million increase in expenditure in Government. On what ground, I ask, can that be

justified? What can you see in Barbados today that can justify that kind of expenditure, because if you look at it in dollar terms, you are really talking over the 1985/86 level of \$323 million and over the 1986/87, the first year that the Democratic Labour Party was in office, an increase of \$301 million in expenditure on current account alone.

When you translate these now into percentage terms, the current expenditure this year in terms of what is before Parliament now is 43% higher than what obtained in 1986/87 and 48% higher than what obtained in 1985/86. On what grounds? What can be the reasons? Why this alarming increase in expenditure? Are we going to go the route of Guyana? Are we going to go the route of Jamaica? Are we going to go the route of Trinidad?

If you look clearly you will see that the underlying factor relating to the regeneration of those economies has been excessive public expenditure and the way in which that expenditure translated itself into politically determined activity rather than economically determined activity. If you look at the corrections that have to be applied, whether it is under the aegis of an international agency or independent of that, it is always in terms of slashing that expenditure either in terms of cutting back on programmes or in terms of cutting back of people's salaries or altering the value of people's salaries as the first corrective measures.

We cannot continue to escalate Government expenditure at this rate and maintain a viable economy in Barbados. It has to come to an end and now is the time to really start doing something about it because, in other words, steps have to be taken now to ensure that this rate of expenditure does not continue and I can guarantee you that if it starts now, it is probably going to take between five and eight years to get the expenditure levels back in relation to what it was in relation to the GDP in 1985/86 and 1986/87, because even if you put a cap on all expenditure now and stop the growth of expenditure, the economy would have to expand by another 15% to 20% in order to get these ratios back to the same again in real terms.

It is a serious matter and it is not something that we can just ignore because unless it is done... because the consequences are serious. You are talking now, but either you are going to accept the deficit and take your chances that it will close by improved collections, or you are going to raise more taxation, or alternatively, you are going to create a problem through that taxation where you are going to put a further burden on the investing and meaningful job creating sector of the economy, that is, in the private sector of Barbados. These are the problems that must flow from this kind of extravagance in terms of public spending.

I will say this and I regret that I have to say it, that by any fiscal standards this kind of expenditure represents the worst kind of aberrations in fiscal matters that ever took

place in Barbados in my experience and, I believe, that I have been around long enough.

I would think that it has possibly more serious damaging effects than even what happen in 1981 and for this reason: the expenditure in 1981 - and I looked at this very carefully last night - fell in areas that were readily reversible. The increases in expenditure which this represents and the area it represents represent more structured areas within the Government's financing system. I would urge again that something be done in order to deal with this problem. But, I believe, that I recognize in some areas exactly what has been happening over the past two years.

Recently, in my Foundation Speech in relation to the Founding Ceremony of the NDP, I made the very serious point in relation to the restoration of the authority of the Public Service Commission in matters relating to all appointments, transfers, disciplines and so on in the Public Service.

I did that, Sir, because I recognized that these Estimates are being distorted in a very fundamental way by expenditure that occurs in the non-statutory section of Personal Emoluments. I believe, that there has been an empire operating within the Government that reflects now and will increasingly reflect so, in fiscal policy, where you find this large gap between what is happening in terms of personal emoluments increases in respect of statutory appointments and those in relation to non-statutory appointments.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Check it. Go through Head by Head. It takes a few hours to do it but it is worthwhile doing it and you will see exactly. As the Estimates go on I will point out exactly where these dramatic increases are coming.

If you look at the published increases under Personal Emoluments at the gross level, that is including statutory payments and non-statutory payments, you will see that the change in these Estimates are estimated as 13.6%. If you look at last year's Estimates, you will see that the change is somewhere in that region.

Aside.

12.4% without the increases. It would be a little more than that and the year before it was 1% or 2%, something like that because no money was paid out in that year. 1986/87.

But the point I am making is that those increases are far in excess of any wages settlement made in Barbados either between 1986 and now either by way of a Settlement

or by way of legislation and when you further analyse that Personal Emoluments Section you begin to see what is happening and there are not many people who are benefiting from it. 2.40 p.m.

There are not many people. I said from the very beginning that these Estimates all tell a story at the end of the day. Every line, every figure that you see up front you can go right through and analyze what has happened under each Head and you can see exactly where the changes are and what is happening in Government.

In other words, a whole lot of the expenditure of a political nature is taking place outside of this Parliament. We come back here for supplementaries. We believe that we give a direction to be followed by Cabinet and the Minister of Finance. Perhaps the Minister of Finance does not know what is going on. But certainly in a lot of these areas, I did not know what was going on anyhow. As I said, sometimes you can get an empire operating within 'a Government that is creating financial problems and at the end of the day - I am not attacking anybody - the music has to be faced by those in this Honourable House. I stress in this Honourable House. But you can see the disparity there between the statutory personal emoluments and the non-statutory emoluments. You can see that the growth in those expenditures have been far in excess of wages levels approved by Parliament, either by settlement or by legislation.

So that no one can go out there and blame the Public Servants for the increases in public expenditure. It would be wrong because those increases in terms of what we know about in this Parliament have been relatively in accordance with the indices which we have established. Nor should anyone go out there blaming the Barbados Workers' Union or the National Union of Public Workers as a prime cause of these increases. It just is not so. Because even if you take the figures as they stand, and you calculate that percentage of increases as a percentage of the total expenditure then you would find that there are no extraordinary increases in the area of personal emoluments.

And when you go further and you do a sub-analysis and you differentiate between the statutory payments and the non-statutory payments you will find that you cannot blame the public workers of Barbados or the unions. I am always a great defender of the unions in Barbados because I think that they have been reasonable in their claims and in their positions. So let it be clear that I do not even want to hear any comments about this is due to the unions and to the public servants and so on. It is not true because the - figures do not bear that out. Because the percentage that you are paying out here is far in excess of the rates negotiated by the unions on behalf of the public servants. The evidence is clear. I cannot spend, Mr. Speaker, two hours going through each Head looking at statutory and

non-statutory payments, except to say this, that there is also a certain element of unrealism in financial terms when you talk about trying to balance the current account of Government. Fifteen years ago that statement made a lot of precise sense for the reasons which I said, absence of any significant amortization under the current account and the absence of any significant component of current expenditure under capital account.

So that you are fooling yourself fundamentally if you have \$1 billion in expenditure on current account in these Estimates and you have \$100 million in revenue and you are going to get a balance current expenditure in fiscal terms. Because if you were to go through the Capital Estimates in Barbados you would see a whole lot of activity inside there that cannot be properly be regarded as capital expenditure *per se*. For example in many instances the Head that is euphemistically referred to as Contributions to Equity in Public Enterprises, for years that has been a form of current expenditure in terms of meeting the current deficits of various enterprises whether it be LIAT, Heywoods, CBC, whatever you like, there has been a current expenditure. Then there are a whole lot of salaries, there are a whole lot of positions operating outside of what is stated here as current revenue and what is stated as capital revenue. So there are certain fundamental flaws in this. And that is why it is important to concentrate on the overall deficit and know precisely what you are talking about in fiscal terms.

Now I can say that, because I have been shadowing this portfolio for so many years. I knew and I could tell you how each one of those current expenditures found expression under capital rather than under current. There were the days for example when it was necessary to do certain things in relation to other financial institutions and therefore it was reasonable to think because it was not dishonest, it was reasonable to do it.

But what is important to recognize is that if you are aiming at targets then you must know what those targets are. And I will tell you this that if you truly want to get a situation where taxation covers all current expenditure this year, you would really have to be talking about raising \$986 million for current expenditure then on top of that that would be another \$50 million, if you are going to cover the current expenditure component of what falls on paper under the capital budget of Barbados. That has been a significant change that has taken place over the past fifteen years in Barbados and the reasons are there. I am not imputing any improper motives to anyone because a lot of the changes are changes that I would have made. For example, Contributions to Equity in Public Enterprises can sometimes be equity and can sometimes be, in other words, it can be capital or can sometimes be current. But on balance over the years, it has in fact been a contribution to current expenditure of those money-losing enterprises.

The other area that brings some concern. Now if you look at these Estimates you will see that under the same heading, on the same page where you have personal emoluments you also have a thing called Other Charges. And you are talking this year about a 30% increase in Other Charges. Now even if you were to take out the increase in debt charges you are still left with a whacking increase in the non-personal emoluments of Government current expenditure. I am talking about a very significant increase. The 30% would include the debt charges. If you take out the increases in the debt charges, you are still left with increases well into the 30% or thereabouts. Now I say that is unreasonable. I say that you cannot sustain expenditure in any economy which does not bear some relation to the other elements within the economy which should be generating and sustaining that kind of expenditure. You can get a return for a year or two but sooner or later the tail spin is going to take place. It is bound to happen. It has happened everywhere. And unless something is done very dramatically now the same thing will happen here. It is not going to happen tomorrow or maybe not next year. But the problems will be there. 2.50 p.m.

Another point, Sir, I wish to advert to is this question of growth. I believe that with this kind of expenditure level and which Government has now inflicted on the country you really now have to start looking for between 5% and 7% growth in the economy, balanced growth that is. You really need to do that because it is the only way you will ever get those ratios right again in any short period of time.

So that this business of cooling down an economy and this kind of thing like this, has to be seen against a background of realism. The important point is to get balanced growth and if you have balanced growth in Barbados and the economy expands at 10% per year, 8% per year, and once the growth is balanced, that is you get enough foreign exchange to meet the domestic aspect of the economic expansion, then all that will happen is that you will achieve the objective of the National Democratic Party ^ as generating full employment in Barbados. That is all that will happen. When I see the Minister of Employment turn up his nose and pooh-poohing the idea of full employment, you wonder if he is the Minister of Employment at all.

Barbados was well on the way to full employment in 1980 and in the early 1970's. We had two (2) episodes in this country, particularly 1980. In a small economy like Barbados, is there any reason why we should do any worse than Singapore, or any reason why we should do any worse than Trinidad? At one stage they were down to 7%. I believe that Bermuda is now importing labour. But you get people who do not understand anything about economic definitions and when they hear full employment they talk about slavery as though you are going to force people to work. I will not waste time on the floor of this House. I believe that by the time you become a Member of the

House you should understand basically what full employment is all about. You should understand the definition and if you do not understand the definition it is too bad. But it is the legitimate objective and I dare say that under suitable internal policies and a favourable external environment that Barbados one day will achieve full employment and that is a legitimate goal of any responsible Government. If it is not your goal, who are you going to condemn to unemployment outside there? Who are you going to choose as the ones to be permanently unemployed? Members of the Barbados Labour Party, Members of the National Democratic Party? Who are you going to choose? If it is not your goal, are you going to say that you as a Government will wish to find yourself in a position where you will have to perpetuate the kind of political preferential treatment commonly known as yard fowlism in terms of job generation and getting people in jobs? It is a fundamental argument and it is an argument that I feel very strongly about. Let me tell you something. When I speak of the non-statutory element of Personal Emoluments, when I speak of certain elements of other charges, when I relate that to certain aspects of political intervention in the economy in Barbados and in placing people in jobs - I feel deep within me that what we want to create in Barbados once again is what smarted to happen in the early 1970's, where people when they leave school that they have an opportunity to choose the job that they want, where they no longer have to go to an MP and beg him for a reference or beg him for a job.

I want to live in a society where I know that when I see children coming out of school at the end of their Fifth Form or out of university or after their A Levels that they have a choice of a job. They cannot always get the job that they want, but I want to feel that if they cannot get a job in a bank and they have to go and do something else for the time being that somewhere along the line a job will be there. I want to see that whole process removed from the political process and I tell you when that happens, you are going to see a sharp decline in the pressure under Other Payments and Non-Statutory Payments in this country.

It is something, Mr. Speaker, that I feel very passionate about and I feel very passionate about it for this reason. I recall when I left school that I was fortunate in winning a scholarship and so on. But I know me and I know the way how I would feel if I had to be butting around politicians' offices and so on, begging them to get a job for me here and there. I know how I would feel. I know my sense of pride and my sense of honour. I know how I would feel and I can imagine how those young people out there feel. That is what I want to see and whether you all want to pooh-pooh the idea or not, let it be known that I am satisfied that in a society with only a quarter of a million people, a society in which the work force at the moment is only about 120,000 to 125,000 people There are factories in this world that employ 125,000 people. I am not saying that we have one of those in Barbados. The point I

am making is that our problem is not that mammoth a problem. Our problem, in fact, is less of a problem that would be attendant on the larger industrial democracies. It is less of a problem because if there is one area in which the statement "small is beautiful" in economic terms is correct, it is in that area of the potential of generating full employment because you do not have all of the bottlenecks and all the structural problems and other problems that you have in the larger democracies. So let it be clear that I believe that the direction in which Government expenditure is going, clearly is making no dent into one of the primary problems facing this country, that is the problem of unemployment particularly among the young people. We are spending almost a billion dollars this year as compared to just over half a billion 4 years ago. What are your prospects of reducing the level of unemployment in Barbados? What are you going to tell the trade unionists who regard that as one of their primary reasons for existence, not only a question of the employed that they represent, but they want to see an expansion of that employment among the unemployed in Barbados? When you have expanded expenditure by \$300 million and at the same time cannot see that translated into an annual significant decrease in the number of people out there on the streets without work, then something is wrong. My submission is that we will be appropriating once again too large a section of the economic cake to the Government and not allowing the process of job generation in the free economy out there. I say this for this reason, Sir.

Do you realize what a 10% increase in employment in the private sector would mean to Barbados? We are talking about 7,000 or 8,000 jobs. Think of a 7% increase in the Public Service and the cost of that increase. So that as far as I am concerned I strongly believe that this type of expenditure is going to be counter-productive in terms of what should be perhaps the No. 1 objective of Government today and that is to get that rate of unemployment down in Barbados. It is not only going to help it, but it is going to have a negative effect on it in due course. There are only so many people that you can employ in Government and if you look at the expenditure in relation to the number of people that have been taken on, then you see exactly what I am talking about.

Now you know I see under the Prime Minister's Office the area of CBC. I see a 12.8% increase in Current Expenditure and a grant of just under \$2 million again this year. I think CBC deserves special treatment during the course of these Estimates. But I am just giving an example of how the expenditure grows. Here is an organisation over 20 years in existence and is still depending on the public purse for existence and up to last year another \$2 million there. I see in the Cabinet Office a 27% increase in expenditure. Anyhow, again that is a matter for the Head when it comes. I am quite sure, Mr. Speaker, you will not permit me to go into these Heads and I will not permit you to draw me into a discussion away from the Second

Reading in order to offend the Rules of the House. The Ministry of Finance, usually very prudent - I see an increase of 18.5%.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries - I see a 18.4% increase there. I hear there is a shortage of fish. I do not know. I do not know where any fish are going to come from.

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Leave Branford and the chickens. Man, do not trouble him.

Laughter.
3.00p.m.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I see the Ministry of Health, 14.8%. However, what I propose to do, Mr. Speaker, is to deal with these things as they come along.

In the area of the Capital Expenditure, I do not think I will spend too much time on that. Here again we see no evidence of expenditure related to economic planning or economic growth. What we see is a number of things put together and that is just resulting in significant increases in expenditure. For example, in 1987-88 I notice that Capital Expenditure went up by 32% in one year and now again this year it is going up by another 22.3%. The point I am trying to make is that, not only you have this inordinate growth in expenditure on the Current side, but also on the Capital side of the budget. On the Capital side of the budget you see the same growth in Capital Expenditure, and the question is why? Why is it happening?

I have not heard any policy position stated by any Minister of the Crown on any matter in this Honourable House over the past 18 months, apart from the policy stated by the Minister of Finance in relation to revenue and expenditure levels. In the Press today I saw a policy statement for the first time by the Minister of Health on the matter of chicken barns or something.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. He is glad for this interruption, but the NDP called for a policy statement in the *Sunday Sun*. They called for action on the Sunday, Sir, and even as they were speaking action was being reported. I have given him a little respite because he has been talking fairly long.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I am very glad that the Honourable Member has been so responsive to the responsible charges by the NDP. I was congratulating him for the fact and singling him out as one of the few Ministers who have actually expressed a policy position. One of the reasons why we have Estimates is because we try to relate policy to expenditure. One of the reasons why we have an Appropriation Bill debate, as distinct from a debate on the

Schedule, is because in the Appropriation Bill you relate policy to expenditure on the Second Reading, whereas in the Schedule you go into details of expenditure, and I am very grateful, I am sure Barbados is very grateful, that there has been a response from the Minister of Health in the matter of the little chickens. I am quite sure that they are very happy about that policy position.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I shall be taking my seat very shortly. I do not propose to deal with the economic aspects of these Estimates today. I think there was enough in the purely fiscal area to talk about. That would take me another two or three hours.

If you look at agriculture, it is my understanding that things are reaching crisis proportions in agriculture in Barbados. We look at housing, we look at manufacturing, we look at employment, we look at tourism, we look at all these areas. It would normally be my duty, I would normally consider it my duty, to relate this Appropriation Bill to policy positions or the detection of the evolution of policy positions in the various subsectors of the economy. I do not propose to proceed along that line largely in order to give other people an opportunity to participate. Instead, I have tried, Sir, to focus on the major errors which have led to over taxation in Barbados. I have used as the basis of that the published data presented to this Parliament here today by the Government itself. I believe that only a very biased person would fail to recognise that what they committed themselves to in 1986 was in fact working very successfully. The evidence is right there if you want to see it, and it would take not only a biased person, but also a person without that sense of shame, or pudor, to get up and try to deny that what he committed himself to was working well, when he has had the evidence pointed out before him, and the evidence from an objective source, that is, not emanating from the NDP, not emanating from the BLP, but emanating from that side, what is before you.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you very much for the patience with which you have heard me. Thank you.

Applause.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the House does not get the opportunity on too many occasions to look at Government's economic policy within the broadest possible framework. And while there might be a disinclination on the part of some Members of the House to look at the economic policy which lies behind the numbers, I really do feel that, given the recent experience, the House should spend time in looking at the numbers that are set out in this year's Estimates and try indeed to look at the economic policy which they encapsulate.

I want to begin by saying that Barbados is at a watershed. We are a \$3 billion economy in which Government will, if this House allows, find itself in the

position where it will be spending \$1.2 billion. The Government will find itself in that position, Sir, by spending at a rate that is faster than all other economic entities in this society. Do we want that for Barbados?

Th§ numbers presented in these Estimates indicate that if the Minister of Finance were to give full vent to his articulated policy as regards fiscal management, we would be faced with the likelihood of \$80 million in increased taxation, and the question that the House must ask itself is do we want that for Barbados? Are we satisfied as well that, given Government's past experience in relation to forecasting, there is a need for an increase in taxes to the extent of \$80 million? Those, Mr. Speaker, are in some respects some of the basic and fundamental issues these numbers raise. 3.10p.m.

The numbers also raise the issue, that it is also troublesome, that if we were to look at Government's financial projections, not in the manner that the Minister of Finance would want us to look at them, but by reference to Government's overall fiscal position, then we are going to have a situation presented to us in this country this year where Government would be pushing into the economy \$300 million more in spending than it is taking out in taxes. There is a resource gap of almost \$300 million, and the Government has to date only identified \$56 million by which to close that resource gap. We want, on this side, to know what are the options that face Government in trying to address that fundamental issue, and what can we expect as regards some of the related matters other than taxation, such as Government's foreign and domestic borrowing that stems, Mr. Speaker, from a resource gap as large as this. But I want to say this, Mr. Speaker. The Democratic Labour Party has already rejected its own manifesto; it is in danger now of throwing away its own Development Plan, and I will come back to that matter later.

Let me say this at the outset, that two years ago I had the privilege of addressing this House on the question of fiscal management. I subscribe to the view, Mr. Speaker, that a current account balance is a necessary but not a sufficient condition for proper fiscal management, and I will elaborate on that later. But I made the point, Mr. Speaker, in a previous Estimates debate that we also have to look at Government's overall deficit, and the experience of this society has shown that in circumstances where the overall deficit is allowed to rise to more than 8 per cent of GDP and tend towards 10 per cent of GDP we have unmanageable fiscal positions in this country leading to balance of payments problems and loss of reserves. Now they say that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. Written into the Government's present Development Plan is the stated policy position that it will be the intention of the Government of Barbados to work towards a situation where the overall fiscal deficit, which is what we must in the final analysis manage, should be reduced from 7 per cent of GDP

in 1987 to 2 per cent of GDP, and the Minister of Finance reinforced that position in his Budgetary Statement last year when he said, and I shall quote:

"The Government's medium term objective is to reduce the overall fiscal deficit from its current level of 7½ per cent of GDP to a level between 3 per cent and 5 per cent of GDP. The process will start with this Budget."

Now the fundamental issue obviously therefore is this: these Estimates have been predicated on the basis of the position that Government's deficit should be 10 per cent of GDP. The Government has articulated a position in its Development Plan.

The Minister of Finance last year took a position that once we go in the vicinity of 10 per cent we are going to have problems in this country. Why must this House therefore approve a set of Estimates, implicit in which is a position that the Government itself has rejected as being unmanageable? I am saying to this House that we have to move away from the position that the Minister of Finance has put as a philosophy, that he has to manage a current account deficit. We have to manage an overall position of Government, and the Democratic Labour Party is going to put Barbados in serious difficulties if we allow this overall deficit to amount to 10 per cent of the GDP as these Estimates say. Your Plan says that your policy is to reduce it from 7 per cent last year to 5 per cent, and you come to the House with a deficit of 10 per cent. So the question is, Sir, how can we accept these Estimates as being sound when they are so entirely at variance with the Government's stated position in its Plan and Government's stated position as recently as last year in relation to how Government's overall financial position should be managed? I will come back to this matter in due course.

I want however, Mr. Speaker, to deal quickly, and in the time allowed to me, with a number of selected issues. I want to look at the financial out-turn for last year. And I want to look at the projected position for next year, and I particularly want to look at the manner in which Government proposes to finance the overall deficit, and hence the repercussion of the policies as implied by these numbers purely as numbers.

As regards the financial out-turn for last year, all of us who have had the experience of having to do economic forecasting have sinned and come short of the glory. We must not in this House put the position that when you under-estimate revenue it is an error, but if you over-estimate revenue that is not an error.

If I had to criticise the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central it would merely be to implicitly criticise him by reminding him that in 1987 he did in fact project that income tax would have yielded \$100 million

and it did in point of fact yield only \$52. So all of us have sinned and come short of the glory.

There is a fundamental issue here, Sir. Last year in the Budget and the Estimates the Minister of Finance sought to establish certain house keeping principles that he would have us believe to be a matter of prudence. Mr. Prime Minister, where now is the prudence? The Minister of Finance set out a situation where, at the end of the day through the most careful control of Government expenditure, we would not be having a situation such as has arisen in recent years of this House being inundated with supplementaries. In fact he went on to the point of saying that "I have already given the message to my Ministers", and I am reading from the Budgetary Statement at page 1!...."I have already given the message to my Ministers that supplementary provisions will not be easily approved. Any such requests will be most meticulously examined for their justification," and he said, Sir, that the Parliamentary Secretary in the office of the Prime Minister will have special responsibility for expenditure control. And yet despite that, Sir, this House has been inundated with supplementary requests amounting to \$150 million.

One of the functions, Sir, of a Minister of Finance is to have the skill, the ability and the strength of economic leadership to tell his Ministers "no". It, perhaps in many respects, is one of the strongest attributes a Minister of Finance must have. I am not satisfied, Sir, upon the basis of the growth of Government expenditure over the course of the last year that sufficient control is being exercised over the rate at which Government expenditure is allowed to grow.

There seems to be a form of superstition that Government should simply allow its expenditure to grow in relation to the growth in revenue. If we are going to put the matter in its statistical context, if Government had been able to keep its expenditure growth in some modest relation to what was forecast, then we would be in a position today to realise not a modest current account surplus, but a fairly substantial current account surplus. I must also remind you, Sir, that last year when the Minister of Finance spoke about financial prudence, he was saying then that his financial profile for the year was not conceived to take into account any wage increases at all; that such wage increases as would have to be provided for, he said then, would have to be covered by a separate set of measures which would have to be brought to the House if necessary. And such the extent to which Government has been out of line is manifested, in the final analysis, by the fact that the Government has been able to cover the \$30 million increase in wages, for which no provision was made, without having to come back to this House as the Minister of Finance had supposed might have been possible. When therefore, Sir, the charge is levelled that there was excessive taxation, there was indeed excessive taxation for the reasons outlined, but, sad to say,

Government was forewarned, and that is in many respects what this debate is about. 3.20 p.m.

Government was forewarned on the grounds that the revenue estimates that it was using for this financial year were too low and we must ask ourselves as we discuss these Estimates whether we are not about to commit the same mistake that we committed last year. Last year Government was in a position, when it put in place an increase in taxation, to know that revenues would rise from \$725 million in the previous financial year to \$750 million in this financial year before tax increases only if it rose by 4% but there was nothing in the economy, there was nothing in the trend of Government's revenues to suggest that a 4% rate of growth was not too low. Everything pointed to the fact that the economy would yield far more taxes than that

This year again, Sir, the Government had in various months realized revenue growth of, at least, 25%. In January of 1988 the Government realized \$63 million in revenue. In January, 1989 Government realised \$101 million in revenue and we have a responsibility as a House to take these numbers and look at them as numbers because in February of last year the Government realized \$60.2 million in revenue and it is projecting now that in February of this year it will only realize \$60.3 million in revenue.

Now I am saying, Sir, without knowing what the numbers are, that if the Government is going to come to this House and project a current account deficit based upon those types of forecasting techniques, then, I am saying that it is as if the Minister of Finance is inventing deficits merely because he loves to tax.

One is left with that conclusion to draw because, remember, we are being called upon to take financial decisions about the need for taxation based not on what has happened but what is forecast and if an argument can be put to the Government that, perhaps, your revenue forecasts are too low, then we are saying that the Government should be mindful of that kind of advice and last year they were [^] forewarned. This year we are forewarning the Government again that when I see what is written into the Memorandum surrounding these Estimates pertaining to what Government's revenues are likely to be, I am saying that my own interpretation of it is that Government is setting its revenue forecasts too low hence giving rise to too big a current account projected deficit and hence taxing the people of this country far more than the circumstances warrant and that is what this debate is about, Sir.

Are Government's revenue forecasts realistic or not realistic? Must we commit ourselves again to another bout of tax increases based purely on bad forecasting? I will go forward, Sir.

In relation to the situation for next year, I would prefer if the Government were to strive to see its financial position

as a whole. In many respects the gap between what is called current expenditure and capital expenditure is so narrow that one really splits legal hairs in drawing the distinction and I will give an example, Sir.

Under Head 42 - Ministry of Transport and Works, the maintenance of roads is treated as a current expenditure. That activity involves Ministry of Transport using its established staff to patch the roads as a normal and ongoing operation. That is treated as a current expenditure and some \$25 million a year is spent on that. Now, what is the difference between that as an activity and Government spending money under the capital programme on road improvement? What is the difference, Mr. Speaker?

Aside.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: It cannot be a big difference. It is the same thing. When Government changes a roof at the Ministry of Education, sometimes it is treated as current expenditure, sometimes it is treated as capital expenditure. There are some statutory institutions, Mr. Speaker, which receive their subventions on the capital vote, others receive their subvention on the current vote.

You will find, for example, that the Agricultural Development Corporation gets its entire subvention as a capital subvention whereas in the case of the Transport Board we have a current subvention to cover losses and a capital subvention provides for purchase of equipment and so on.

The gap is too narrow for us to base an entire policy on something that does not exist in reality and hence the question arises: what can we say about the content of Government expenditure, what can we say about the manner in which it is being financed? In the course of this year what has really evolved in my view as the biggest financial problem for Government is the extent of the resource gap that remains to be closed after Government has totalled up its entire expenditure for the year to come and has settled upon the means of financing that gap.

Let me explain in very simple terms, Sir, that the Government intends to spend this year \$1.2 billion of which \$218 million is going to be capital expenditure, \$986 million is going to be current expenditure. It expects to have, before taxes, only \$905 million in its own revenue leaving a gap to be covered of somewhere in the vicinity of \$300 million.

The problem is that in the past a large proportion of Government's capital expenditure, sometimes as much as 40% of Government's capital expenditure, has been covered by concessional loans. What we are having this year is the problem of Government only being able to raise \$50 million in concessional financing to finance what is,

indeed, the largest ever capital programme in the history of this country. Numbers matter, Sir.

Last year Government estimated that it would have had \$70 million in concessional financing to finance the capital programme of \$170 million and where the Government is going to find its biggest problem is in carrying an expanding capital programme on the basis of reduced concessional financing.

I will go so far as to say this that it would appear to me that the Government of Barbados is now finding a difficulty in putting together a public investment programme that attracts concessional programming to the extent warranted by the circumstances.

We know already of the loss of World Bank funds for two major Government projects and where the Government will stand this year is that it will now have to draw very heavily on commercial banking credit and increased taxation to meet its overall financial problems and that, Sir, is the danger of allowing our overall fiscal deficit to rise as high as 10%.

The House, then, will discuss the question as to what then do we do about the expenditure for control in circumstances where the House, apparently, is agreed that Government must control its expenditure.

As far as I know, Sir, and in my experience, in relating to the Barbados economy, the only way by which a Government of Barbados can effect judicious cuts in its expenditures in a way that does not infringe on statutes is by controlling its capital expenditure. That is why I say it is vitally important at this juncture that the Minister of Finance see Government's expenditure as a whole and does not limit himself only to the current condition. He is not a housekeeper. He is, also, an investor and you must see both functions as a whole. We have gone this way before. 3.30p.m.

In the early years of the 1980s Barbados also had a position where balance of payment problems were being created purely by reason of the fact that Government was allowing its expenditure to grow at too fast a rate in relation to the general economy.

Now there is not a lot, Mr. Speaker, that you can do by way of adjusting current expenditures. Wages and salaries are largely set by law. You cannot do much to adjust debt payments. You cannot do much to adjust, and I do not believe there are a lot of savings to accrue from cuts in Government utility payments, cuts in Government supplies and materials. The area of chief discretion for any Government of Barbados that is concerned with managing its expenditures is in the area of the discretion that it has over its capital expenditures, particularly in a year such as the one which you are about to face when such a large

proportion of Government's capital expenditures have to come directly out of Government's revenues.

Mr. Speaker, the numbers in this respect are important. In 1981 Barbados recorded capital expenditures of \$173 million. They had risen from \$86 million two years previously. The biggest adjustment that was made and perhaps the only adjustment that we could have sensibly made to keep Government's overall spending under control so as to bring back balance in the balance of payments and to give Government a sound overall fiscal position was to make the necessary adjustments on the capital side. And the numbers, Sir, are part of our official history. To get Barbados back in balance, Sir, we cut expenditure from \$173 million in 1981 to \$112 in 1982, \$126 million in 1983, \$147 million... Sir, I am saying that we are going to be involved in a very sterile debate on how Government can deal with its expenditure problem unless we open up the entire debate or at this critical juncture, Sir, recognizing that the room for manoeuvrability is very limited on the current side. And hence if we go down the Minister of Finance's wicket on dealing only with the current position we are going to be lost. We have to see Government's total expenditure in all its various dimensions and discuss these Estimates, Mr. Speaker, intelligently with an eye to what can Government assume this year and what Government cannot assume this year, given the fact that it has a financial problem on the current side, and given the fact that too little of our capital programme now is attracting concessional financing. We must ask by how much must we increase spending on the capital side and what will be the repercussions on the balance of payments if these things were to happen?

I can tell you what the repercussions will be, Sir. If the Government were by any stretch of the imagination to attempt to put these Estimates into execution as they stand now, it will have to draw down immediately the \$80 million in reserves that it is holding in special deposits, the Japanese loan. Our reserve position in this country does not enable us to contemplate a drain of reserves in the immediate future as one of the chief ways by which Government should finance its overall operations. And I want to repeat that point, Sir: our overall reserves position do not enable us to look to a draw down on reserves as one of the principal ways by which we should finance Government operations.

The reason is, Sir, that if you were to look at the Central Bank statement of its external assets, you will find that the Central Bank's holding of reserves during the course of the last year has reflected what has been happening in the general economy. Our reserves increased last year largely because Government borrowed \$80 million from Japan and it put it in a special deposit. But for the Central Bank, on the other hand, the experience has been one in which the Central Bank reserves have been dropping from month to month reflecting the fact that there is an

underlying softness and weakness in Barbados' balance of payment that is only being camouflaged by the use of borrowed funds in order, Sir, to have a higher level of reserves.

Any policy of Government which puts a tremendous strain on the domestic banking system or the Central Bank this financial year to finance levels of Government expenditure that are too large when seen as a whole is a policy that is going to put this country, Sir, in an unsustainable financial position both in respect of the balance of payments and in respect, Sir, of Government's fiscal position.

Aside.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: The Minister of Finance, Sir, I am sure is anxious and waiting in his response to talk about the manner in which expenditures have been allowed to rise because he has inherited certain situations from the Barbados Labour Party and so on and so forth.

Asides.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: I saw a news item, Sir, where reference was being made to the fact that the Government of this day has to service a Japanese bullet loan. But I want to say this, that the Barbados Labour Party, Sir, ...

Aside.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: That is a fact. But it is also a fact that the Barbados Labour Party borrowed money from Japan, but we, even though we were facing an election did not use a cent of it. We put it in a special deposit at the Central Bank. It was there, Sir, straight throughout the period and it was used in one fell swoop as the Minister of Finance knows in that period between June and September of 1986 when the Democratic Labour Party tried to execute its massive fiscal adjustment. Therefore if you used the funds that were borrowed, do not cry now about having to service the debt.

And it is not, Sir, that I would make that point for the benefit of the Minister of Finance because the debt problem.....

Laughter.

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

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: The foreign exchange component of those funds were already utilized.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: The foreign exchange component. Because in the month of July, 1986 the Central Bank was actually meeting foreign exchange payments out of the sinking funds for foreign debt.

Mr. Q. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, I am sure that the Leader of the National Democratic Party and I will have a lot more opportunities to dilate on this particular issue. But I want to state

Mr. SPEAKER: You have two more minutes.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: I want to stand on the point as a matter, Sir, of public education that we borrowed the money from Japan but we put it into a special account at the Central Bank. It was there from September of 1985. When we left office in May, 1986 it was still there, Sir. And it was utilized in the period between June and September of 1986. If the funds were used by the Democratic Labour Party in all good conscience, Sir, it now stands to the responsibility of the Democratic Labour Party, Sir, to pay back the money that was borrowed and it used!

But I must come home, Sir, and I want to say this that the problem with these Estimates in a summary sense is that the Government is allowing the state, the public sector to grow at too rapid a rate in relation to the general economy. We do this, Sir, at our peril. The clearest evidence of it is to be found precisely in the fact that the overall deficit that the Government is seeking to preside over in these Estimates is one that its own Development Plan and the statements of the Minister of Finance recognize to be unmanageable.

We are also concerned on this side to hear from the Minister of Finance in relation to revenue out-turn beyond January. Because at the end of the day, Mr. Speaker, what these Estimates face the people of Barbados with is the likelihood of increased taxation.

And I am saying that if increased taxation stems only from bad forecasting, then we can well do with that unnecessary imposition upon the people of this country. And it would behove the House, Sir, to hear the Minister of Finance speak in a very forthcoming way as regards the latest position on Government's revenues so that we can be in a better position to discern whether the \$80 million in new taxation which is threatened is based upon sound and sober judgement or as we suspect on just bad financing and bad financial forecasting.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Speaker, Sir

Asides.

Hon. M. A. KING: I am at a bit of a loss to understand precisely how to marry the two positions of the.....

Aside.

Hon. M. A. KING:..... Members of the Opposition.

Laughter.

Aside.

Laughter.

3.40p.m.

Hon. M. A. KING: The Honourable Member for St. Peter, Mr. Speaker, has made the point that there is very little room for manoeuvrability in relation to these Estimates except in relation to the capital aspect of the Estimates. Now we do not have any quarrel with that in relation to the current Estimates because we have all been saying all along that the largest percentage of the current Estimates are taken up in statutory expenditure.

Asides.

Hon. M. A. KING: Well, Personal Emoluments. Now the Honourable Leader of the Opposition has made the point that Government expenditure is growing too fast, presumably in relation to our current expenditure and he makes the point that there seems to be a rapid growth in Other Personal Emoluments other than Statutory Emoluments.

Now in relation to most of the criticism which can be addressed against these Estimates I would wish that Members of the Opposition, both the NDP Opposition and the Barbados Labour Party Opposition, would in relation to the political issues which arise go and tell the public precisely what the score is on all these issues.

Now in relation to the financial debate. As a financial debate, one does not have a problem because if you are addressing purely financial issues you make the points in purely financial terms which you make in this House and you criticise the growth of expenditure and the need for Government to control expenditure, the need for Government to cut back its Capital programme and ensure that the finances do not get out of whack. But one has to recognise that in doing that certain consequences follow. I think it would be good for the country as a whole if all sides of the political fence would tell the public that when we have to ensure that the finances of the country are brought under control in the manner in which the principal Opposition wishes and in which the supplementary Opposition would wish.....

Asides.

Hon. M. A. KING: That there are certain consequences which would follow, Mr. Speaker. I would wish the Members of the Opposition to give us the details. I mean we did talk in general terms. Just a minute. Give us the details of the areas in which you wish the current expenditure cut to start with. All right, let us say...

Asides.

Hon. M. A. KING: No, you tell us the areas. Tell the public. You are saying that the expenditure has to be cut. So in general terms let us hear what they are. In relation to the capital expenditure tell the nation that in relation to the schools, for instance, that we cannot do any work on getting the schools up to date, that we cannot repair them, that we cannot provide new school buildings. Tell the police as well that we cannot give them new police stations, that we cannot repair the police stations which are in a state of dilapidation and disrepair due to the fault and the neglect of the Barbados Labour Party Opposition.

Asides.

Laughter.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order please. Order please. Order.

Hon. M. A. KING: Over the past 10 years prior to our coming into office

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of order, Sir, The Honourable Member knows - he has been in the Ministry of the Attorney General long enough and I hope he has read his files. The Honourable Member knows that by 1976 no new police station had been constructed in this country from 1961 to 1976 and repairs were not done. He started the programme that he himself has not even been able to carry out.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am also sure that all Honourable Members know that I have allowed Members who have spoken so far to speak in silence and I would like a similar respect to be paid to the Honourable Member who is now on his feet or about to get on his feet to speak.

Asides.

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Speaker, I am obliged to Your Honour for the intervention. I was making the point that the Honourable Member for Christ Church West has made the point that no repairs to police stations were done prior to 1976 is not quite accurate, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: He is misleading. He is misrepresenting. I said that no new police stations were built.

Hon. M. A. KING: Oh! Mr. Speaker, no problem with that. No police stations were built between 1961 and 1976.

Asides.

Hon. M. A. KING: No, no, no. He said 1976. A new police station was built at Oistins - yes, one new police station.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: At District A Police Station major work was done in the period of.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: I cannot allow 2 Members to be on their feet. I cannot allow 2 Members to be on their feet.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of order..... District "A" Police Station.

Hon. M. A. KING: Is it a new one?

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Yes, of course. You do not even know that.

Asides.

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Speaker, I am not going to confuse myself with this. I think the country knows that no work was done on police buildings, you know, over the past 10 years and we are faced now with a problem - and the Courts as well - where we have to spend a lot of money on restoring police stations, on getting the Courts up to date and building new Courts. I mean these are not illusions. These are real. There are lots of other buildings. Look at Marine House. I mean why is Marine House in the state in which it is? No repair work or reconstruction work has been done in relation to Marine House. Hilton Hotel, too much weight. Hilton Hotel, a mass of Government buildings all over the place and Government workers complaining left, right, and centre about the conditions under which they have to work and the physical environment which they have to work in. The National Union of Public Workers is complaining about it. The unions are complaining about the conditions under which Government workers are working and saying that Government should be setting an example. When we say that we have to spend money on things of this kind, the Opposition is saying - well look, you have to control your expenditure.

So what I am saying, Mr. Speaker, is that what the Opposition should do if they wish the Government to control its expenditure in this way to join with the Government and say let us tell the public of Barbados that this is the position and that if we are to control and manage the finances of the country in the way which is most desirable from a purely financial point of view, let us all go

together with one voice and tell the public of Barbados that this is the position, and let us not take political positions outside on the public platforms and in the hustings and when we come into Parliament say something else.

Laughter.

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Speaker, I agree with the Member for St. Peter when he makes the point that there is not much room for discretion. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition has made the essential point that what we are concerned about is the forecast of revenue. Now we have Estimates here. These are Estimates of Expenditure. They are not prophetic forecasts of what the position is. He makes the point that there has been gross underestimations in the revenue which have been available. But again where I am a little concerned is that, I believe it was the Leader of the Opposition who has made the point, that in relation to the taxation and Budgetary policies of the Minister of Finance in 1987 that they would have had such a depressing affect on the economy that the revenues which were available to Government as a result would thereby be minimized. Yet at the same time the leader of the Opposition is citing in every case where the predictions for revenue were exceeded by what was actually realized. 3.50p.m.

Which shows, for instance, that in relation to stamp duties where the suggestion was that if the Government's policies as enunciated had been carried into effect, that this would have an effect on the economic activity in the country. All that seems to have been belied by the figures shown in the Estimates and indicated by the Leader of the Opposition, because certainly he has shown that what has happened in relation to property transfer taxes, for instance, rather than a decrease in activity in that area there has been an increase in activity.

In relation to stamp duties, again the revenue has been more than anticipated, so that in all the areas where one would normally, I suppose, have anticipated, if we were accepting the position taken by the Leader of the Opposition, the revenues should have declined in all those areas, yet we see the revenues have increased.

How does one deal with the criticisms? You have a problem dealing with the criticisms if you are looking at them in purely financial terms, and if you are not ignoring the political content and the implications for the country which these have.

The Leader of the Opposition should be the one best able to recognise the problems created by this sort of argument, because I believe that one of the bases of which his whole financial programme was constructed was that it would need some time to work through the system, through the economy of Barbados, and that a concomitant of that would be cutting back so much money in taxes. It :mld be

important that the people throughout the length and breadth of Barbados understand that and would not make the demands for the same intervention by Government, the same level of intervention at all levels, and that the country would be prepared to hold strain whilst the necessary levels work through the economy.

But that second necessary concomitant was not there, so that the legitimate demand of people in Barbados for better roads was uttered throughout the length and breadth of the country. Better housing, I mean the roads again had been in a dilapidated state largely because of the neglect of the Barbados Labour Party Opposition over the past ten years. They did nothing much about the roads, and so they were in a chaotic position and we have had the problem of having to finance massive road repairs.

The Honourable Member for St. George South complained about the state of the roads in St. George. The Honourable Member for Christ Church East complained about the state of the roads in Christ Church East throughout the length and breadth of this country, and Honourable Members over there who were so critical of the lack of activity in their constituencies were not at the same time recognising that the Government had a problem in relation to financing all the works which needed to be financed and could not rush ahead and do all the work that was necessary in every single constituency.

My own constituency, Mr. Speaker, has suffered a lot as a result of not being able to get all the things which I would have wanted done in that constituency, but I am a Member of a political party and I recognise that sometimes we have to hold strain whilst we wait for things to happen. If all of us as political people in our own constituencies would recognise that you cannot in one breath say Government has to do all these things left, right and centre, and in the same breath say Government should not impose taxes. How is it possible, Mr. Speaker, for a Government to be all things to all men? As little taxation as possible and yet do as much work as you possibly can throughout the length and breadth of Barbados for all citizens of Barbados.

Aside.

Hon. M. A. KING: What do you mean I sound like Craig? Don't mind that, it is real, and that is what all of you have to understand.

Mr. Speaker, if these debates on financial and budgetary matters can be reduced to the level of pure debates on finance and budget and be kept at that level throughout the length and breadth of the country irrespective of where we are, I have no problem with them, but when one position is going to be adopted in this House in debate and a different position adopted in the political arena, that is where I have problems and that is where I

have great difficulty in accepting the representations made by the Opposition on issues of this kind.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr, Speaker, we have heard today about senior persons in non-statutory organisations and institutions manipulating the Estimates to suit themselves. We have heard about incompetence of persons in the Ministry of Finance who are so incapable of doing their work that they have, through ignorance, underestimated revenue. These are the same persons in the Ministry of Finance, Mr. Speaker, who were in there under the past administration. These are the same persons in the Ministry of Finance who were there when the now Leader of the Opposition was Minister of Finance, and it makes one wonder why it is that certain persons believe that they alone have the answers to everything.

Now you have heard that in the Ministry of Finance there are persons who would like to do this and who would like to do that, but when certain persons were in there they were not allowed to do this and they were not allowed to do that. I believe it is instructive, Mr. Speaker, to look at the Estimates in 1985-86, 1986-87 and 1987-88 to show that the manner of overestimating or underestimating revenue or expenditure - and in particular we deal with revenue - is nothing new. It is an estimate.

In 1985-86, Mr. Speaker, corporation tax was estimated to yield \$66 million and it only yielded \$54 million. In 1986-87 it was estimated to yield \$61 million and it yielded \$55 million. In 1987-88 it was estimated to yield \$74 million, it only yielded \$60 million. We can go back to 1985. Income tax was estimated to yield \$138 million but it yielded \$148 million. In 1986-87 it was estimated to yield \$159 million, it yielded \$80 million. Stamp duties in 1985-86 was estimated to yield \$53 million and it yielded \$70 million. 4.00 p.m.

So you can see that the whole idea of overestimating or underestimating did not start after the present Prime Minister or the present holder of the office took up the Ministry of Finance. This was going on throughout the years and it has nothing to do, as was spoken by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, the Leader of the Opposition, with who was Minister of Finance. It is an estimate and it has to remain as an estimate. You overestimate or you underestimate and it is a simple matter.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Has the Honourable Member given way. The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central has risen on a point of elucidation.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: I will give way any time.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: The Honourable Member has to compare Estimates with Estimates without the intervention of a Budget. In other words, the years that he has chosen in each instance was a year in which the Estimates would have been presented before the Budget and would be modified by the Budget. What you need to compare are Estimates with Estimates.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker, let me just turn to the right page. In all of these books, Mr. Speaker, you have Estimates and Revised Estimates. These were the figures that were being used by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central. He was using the Estimates and Revised Estimates for the same year. It does not matter to me; he can say this was a year when you did not have a Budget or the Budget came late or came early; that does not concern me. I see here Estimates and Revised Estimates and those were the figures he was using. Do not come and split any hairs with me now.

Let me go further, Mr. Speaker. The same persons who were predicting when he was there and at the time when your humble servant was there are the same persons who are predicting now and they have been predicting the same way all along. In fact, they are better now.

Mr. Speaker, I think we need to go further. The question I would like to ask the Honourable Leader of the Opposition is, did he agree with the expenditure last year of \$801.9 million or did he oppose it? I do not remember whether he opposed it or whether he agreed with the expenditure. He can afford to say whether he agreed with it or whether he was against it.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as was spoken by the Honourable Member for Christ Church West Central, my view is that the past administration could have kept down expenditure because of the many things that the Honourable Member for Christ Church West Central spoke about; the police station, the schools. If you look at this year's Estimates, Mr. Speaker, the coming Estimates, you will see that the main increases in expenditure are for Education, \$26 million and Health, \$22 million. Now in that \$26 million for Education would have to be repairs to dozens of schools in Barbados. Are we to tell the people in Barbados that we are not going to repair the school in order to keep expenditure down? Are we to say that the Geriatric Hospital where the urine comes down on people's heads is not to be repaired because we want to keep expenditure down?

I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, that during last year's Estimates debate I was on the balcony speaking with the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central and what he did state to me was that there was nothing wrong with the revenue; our problem was the expenditure, and I asked him "but what would you cut?" He said, "Man it does not matter what you cut; you have to cut it." These are the sort of superficial answers you get when you are dealing

with things like this. What are you going to cut? You would have to cut staff, Mr. Speaker, because we heard today that the comparison was being made that in 1985-86 the past administration was only expending \$635 million whereas we today are projecting to spend \$986 million. What the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central completely ignored or refused to state was that in 1985-86 personal emoluments amounted to \$247.9 million. In these Estimates Personal Emoluments amount to \$407.2 million. How are you going to keep expenditure to \$660 million if your Personal Emoluments are \$407 million? Are you going to employ people to do nothing? How therefore are you going to cut down expenditure unless you want us to cut staff? If you have staff you have to have something for them to do. How are they going to do it? They are going to give you full employment.

Anyhow, Mr. Speaker, I will go further. The Honourable Member said that excess funds on balance of payments in his view only means we are lending money to the rest of the world.

Now, Mr. Speaker, in 1987, I think it was January, when the same Honourable Member was going to Japan for the Japanese loan, he made a statement then that the money he was going for was to put aside in order to repay debt that had been incurred before. It was like putting aside something for a rainy day. In fact the Honourable Member for St. Peter said this on more than one occasion when we were sitting in the Senate, that what the Barbados Labour Party did was to borrow when the interest rate was low and put it into a sterile account so that you could repay later, but now you are hearing something quite contradictory to what he said in 1987, that if you have excess funds, what you are doing to all intents and purposes - and I wrote it down - is lending to the rest of the world money. So this is completely different. When he was Minister of Finance it was putting aside for a rainy day; now it is lending to the rest of the world. I mean the Leader of the Opposition*

Now, Mr. Speaker, I heard a statement today as well that the Minister of Finance now seems not to be able to control supplementaries. Now I am a Minister and I know that that is not so. I am telling you and any Minister here will tell you that could not be so, because, Mr. Speaker, we know the problems we had to get any supplementaries this year, but you could not get out of them. 4.10p.m.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael West can tell you the problems he had to get a supplementary. All of us know the problems we had to get supplementaries but suddenly you hear now the Minister of Finance is easy. He cannot tell you "No". He finds it difficult to say "No" and these are the sort of things you are hearing today.

Aside.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker, the point we have to make is this that with an economy like Barbados which is an open economy, it is difficult to keep down expenditure. In any open economy and in an economy like Barbados, especially where we provide so much social services for people, it is going to be very difficult to keep down expenditure because we provide a lot of social services for the people of Barbados. If you want to keep down expenditure you will have to cut your social services or you will have to cut your staff. It is obvious that you have to do one or the other. In fact, and I have recommended this to quite a few persons. There is a book named "The Triumph of Politics"

Aside.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: I brought one in here too. I just wanted to read it, not bring it, and in the United States....

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Now I hear some plagiarisnrf going on in this place.

Let it be recorded that during the Budget Debate in June 1986 I produced a volume of Stockman's Book - he does not even know the author - "The Triumph of Politics" and read into the Debate the fly-leaf which said that the cut-back in taxes in the United States under the Reagan Government was an illusion. I read that in the records.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker, I do not know what point of order that was.

The point I am getting at is this. In 1980 or 1981 when President Reagan ran for office and got in he ran on the promise of tax cuts which would be commensurate or balanced with a cut in expenditure. The expenditure cuts that he had proposed were cuts in subsidies to orphans and things like that, and having got in he discovered that no representative would ali^w that to happen to any of his constituents and, therefore, the United States economy, despite the fact that it is growing every year, cutting unemployment every year, it is still running up a deficit of over \$100 billion every year.

The point I am trying to make, Mr. Speaker, is this. The United States found it difficult to cut expenditure even although that was an industrialised country and almost a closed economy. How it is that Barbados is going to cut its expenditure in the manner that person over there are trying to tell us that we can cut expenditure.

Aside.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: That document, and I am glad you hold up that document because in that document it also said that our tax concessions will also be balanced by cuts in expenditure. We also said that we would be getting

rid of those loss-making entities, all of those entities that have been loss-making, enterprises, all of them.

Aside.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: That is true. That is what was said in there and, in fact, in 1986 when we got in after the Democratic Labour Party became the Government of this country, those loss-making utility companies, instead - well, you have to say, the point is that since we said that we would have got rid of them, we started to get rid of some of them.

Caribbean Airways is not really a loss-making industry in Barbados today so we are doing that but we have to do that with a lot of other things.

The Prime Minister said recently that he is trying to make the collection of taxes a more efficient system so the point is that you just cannot get up a morning and decide, okay you are going to cut expenditure here. There are things you have to do and it has to be worked over a period.

I put this down to the same statement that all parties that one gentleman belonged to and all the people in it were wrong except him and all of a sudden now one gentleman knows how to run CBC properly, he knows how to get white and black work, live peacefully together, he knows how to run the economy, he knows how to get full employment, he knows everything. So he is God Almighty.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, at this stage of the proceedings before we get into Committee, I think the technical framework has been set and been discussed.

The Prime Minister, the Honourable Member for St. Peter and the Leader of the Opposition have dealt with the nitty-gritty of the figures, the arithmetic, but the Attorney General recognized that it was time to speak as a politician.

Mr. SPEAKER: This is not a time for free for all. The debate must still continue in the same framework.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The Labour Party has never believed in all of this freeness. That is reserved for the promises of the Democratic Labour Party in an election year.

What I understand the principle this debate revolves around, Mr. Speaker, is whether in 1989 the Barbados economy and, more particularly, Government's finances can stand public sector expenditure of a total magnitude of \$1.2 billion, \$986 million on current and \$218 on capital and if the country can stand that kind of expenditure without the incurring of burdens on the taxpayers, of several different types of taxpayers, then we have no

problem. But as the numbers have come out, it appears that there will be a short-fall of revenue of about \$80 million that will require some stimulation of revenues by some method which the Prime Minister would have in his breast as Minister of Finance to close that gap. 4.20 p.m.

Now this level of public expenditure has to be judged against the stated policies of the Democratic Labour Party enunciated more particularly in 1986 that the country was over taxed, there was a need for tax relief, there would have been some loss to the revenue by reason of various removals of taxation, and that it would have been all sweetness, and light provided that expenditures were held down.

So that all of them over there, all and my four brethren who have now come over here in 1986 signed in the back of this Manifesto a pledge or had signed for them by the then Mr. Barrow a pledge accepting all of the statements

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You all say you still do. They say you still do not. That is a matter for you all.

Laughter.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: A statement that the Democratic Labour Party proposes to match the net loss to the revenue arising from the tax proposals by a corresponding reduction in expenditure, in relation to the Approved Estimates of Expenditure for that year.

You go on now and - I am going to put some licks in you shortly - "We have estimated this amount to be \$53 million. However estimates of the gross tax loss made by officers of the Ministry of Finance indicate that the net tax loss could be in the vicinity of \$60 million."

I have to set the historical background. Because we were then sitting on this side in Government when the Chair was that side, Sir. And I well remember that the officials in the Ministry of Finance prepared a statement which was signed and which was read into the Records of this House by the then Minister of Finance, Mr. St. John that in fact the proposals which were announced, the Budget Debate of 1986, would cost in the vicinity of \$109 million. And the whole thing was pooh-poohed by the Democratic Labour Party.

In fact I am satisfied that the public of Barbados took Mr. Barrow at his word when he said in his final speech in that Budget Debate that the Democratic Labour Party had been studying these things for seven and a half months on computers. And he said from there that I give the public the assurance and I had fifteen years as Minister of Finance that it would not cost more than \$35 million. The public bought

that. That is one of the biggest lies ever told in any part of the whole world.

Laughter.

Mr. SPEAKER: Now, whether in or out a Member does not tell lies in Parliament. I am going to ask the Honourable Member to withdraw that.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: What do you want me to do, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: Withdraw that.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: That it was a lie that Barrow told?

Mr. SPEAKER: You do not tell lies in Parliament. You know that very well.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I have hear many.

Mr. SPEAKER: You can tell them but I will not allow them to be recorded in Parliament.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I will withdraw it, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Of course.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You can strike it from the Record. I am going to talk it Sunday night in Weston. I would not withdraw it down there.

Aside

Mr. SPEAKER: I made a statement today in this House. The principle on which good Parliamentary language is interpreted, good temper. If I make a ruling and Honourable Members seem not to enjoy that ruling, I will not accept the kind of reaction that will suggest to me that the Chair may be disrespected. I just made that statement.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: But, Sir, I have not disrespected you at all. I said I withdraw it. I cannot help talking without moving my hands. I said I withdraw it.

Aside

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: We have not under estimated anything. The public of this country was led to believe that expenditure in the public sector could be controlled.

And now today the Minister of Housing got up in here and said it is difficult in an open economy to control expenditure. He should have known that in 1986 May. All the talk about, you should go out as politicians and tell the

public the truth, you all should have done it in 1986. They are now hoisted on their own petard, Sir. That is the truth.

Now what are we involved in? A situation where in a Development Plan as mentioned by the Honourable Member for St. Peter at page 47 the Prime Minister and the Government of Barbados committed themselves to reducing the deficit on the overall account from the 7.6% of GDP recorded in 1987 to approximately 2% of GDP. That is a stated policy. And instead of- and this only came out at the end of last year...

Aside

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: ... and within two months and at a time when this came out, Government would have been preparing the Draft Estimates because all of the Estimates Meetings would have been held towards the end of the year 1988, Government refused, and particularly the Minister of Finance who would have presided over the Estimates Meetings refused to exercise the control that would have been consonant with the stated policy in this Development Plan to hold down ...

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. Could we have the page ...

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Page 47.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: ... so that we could read it.

Aside

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am being told by the Minister of Housing that it went on to say over a period of time. Well over a period of time, let us go back to 1988, April 28th when the Minister of Finance in his Budgetary Statement said a similar thing. He has had a year ...

Aside

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: - Forty-seven - ... and instead of moving from 7.6 let us say to 5, he has gone from 7.6 to over 10%.

So that the policy as written on paper which is easy to do does not harmonize with the reality of sitting in the Chair as Minister of Finance and presiding over Government expenditure.

And indeed, Sir, the real issue before the House in these Estimates is the question of financial leadership by the Minister of Finance. That is the issue! Whether he has, as Minister of Finance the strength to lead in such a way as to say, in the national interest I cannot grant you this or grant you that. That is really what it is all about. But how can he do it? That is an ideal that I am postulating because given the reality of political dissension in the Democratic

Labour Party, his hands have been tied. The Minister of Finance needs to have friends. He needs support. When any of the twenty come to him and say that they must have this in their constituency or they must have that, he cannot refuse them, otherwise they would come over here.

Laughter

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: And he knows that. That is the reality of the political bind. That is how the Democratic Labour Party has been forced to operate.

Aside

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Who came to you? Nobody has come to you. They are leaving you.

Aside

4.30p.m.

That is the truth of the matter, Sir, and that is why they cannot control Government expenditure. The Attorney General recognized that that was the problem. Skillful lawyer that he is, he was able to move it out of the realm of the political and put it into the realm of the Public Service and so he was making a case. Well, we have to do things for the police. They are acting up. They need improvements to the stations, that is how he put it. But the truth is that he knows that is a camouflage. The real thing is that the politicians on that side have demands to make. I hope they make some on your behalf too, Mr. Speaker, because you cannot talk in here for anybody. You have to listen. Now we understand we do not get anything. We understand that we are not to get. People from MTW are in here. We understand, for example, that Government expenditure in MTW will be concentrating in 1989 and 1990 principally in St. Michael.

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker, that is an unmitigated and unadulterated untruth and the Honourable Member

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: The word "liar" is not permitted as a word in Parliament. The word "liar" is not permitted.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Untruth is permitted.

Mr. SPEAKER: But you can vary your interpretation.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: He has said what I have said.

Mr. SPEAKER: He has not said that you are a liar: He did not say that you are a liar.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am an unmitigated untruthful person. That is calling me a liar.

Laughter.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: That is what he said.

Mr. SPEAKER: But he did not use the word "liar": I am going according to the words.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You leave it. I will deal with you. Finished.

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: You cannot deal with me man. Mr. Speaker, in the fullness of time in this debate plans of the Ministry of Transport and Works will unfold including the reason why a substantial sum of the money that is voted in this House has to be spent on roads because of a crass, almost criminal dereliction of responsibility in the matter of road maintenance on the part of the Barbados Labour Party. I will go into that later.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, because you are not allowed to make a speech at this time.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I hope to get a chance to debate MTW because I will bring the document 2 pages that shows at the top that the policy is to do all the roads in St. Michael.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Let me finish.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: They promised to do two in St. Thomas - Dukes and Lions Castle. You are not going to do that at all now.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: But I understand the policy. The policy is, of course - you see there is a relief that everybody sooner or later comes to town and when they come to town and see all the roads done and so on, they feel that the Government is really working. They are spending all this capital that we are talking about today on the roads.

Now they say election is not tomorrow. That is what I was looking for, Sir, because one of the reasons why Government is not concerned about the control of capital expenditure is that at this mid-term Government thinks that it is absolutely necessary to do repairs to its public image with a view to softening up the country for election. I had the page marked in my copy of the Estimates and somebody

seem to have moved them from my desk, Sir. I have not moved them. But if Your Honour looks under Head 15 I think it is - I will find it for you, Sir. I will find it in due course. I had it specially marked in my thing. I cannot find it under the Leader of the Opposition. You will see - all right, good. Do not mind Henry. You had it all the time. On Page 20 of the Estimates, Sir, and on the no man, that is not the one.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: That is not the one. I want to show them where they are planning to build a lot of ballot boxes.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Just bear with me a minute, Sir, because there is a very interesting note at Page 20 on the opposite page, Page 21 - Note 25. The money of \$176,350 is being voted this year to purchase 250 polling booths, 300 polling station boxes, 300 locks, 3 computer terminals, 2 printers, 1 electronic typewriter and word processor, 10 card index cabinets and metal press shelves, 3 tables, a fridge, air-conditioner, tables and so on. You hear them shouting over there that election is down the road. They are getting in line very, very early. Read your Estimates and see. They bought the ballot boxes and so on. They used to be made by the prisoners - in a hurry. All of a sudden 2½ years before the date the boxes and the booths and so on are to be built. I am grateful that the efforts of the Barbados Labour Party and the NDP have forced the Government into the realization that in the public interest they ought to have an election soon rather than later. I am glad. So they are making adequate preparation and we will force them into an election before 1991 - mark my word at the appropriate time.

Now because they are planning for an election and because they have to expend money by way of sweeteners, there can be no control with the Democratic Labour Party of capital expenditure. That is the political reality behind the numbers. I said we were done with the arithmetic earlier. We now have to put these Estimates in a political setting and context and that is it, Sir. That the Government is unable to control expenditure for these reasons: (a) Because the Prime Minister himself, as Minister of Finance, does not have the political will or strength to control expenditure. He knows it. He knows that there must be control. He has said it publicly. He said it last year during the Estimates for public consumption, but the reality is that he cannot do it for fear of his own political position, (b) Secondly, the security of his own political position then if you want to hear it.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Never lost. He never lost when Barrow was around to help him and prop him up. It will be a different story next time.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: He had lost before.
4.40 p.m.

Secondly, Sir, they cannot control expenditure because the Government has abandoned its Development Plan and is scrambling around madly, now that the Capital projects which they inherited have come to an end, to find Capital projects to maintain employment. This is important, Sir, for the reason that it tells us something about Government's fiscal planning. When the Capital projects were coming to an end, surely one would have expected Government's Capital Expenditure also to be reducing, but the reality is that the main projects have come to an end and despite that, the Government is still projecting to spend \$218 million in Capital Works this year without having any^k co-ordinated plan for Capital development.

There was concern expressed that there is no way that expenditure could be controlled in Barbados on the Capital side. It is difficult in an open economy to control expenditure. That is what the Member for St. Philip South said, Sir. It is difficult if they do not have, as I say, the political will, and alternatively if they do not have the intelligence or the ideas to deal with the control of expenditure.

We have in Barbados today \$24 million being expended next to Ilaro Court to build a large hall for people to write examinations in. Show me how that is going to be a productive enterprise in five years. A waste of money. You have St. Joseph Hospital that has been bought now for two years and vines and grasses are growing through the St. Joseph Hospital bought for \$6 million. A waste of \$6 million. That is \$30 million. The Bridgetown Fishing Harbour has been done, it is projected to be opened some time next month, I believe. That has been less than productive since its completion. That is not a waste of money, you have wasted money in not opening it early enough.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: And poison people? That is a matter for you. The Honourable Member for St. Michael West, were it not for the Supervisor a lot of Bajans would get poisoned from the bad chicken.

The gantry crane, about which there will be more debate, is lying down there for two years. Another \$6 million. And do not believe it is only the politicians who are talking about these things. Do not fool yourself. The man in the street, John Public and Jane Citizen are disgusted at the

way how Government has been just languishing and allowing the hard earned money to just lie idle in Barbados and not be productive.

I had to say in here a few months ago, Sir, that there were some houses that had been built over a year ago in Fairfield and the grass was all around them tall, not one of them opened. After I spoke in here, the Nation or the Advocate newspaper carried a photograph of them. I believe they may be open now and people are living in them, but for months they were there closed up. I challenged the Minister of Housing to deny that that was so, when there is a demand for housing.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Oh, he admits it.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN. On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Those houses in Parkinson, like the houses in Oxnards, have been allocated to people. So you cannot go and force the people who have bought the houses to go into them. When the people are ready to go in they will go in. It is their business when they want to go in. You are getting on as though they were rental units that we had to rent out and that we did not rent out. They are houses that had been sold.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I listened to that. You are going to tell me somebody agrees to buy a house - not somebody, there are probably eight or ten of them up there - but this is a very strange circumstance. I am not in a position to dispute it, I do not believe that eight or ten people will buy the eight or ten houses up there and none of them would be ready to move in them for months. What foolishness is this? Am I expected to believe that?

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: There were 22? And all closed up for a long time? I know people have now gone into them, after there had been an exposure. It is nonsense to come in here and tell us that a bunch of people have bought, not agreed to buy.....

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

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You are the Minister of bad chicken. What are you getting up on? We are not talking about that.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, I will not ask you to make him withdraw that. I wish it to go in the record so he can see it and be embarrassed later on, because I know he does not mean to behave like that.

Mr. SPEAKER: He did not refer to any Honourable Member in here, as far as I gather. Neither do we have any Minister of such.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. I have knowledge of the area, I have knowledge of the specific area and of the specific houses. It is right next door to a piece of land that is very dear to me. I happen to know that they had some technical problems with the mortgaging. They had more than 22 people lined up for the houses. The Honourable Member is misleading the House if he, suggests that there was some administrative difficulty with the houses. It was a technical problem with the mortgaging. They had more people ready to buy houses cash than they had houses.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: That is the point I am making, Sir. There was such a great demand for housing and yet these houses were still there closed up for months, to the extent that grass was all up by the windows. I am not accepting any of the answers from the other side, especially when the Minister of Health talks about technical problems. When he talks about technical adjustments, we know what that means. Salary increases.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, last year at a similar time the Minister of Finance complained that the then Opposition should not quarrel about the level of Government expenditure because whenever supplementaries came up in that financial year the Opposition supported the passage of the various Resolutions. Now this year supplementaries have been brought in this House to the value of \$140 or \$150 million.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member's time has gone, but in view of the number of interruptions I have allowed you another two minutes or so.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Yes, Sir, I am much obliged. The Honourable Attorney General is saying that they are suffering great political injury from my speech, so they deserve some time. 4.50p.m.

Hon. M. A. KING: On a point of order, the Honourable Member is misleading the House, Mr. Speaker, in suggesting that I talked about injury time which he is suffering. What I had said was that Your Honour was giving the Honourable Member time for the injury which he has suffered during the course of his speech, injury time; that's how it is known in football.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I just want to wind up, because I will say this is like five one-days and we really have not got into the meat yet. When we come to the Heads and you are out of the Chair, that will be a different ball game. But the Government has to explain to the public how is it that in less than three calendar years Government

expenditure which ought to have been controlled on their avowed policy has nonetheless escalated by \$400 million approximately, and at the same time unemployment has not come down below 17 per cent on an annualised basis. I am not talking about the seasonal thing of the first quarter and' so on. I am talking about the 17.8 per cent which has not come. Apart from the Sherbourne complex which is being characterised as a waste of money, the only original capital project that can be seen is that arch across the road. The time will come shortly when this Government will have to account to the mass of the electorate. They are lucky that tourism has been holding up.

Mr. SPEAKER: Wind up your speech.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The day that the tourism industry in this country suffers a set back, and God forbid, the Government will be really put to the severe test to find alternatives, because this Government has done everything in its power to kill the export earning capacity of this country. We will hear some more about that later on. I am obliged to you.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until 5.20 p.m.

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

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

ON RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is now resumed. The

Honourable Member for St. Michael North East.

Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, I never like to miss an opportunity when matters relating to the improvement of my constituents come under review, and I would welcome this opportunity in supporting this Appropriation Bill to make the point that the fact that I am today a Member of Parliament springs from the concerns which the people of the St. Michael North East constituency had in 1986 for the things that were left undone, and I have been campaigning every since to have some remedy in this regard.

In this review I would just, not in a very long discourse, wish to state that things had been very stagnant in 1986. In 1987 we had not had in that constituency any improvement. Indeed things began to happen in 1988 and what had been done in 1988, Mr. Speaker, still leaves a lot to be done.

Now I want to be very real in my approach to the solution of problems which I have in my constituency and certainly the problems which all parliamentary representatives in this country must admit they face from time to time. If we are to have improvements, Mr. Speaker, there is no point in talking about the amount of money that Government has to spend to effect remedy in those areas and at the same time say to people in your respective constituencies that Government is not doing anything in certain areas of deficiency.

The Honourable Attorney General made mention of a number of areas of concern which fall under his Ministry which the Government intends to address during the period. In listening to the Honourable Member for St. Thomas I got the impression that he too needed to have something done in his constituency; so there is no point, Mr. Speaker, in our blowing hot and cold and making it appear that we are so concerned about the taxes which people have to pay and that there should not be any measure of taxation, but at the same time complaining that Government is unable to provide the services which the people desire and require.

I have to say on behalf of the people in my constituency that the road works effected so far have brought a measure of satisfaction to them, but they have been saying to me that there are other things which they need. Having had between the period 1986-87 to make explanations to them that the resources of Government could not at that stage provide the things which they needed, I still have at this point to tell them while they have got a little bit, they have to hold a little strain and we are going to do a little better. That is the reality and I cannot come in here and agree that Government should not be raising funds when I need these things being done in my constituency, and I do not believe that I could look at either one of the Honourable Members in this Parliament to consider that everything is so good with them that they have no complaints. In view of the fact that I still need to have a Day Care Centre in my constituency; still need to have the school at St. Matthews - which the last administration had planned to close and amalgamate with another school in St. John - resited within the constituency to alleviate the problems which my constituents face as a result of lack of school places; need to have house spots in my constituency that could satisfy the needs of the people who have the aspiration of owning their own small chattel houses but have nowhere to put them; need to have an improvement in the service of natural gas to my constituents, if there is anything that must inform my political responsibility, it is that of honesty to the people whom I represent. 5.30p.m.

I am not going at any stage to hold back on that purely for making any political noises. If I have to tell the people of my constituency what the story is at a given time I am prepared to tell them but I am prepared to fight for them to have these things addressed as soon as possible.

As far back as 1974, Mr. Speaker, the people of Hothersal Turning were asking for a hard court in that area. I have to say, Sir, that today they are feeling a lot happier because the hard court is under construction and nearing completion.

The abandoned project which was started at the corner of Alleynes Land and Bush Hall Main Road, known as the corner of Bush Hall Yard Gap, I have also to report, Sir, that that is nearing completion. The area adjacent to it is now being beautified and providing for the young people of that area a play park for the children.

Now, these things, Mr. Speaker, I understand, and the people in my constituency understand, take money. If I have, therefore, to make out a case to them that the policies of the Democratic Labour Party Government require their assistance by way of taxation, require their assistance by way of understanding, that all of us must bear the brunt, then I will do it and do it gladly because I think we should avoid at all levels just trying to say things because we feel those are the things people want to hear. What I believe the people want to hear is truth and when once you can make a genuine effort of speaking the truth to convince them that their case is best dealt with in the way that we are doing it, Sir, I believe that you will eventually be on the right side.

I do not understand, Sir, some of the points raised by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, especially as it relates to the provision of services and the provision of employment for the people of this country.

I do not know that there was ever the feeling within the Democratic Labour Party that the provision of jobs would have been left solely to the private sector. The very life of the Democratic Labour Party has, to some extent, been involved in priming the employment pump of the country as it were. I feel very surely that any administration which has the interest of its citizens at heart and which would wish not only to say that they are going about the interest of the people but to demonstrate it in a positive way, I believe that administration would be reckoned and looked upon as being worthy of the support which they have been given.

I have no difficulty, Sir, as I said earlier, in explaining to the people of my constituency why they are expected to meet whatever short-fall there might be. What is very surprising, Sir, is that there have been some accusations of high levels of taxation that we can expect but nobody seem to think that they should ask firstly how do you expect to close the gap.

One has to reflect, Sir, on this little country of ours. We can all feel proud when we have people coming to our shores and going away with the very proud comments that they have come to this country and that they have enjoyed it as a beautiful and peaceful country.

I think, therefore, Sir, as leaders in our country we should strive at all times to strike a kind of balance. No one expects people with different political ideologies, different political persuasions to agree to all things but, certainly, the things that we say should always go out as giving people the facts of the situation given the circumstances in which we operate. I would wish if I could make a contribution that is worthy of being in this Parliament which is to support this Bill on the count that it seeks, in my view, to put its money where its mouth is, that is, to provide a better way of life for the people of this country.

I thank you, Sir.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Mr. Speaker, I had no intention really of getting involved in the debate at this stage but in as much as the Attorney General and the Minister of Housing have, I must, in keeping with my designated responsibilities and duties respond to certain things that both of them have said.

Now, Sir, the Attorney General in his presentation made two submissions and I would say that largely these submissions have been supported by the Minister of Housing and Lands.

The first submission that the Attorney General made was that the two Opposition Parties, namely, the NDP Opposition and the BLP Opposition in this Honourable House should tell the people of this country how the expenditures should be trimmed. In other words, rather than complain about Government overspending, that it should be our responsibility and our duty to go a little further and say how as the alternative Government we would be able to trim that expenditure.

The second submission was basically one which said that expenditure had escalated under the past BLP administration in that that administration did not attend to the provision of certain basic social services and it now falls on the DLP administration to correct this deficiency or whatever.

Now, in relation to this submission, Sir, the NDP in due course will explain to this country how expenditure could be trimmed and the areas in which that expenditure could be controlled. The Democratic Labour Party in its new path Manifesto, if it may be so called, had carefully outlined at page 6 of that Manifesto how it had proposed to attend to the issue of expenditure control and I would want to quote certain passages of that page in demonstrating the point which I want to make to this Honourable House.

One significant point that was made at page 6 of this document which is now a document of the House was that the capital programme for the year 1986/87 will be rescheduled to extend over 16 months, instead of 12 and the rescheduling will be designed to reduce planned capital

expenditure from \$188.5 million to \$149 million. The point that comes over to me is that over the five year period that this Manifesto is supposed to address, that there would have been a rescheduling over that period of certain capital expenditures and so on.

The point is that it has to do with the selection of certain capital projects, if I may use the area of capital projects as an example, and spread those projects over a five year period rather than placing pressure on Government expenditure by trying to implement all of the things that the Minister of Housing and Lands averted to in his presentation. 5.40 p.m.

In other words, okay, we know that the police buildings need refurbishment, the geriatric hospital at Beckles Road needs to be remodelled and so on, repaired and renewed. So that Sir, it was just a question and a matter of planning the repair and renewal of these buildings, the refurbishment whatever, Sir, over a 5 year period of time to get away from the aspect of. pressure that I referred to earlier on. So that is the first thing that comes out of the DLP Manifesto position on expenditure. I am saying that 1986-87 is but an example of the principle that I am referring to. I do not think that it merely relates to that period. But the principle should be applied over a five year period, Sir.

Now if I am hearing.,

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member would not, I do not think he is doing it deliberately. For example the geriatric hospital is in fact within the Development Plan being done over a period of time. Only one wing has been completed. The second wing is being completed. And it is being done over a period of time. The \$186 million referred to on page 6 of the Manifesto, the reduction in the capital that is outlined in the Manifesto related to reduction over a period of time. That is how the five year capital plan is operating in the Development Plan for the Democratic Labour Party Government.

I just think the Honourable Member would wish to be aware that that is the actual fact.

Mr. R P. BYER: Sir, if I may reply to what the Honourable Member said. There are two things that come out of what he says. And I would want to make my position very clear.

Firstly I am using the geriatric hospital as an example of the point I am trying to make. And secondly I am saying that even though what I referred to refers to a particular year 1986-87, the general point that emerges from that is that if a matter of course one wanted to restrict oneself to a particular year 1986-87, that as a general princip^T it still

holds good over a five year period. In other words what I am saying, Sir, is that development could be planned over a five year period in a way that you need not place pressure on Government spending by, as it were, bunching projects in one year. That is all the point I am making. I am not trying to mislead the House in any way. I am very clear I think about what I am saying. And I was merely using the geriatric hospital as an example of the principle I wanted to put before this House.

The other point, Sir, has to do with this, and this is another selection from the DLP Manifesto where it says at page 6 again that: "All Ministries will be asked to identify expenditure cuts equivalent to two per cent of the Approved Current Estimates of Expenditure." That also is a principle upon which the DLP's approach to the control of expenditure was based. It was predicated on that principle. This is what the Democratic Labour Party went to the country with, it laid bare before the country what their approach to expenditure control was. And this is contained * in this document.

Asides.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Now I am hearing voices from over the other side and I wonder if this is but yet another repudiation of this document.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please, Order.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: But I cannot allow

Mr. R. P. BYER: I will go on, Sir, to make another point. I do not know what the noise is all about because I am not

Mr. SPEAKER: You are not responding to that.

Mr. R. P. BYER: I am sorry, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: What I want to say to Members, if you make an aside, it is not to be held as a speech. And this is the problem we are having that asides are made and they end up as if they are speeches being made. Only one Member can speak at a time and I presume that is the order of the day.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Sir, I do not understand what is the problem. I want to make a point, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: You do not have to respond to asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order; Sir. I will explain to him, Sir. He has said and they continue to say that they operate on principle.

Mr. SPEAKER: Who is he?

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The Honourable Member has said that they operate on principle.

The principle is that if you are using page 6 and you are using it to make a point, do not talk about "if we repudiate." We said we would cut 2% and we did. The Leader of the Opposition was the Minister of Finance when we did. So when you talk about repudiations, you are casting aspersions on all of us. And I am saying that you can ask him the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central because he did what we said we would do. That is the point of principle.

Mr. R. P. BYER: I will have to respond to that, Sir, he said it on a point of order, so I have to respond to it. Because there is no deviation from principle as far as I am concerned, Sir, as far as the NDP is concerned. I am making a point.

The point that I made and I believe that the Honourable Member has misunderstood, and I am not trying to cast any aspersions anywhere, Sir. The point about it, Sir, is that we said that there would be a 2% cut of the Approved Estimates, Ministries would have been asked to identify that. But it goes on further, Sir, and I had not finished making the point.

So that the Honourable Member is trying to pre-empt the point I was trying to make or pre-empt me. That is the point, and this point demonstrates. Sir, that it does not refer just to one year. Because it goes on to say, Sir, that "The expenditure cuts made under (2),' which is what I said before," will be reversed on a priority basis, when savings on various approved items of expenditure materialize, in the normal course of events. Under no circumstances will there be a reduction in the services or jobs provided by Government. Our aim shall be to deliver better services, in a more efficient manner." This is what it goes on to say, Sir.

So to say that I am, as it were, not placing a proper interpretation on what is contained in the Manifesto is casting aspersions, Sir, on me! That is where the aspersions are now being cast. So I just want the Honourable Member to get in his head that any time I make a point in here, it is made in good faith. I do not get involved in so much politics, Sir. I want to deal with issues and so on. I just want to put a fair interpretation on what I see before me. I am trained in the Law and I appreciate proper interpretations placed on matters of this kind, Sir. That is all the point I want to make.

Aside.

Mr. R. P. BYER: I believe, Sir, I am quite right in my retort. If the Honourable Member wants to make a response, the time will come when he will do that. So do not try to cast aspersions on me.

I want to go on a little further, Sir. And it is this, that at this stage, Sir, I would want to say that the Prime Minister's Estimates have exposed the bad fiscal judgment and mismanagement of the DLP administration. This point, Sir, was demonstrated very ably by the Leader of the Opposition and by the Member for St. Peter. And I would want to continue by saying, Sir, that the basis upon which the 1988-89 tax increases were predicated led ultimately to a repudiation, Sir, as I see it of the 1986 Manifesto position. I will always go down in saying that. To say that the Democratic Labour Party has repudiated the 1986 Manifesto position, Sir, is not casting aspersions anywhere, Sir. It is one of the impressions that I have and it is one of the reasons why I am now over here. So I am being consistent in the way I approach the whole matter. If people have problems with that, Sir, that is their business, not mine. They will deal with that! That is their problem.

Now, Sir, it is clear now that all the objective information is in that there is no need for any increased taxes. I said that, Sir, in my contribution to the last Budget and I will continue to say that. That is my view about it. And the population of Barbados has been over taxed to a degree which makes a mockery of the expression "over-taxation". I remember the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East, Sir, who is now in danger, Sir, of extinction saying that the Prime Minister did not tax enough, he should have taxed them some more. 5.50 p.m.

Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on a point of order. I wish to know to what extent my life is in danger, Sir.

Laughter.

Asides.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Sir, the lower tax base between 1986 and 1987 was a noticeable movement in investment and consequently improvement in the unemployment levels and it seems to me, Sir, to be inconsistent with the stated intention of the Prime Minister to close the deficit through taxation when the money obtained in this way is simply, Sir, being spent wildly.

Now there, Sir, has been an absence of expenditure control and this can be seen, Sir, without demonstrating the way expenditure has escalated since 1986. Expenditure has really climbed from that period and it is my view that the Budget is more damaging than the closure of Intel, Playtex, and Carcom combined. Without these taxes the economy would have returned to a 4% or 5% growth path.

Now Sir, my view about this whole thing is that the errors in the Estimates as outlined by the Leader of the Opposition in his presentation this morning led to errors in the judgment of the levels of taxes that ought to be imposed and if you have Estimates predicated on an incorrect basis, and, in the words for the Member for St. Peter, "to address a non-existent problem", then obviously taxes would similarly be acquired to address similar non-existent problems.

Now I go further, Sir, to say that the projections in terms of revenue and so on were made from an unsound basis and that this, Sir, is bad for the economy. We may even go further and say that the Prime Minister does not believe in fiscal restraint for he does not save much of what he raises. He projects expenditure and spends, Sir, more than he actually projects. To my mind the Estimates as presented by the Prime Minister are merely guidelines for spending more money. It is clear that all the money that has been raised has been spent and even a little more, Sir, and if the Democratic Labour Party had adhered to the New Path Manifesto then Government expenditure would have increased by less than 8% per year, I am saying, Sir.

Now if the Prime Minister estimates, Sir, 15.1% increase in Capital Expenditure, then there is further evidence that he has abandoned this 1986 Manifesto. There are several examples, Sir, where there have been significant increases in expenditure and if I am allowed, Sir, I would want to refer to 1 or 2 of these items of expenditure that are pretty patent in the amount of increase in terms of percentage, Sir, that is present. I would want at the very beginning, Sir, to refer to Page 8 - Head 13 of these Estimates, Sir, before the House. You will see that under Subhead 10 Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation when you look at Page 13 as well of the Estimates at the front of the Estimates, you will see that there has been under the Prime Minister's Office, the last column to the right, a \$3.5 million almost per cent increase in expenditure, and of this amount if you look at Page 8 you will see, Sir, that under Head 13 that \$2 million of this is going to CBC which is a 12.8% increase in expenditure. The Explanatory Note says that this Subhead provides a grant to the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation. I believe, Sir, that something has got to be done in respect of this Corporation in terms of the amount of money it is draining from the Barbados economy, when you put that against, Sir, the manner in which that station is used to prevent, in many cases - and I can talk about this, Sir - the free expression of opinion, in terms of the kinds of instructions that are given to staff about who they can interview from who they cannot interview, and which political party should not be given certain advertising or something like that, Sir, or promotion. If my money is going to be spent like this as a taxpayer of Barbados, I believe that I should have access to the station but not within the context of that kind of policy. If you are going to spend \$2 million on CBC this year, it is my opinion that there should not be that kind of restriction

placed on people who want access to the station. The station does not belong to any one political entity. It belongs to the people of Barbados and they should be given access. The staff should not be interfered with to the point where they are told who they should or who they should not interview and if they continue in this way they will continue to lose advertising revenues. Because I know, for a fact, that the programme which I am referring to, that the person who sponsored it no longer does that because they were dissatisfied with the manner in which the station was being used to stifle opinion or to prevent that opinion from being expressed on that programme, and that should not happen.

I believe, Sir, that efforts should be made, and I know from practice that the Prime Minister's Office is normally debated, I think, as one of the first items, and I will welcome any opportunity, and I am certain this House will welcome the opportunity to debate the Caribbean[^] Broadcasting Corporation. Because it is time that that body, is debated. I have known successive administrations constantly to say that they will no longer interfere politically or otherwise with the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation. It is about time that that vow which we took be put into practice. But Sir, this country has the assurance that an NDP Government will adhere to that promise.

Another area, Sir, where there has been a significant increase in expenditure has to do with the Cabinet Office and I would want to refer to Page 13 and Page 18 of the Estimates again, Sir. Under Head 12 Operating Expenses we see another significant movement in expenditure and there are other areas, Sir, that one can refer to, areas where efforts could have been made to really control expenditure. 6.00 p.m.

If you look at the comparative summary of personal emoluments in the Schedules of Personal Emoluments 1989-90, you will notice that there have been significant percentage increases in the levels of personal emoluments for this period. For example, the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce will now record a 35.2% increase in personal emoluments, the Cabinet Office an 88% increase in personal emoluments, and there are other examples of the escalation in Government expenditure.

Now, Sir, I would want to make the point that if we do not control Government expenditure, that will control us eventually. It is all right to say that we have got to provide the goods and services that are required by the people of the country, but certainly if the Prime Minister's approach to fiscal management must be followed, he seems to think that you can manage the country like how a housewife manages a kitchen or a household. If that is to be followed, Sir, the Prime Minister must also look at other principles that

follow from that one, and it is this, Sir, in the old Barbadian saying, you must cut and contrive.

I know, for one, that my mother could not buy everything she wanted a particular week and she would always put back something for the next week and buy it on that occasion if she was able to do that. I think the Prime Minister has got to do that if he is going to approach it in the way that he says it can be done. I have my own view about that, but we have got to be very careful in the way we handle our expenditure in this country. If we do not, I can very well see the day will come when we will get into a situation where we will have to devalue our currency. That is one way that expenditure will control us. That is what will happen.

Aside.

Mr. R. P. BYER: I do not care what is said, Sir. You see, everybody knows that you must control expenditure, and it is not enough to ask the Opposition parties to point out those areas in which you can trim 01 control expenditure. You have to make a conscious effort to do that, Sir, and if that is not done, then the consequences for this country will be very dire, and I would not want to face them.

I can only end by saying that I would hope when all of these items that the Minister of Housing and Lands referred to are attended to, that we can return to a situation where, since we would not have to attend to them, expenditure will be controlled and we will see a reduction in taxes in this country.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Sir, we are entering a new financial year, 1989-90, and I think that on an occasion like this we should perhaps take the opportunity to examine the state of the economic debate, so called, that exists in Barbados. I must confess that I myself, and I know I speak for a large number of young people - both those who will be franchised by the next election and those who because of the law may not be able to vote - who perhaps consider the period 1986-88 to be a particular watershed in the history of economic debate in Barbados.

Sir* this is a time when the views of economists and politicians and those who speak on economic issues are so wide and divergent. We have the confusion of the statistics, some people saying that projected revenue is not sufficient, others saying there is a burgeoning public sector, that the expenditure is increasing. Some people are saying that 1987 was an inordinate year. We have discussion of the element of amortisation of debt, all kinds of things, and there is absolutely no consensus, it seems, on the economic front in Barbados on any issue.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: That is true, but that is something that the public will have to decide. We have a lot of people promoting statistical debates which at the end of the day really reveal nothing about their stances in public policy, in my view. We have people who use the statistics as a smoke screen to divert the public will, as a smoke screen to make it appear that the mandate of this Government has disappeared, and we have people who use statistics and economic debate to breed cynicism, who feel that they shall rise out of the ashes when the young people and the other people, when the average man in Barbados gets so confused that they will slip through somewhere along the way. That, Sir, is the state of economic debate in Barbados.

We have a situation, Sir, where this Manifesto is the Manifesto of two parties. Unprecedented and perhaps foolish also. Who is to blame for the fact that it is now the Manifesto of two parties will be seen some years hence. That is not for me to determine, but it is a silly scenario for us to find ourselves in as intelligent people in this country.

Then, Sir, we have a position about morality and integrity in public life, and I just heard the speech of the Honourable Member for St. George South. He spoke about the rescheduling of the Capital programme. I believe, Sir, that I understand the English Language, and I am extra careful when the use of the English Language is by particular individuals.

Page 6 of the Democratic Labour Party's 1986 Manifesto said under Expenditure:

"(1) The Capital Programme for 1986/87 will be rescheduled to extend over sixteen months, instead of twelve. The rescheduling will be designed to reduce planned capital expenditure from \$188.5 million to \$149 million."

Sir, that can only refer to Capital Expenditure that was already planned by the Barbados Labour Party when it left office. So you cannot set up the concept of rescheduling

Mr. R. P. B YER: On a point of order, Sir. That is what I read, but I went on to make another point. I said that as a general principle the programme could be spread over a five year period. That is the point I made. I used this as but an example of the point I was making. 6.10p.m.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Sir, let me explain to you the fallacy of that point. You cannot say you have a capital programme and then say we are now going to reschedule it. This is a capital programme that existed; it was not our capital programme that we determined that we would spread over sixteen months. Sir, listen, it is a very simple matter. You cannot tell people that you have a development

programme; suppose we say this is our five year development programme, which it is, and then come back to the public and say we are going to reschedule it over seven years; if this is our five year development programme, it is designed to fit within that five year period. You would-only be deceiving people if you set up the concept of rescheduling as a policy position. In other words what we are hearing from the NDP.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please!

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I know how it is with him. I will get back to him, he knows that.

Mr. SPEAKER: There is no need to get to anybody. I would just ask the Honourable Member for St. Peter to give the other Honourable Member an opportunity as they gave him an opportunity to speak.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Sir, the essential suggestion then is to slow down the capital programme. In other words, that Government should slow down its capital programme, but we have not heard what we should cut. Further, and this is more important and this lies at the very root of this economic deception that is passing off for economic debate in Barbados, we were told that this is not a development programme, that it is an anti-development programme. How could you reschedule anti-development? That is the basic argument that the Honourable Member is telling us, that the programme is basically no good but you should still reschedule it to cut cost; and then they go on to say too that we have no capital programme. Sir, it is Honourable Members on that side who said we should not build the place at Two Mile Hill. I have listed some of the things. That was the Barbados Labour Party. They went through a number of things that over time have fallen into the folk lore of Barbados as being part of the white elephants that the Democratic Labour Party built. The position now is that they are not attacking the Development Plan, they are saying reschedule it. So, Sir, how can the average man appreciate that level of economic argument. I only want to ask, that's all?

Sir, you cannot set up rescheduling as a philosophy. If you come and find a capital programme in place, you can say you don't agree with it, you don't agree with its time span and you can reschedule it. But when you are developing your own capital programme, you set out the parameters, the length of time, the amount of money you want to spend, the kind of projects you want to implement. You can't also at the same time tell people but we will also reschedule it. It does not make sense, Sir. That is all I am trying to say.

Now, Sir, a Development Plan like this one states very clearly on page 217: "There will be a pragmatic approach to the implementation of the Plan. The planning framework is

therefore designed to provide for a continuing review of plan implementation and domestic conditions."

I go further, Sir, and on page 218, it says: "The Central Planning Committee, a standing committee of the Cabinet, will monitor the implementation of the Plan. The Committee will:

ensure that there is a co-ordinated approach to the implementation of the Plan;

review and recommend to the Cabinet approval of each stage of the project cycle;

advise the Cabinet on progress towards achievement of national or sectoral goals and objectives; and

advise the Cabinet on revenue and expenditure estimates associated with the implementation of the Plan."

So there are built-in mechanisms in this plan and in the manner in which Government executes the plan to ensure that there is no bunching or that the economy can accommodate over time its implementation. That is something that the Honourable Member for St. Peter would understand, because he had a hand in the Central Planning Committee. He knows how it operates. But you cannot put out a plan today and then tomorrow say you are going to reschedule it; it would be a deception. That is my view.

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: That was the last time you read anything. The St. John plan has stuck in your mind since that. I don't mind. That might be the first and last plan you ever read or will read.

The point is, Sir, that you cannot set up this concept in my view of rescheduling as a phenomenon that is going to have any effect on expenditure on capital projects. If the Government says it has a capital programme, it has it and it has to implement it in a time frame.

Now, Sir, equally you cannot say that every year you are going to have a 2 per cent cut of the approved current estimates of expenditure, and it would be foolish because you would be anticipating. What this meant is that you would have a 2 per cent cut on the year following the 1986-87; that is my understanding. If the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central wishes to contradict me, I understand this to mean that all Ministries will be asked to identify expenditure cuts to 2 per cent of the approved current estimates of expenditure, but you can't state that as a general principle, that you will come out with your Estimates and then say after that you will get the 2 per cent cut. The 2 per cent cut must come before. But you don't do it after you have put out the Estimates; and that has

become a policy now that I say one has to elevate as part of the economic programme.

Sir, we have now in the economic debate the shouting of shibboleths.

Mr. SPEAKER: Just let me get one point straight. There cannot be any interruptions of the sort I am hearing in view of the fact that I cannot hear the Honourable Member carefully, neither would the Reporters be able to report accurately as well. I would again ask Honourable Members to desist from the loud asides.

Let the Honourable Member continue.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, we also have in this economic debate the shouting of shibboleths and slogans by politicians; abolish 'he Public Service Ministry, cut back on expenditure, create full employment, cut taxes, the public sector is growing too fast. These are the statements that are out in the public forum for debate, and none of the persons who have been careful enough to shout these slogans, and as I say these shibboleths, has taken the time to be specific. Sir, there is a reason why they are not specific. You, see, as I say, the statistics are the smoke-screen; discussing expenditure and revenue and so on stops them from telling the public facts as they see them, which is that if we cut back, it obviously means that persons who work at the NCC - you hear me say it all the time - the Transport Board and in other areas of the public service would have to be sent home. That is one of the realities. If you are going to say cut back in expenditure, you have a duty to tell the public how you are going to achieve it. These are things as I say that pass in the community. Everybody walks around with a formula, but when it comes to the specifics we cannot get them, we cannot prise them out of anybody. Everybody tells you we know how to do it, the party is doing it wrong, the Ministry of Finance is wrong, but we can never get any concrete or useful recommendations from anybody as to how this can be achieved. So the only thing that one can assume, Sir, is that the persons who make these statements would prefer Barbados to go down the road to destruction, and when it gets there again they will rise out of the ashes or come through the slips.

Mr. Speaker, they have a duty to tell the public in specific terms what we have to do. If you think all of us over here are bankrupt, then you have a duty to go out on the highways and byways
6.20 p.m.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of elucidation. One has heard this kind of argumentation year after year from whatever Government is in office. The essential point on this side of the House is that expenditure growth would be controlled in relation to the other major indices in the economy such as growth of the Gross Domestic Product

and inflation rates so that you would have a steady and uniform growth in expenditure which relates to those indices. Now, that is not the same thing as cut-backs in expenditure. It is something completely different.

The position which the Democratic Labour Party took in 1986 was that

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: It is elucidation.

Mr. SPEAKER: But it is very long elucidation. The rules do not provide for that kind of elucidation in the form of a speech.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I have heard it all before. The more things change now-a-days in Barbados the more they remain the same, especially in politics.

Sir, all I am trying to say is that I do not have access to the files in the Ministry of Finance. There are three or four persons in here who had a close and intimate relationship over some time in the past with the Ministry of Finance. They are in a better position than me to tell me where these cuts should be implemented. They are in a better position than me to tell me about the revenue. They are in a better position than me to go and explain to my constituents of St. John, a principally working-class area of persons who are employed in the Government Service, who have laboured on the plantations in this country. They are the people who have a duty to explain to those people who will ask me what is in this for me. What do I have to surrender? What do I have to pay? What price politically? What is involved?

But we have in a debate where the statistics are a smoke screen, \$30 million deficit, this... What is in it for the people of Barbados? Even if I surrender to you and say "Yes, you have hijacked me, let me hear the statistics" which, basically I have done because I do not get into the statistical debate.

I have surrendered to it so now that I have surrendered to this gargantuan substantial public debate, I have my hands in the air and I am asking you who have access to this information, you who believe that within you reside the last vestiges of integrity, of morality, the last idea that exists on this rock, go out and tell the public what they are.

You cannot leave it to me because you are already saying that since I am not discussing the statistics you are not bothering to teach me.

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: The Honourable Member for St. Peter says that I am too simplistic. I accept that. It will come with time. Our discussions sometimes are more fruitful out of in here because they get caught up in that statistical debate and he knows how I feel about it.

You are robbing the country. You are robbing your own political party when you engage in that kind" of - Sir, I would use another word but it would be unparliamentary, not that it is a bad word but it, perhaps, would have other connotations - gratification, throwing around statistics, throwing them out and belching them in Parliament.

Sir, I do not mean that in an obscene manner but that is what is happening and, therefore, the essence of the philosophical positions is lost.

The Honourable Member for St. Thomas has said and it is an open confession that the difference in substance is only in degree so what are we doing in here if the difference is only in degrees? Why are there over there if it is only a matter of degree? Is a degree, a couple of millions here or there, really a difference for, them to be over there and for us to be over here? Well, I do not know how the degree is.

Sir, we had a debate in here on the public workers salaries and we heard that \$3 million was neither here nor there. Today you would believe that \$3 million was the biggest thing on earth, that the Government had so many problems that even that \$3 million with other accumulations of savings would make the difference in Barbados.

What is in it for the people of St. John? What is in it for the people of my constituency when you get in here with these patently working-class constituencies, the middle-class, all, tell us what is in it for us then. Tell me what is in it for me. Even if you want to treat me as a simpleton, when you get on and you get into the economic gyrations, I will sit and listen; but at the end of the day tell me where I must make my contribution in the whole grand design of massive deficits, balance of payments problems, \$30 million here and cut expenditure. It is not really the public servants. It is the NCC Workers. Five hundred of them should be sent home, 500 people of whom the majority of them in my constituency feed at least 6 or 7 mouths but at the end of the day they can be dispensed with. There is nothing in this deficit and the economic argument th't concerns them. They are dispensable.

That is the danger of the kind of debate that we are having - that people no longer mean anything; that what means something is shouting the words like integrity, and shouting morality, and shouting bankruptcy, and annihilation of yardfowlism. Those have become the issues of the day and they have replaced the people, the questions of development of people who were once at the centre of deliberation in this Chamber.

We are going down the wrong road because if we take that road there is no place in here for me. I can tell you that now. If this is what we are going to have every year, excuse me from it. I will explain to my constituents there is nothing for you in that. When you hear those big fellows talking about the statistics there is nothing in that for you. It is foolishness.

People have been passing off in this country economics as a profession that is not for the uninitiated. Law, some lofty profession that is so sacrosanct that when any important piece of legislation comes in here a lot of people in here decide "Not me. I am not getting into that. That is law". Foolishness.

These myths must be exploded. People must not set up themselves as tin gods in this country because eventually somebody will be pelting rocks at the tin gods because they would not understand.

We are moving in the wrong direction and I want to say as a matter of concern, as a young person, that we cannot continue on this path without having serious political consequences. Then we have the Press which is stoking these fires of personal animosity, and ego trips, rather than promoting and discussing the economic debate. That is another problem that we have that political education among the people is dead and buried.

I am concerned about this because, as I said, I have no future in that part of it and if we condemn ourselves to that, I will do like some who I know can jump ship well. I will say there is no part in this for me and the people I represent.

Aside..

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I am not jumping the ship to another ship. When I jump ship I am in the sea swimming with the rest of you who are at sea now in this whole debate.

These are the questions. How are we lifting, therefore the consciousness of the people of Barbados? How are we preparing them for this debate, this gladiatorial contest, when they turn on their televisions once a year for the Budget and everybody gets up and spars? How are we preparing the average man to receive those ideas?

These are the questions you have to ask yourselves, not come in here and bandy around statistics and, like I said set yourselves up like people who are infallible. Everybody is challenging somebody to correct them on this issue and correct them on that but at the end of the day the public is not interested in the corrections. They have had enough of the foolishness and they have had enough of the pontificating.

It saps your energy and these are the things I am concerned about. How are we preparing those persons then to discern the people who have no integrity from those who have the integrity? We have to prepare the public for this. If there are some people who have no integrity, prepare the public to receive these ideas. Show them the way. 6.30p.m.

How does a young person respond to this morasse, as I say of men getting into statistics and getting high out of percentages. Because that is what it is at the end of the day. If it is not statistics, then the Honourable Member for St. Peter must tell me the following things: Is Government living up to its social responsibility?

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Is the allocation of resources in this country wrong?

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Is the spending pattern wrong?

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: We are getting all your answers. I do not mind because I will hold them against you. When you make your statements I will hold them against you. Who is being put on the periphery: the poor, the satisfied people or the wealthy? Who is this Government, the Democratic Labour Party putting on the periphery of development?

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Those are the issues. Whose needs are not being met by this Government? That is what the people want to know at the end of the day. Because you could have as much deficit as you want, discussion about it or whatever, if the needs of the people are not being met then we are still back to square one.

We have a debate where the expression full employment is put into the public domain. Not sustainable full employment. Any Government, and I say this without any fear of contradiction, today can create full employment in this country within a matter of months. The Honourable Member for St. Peter knows that. It is not difficult. But you pay the consequences later.

We are interested in sustainable full employment, in controlling the employment levels, ensuring that unemployment does not increase. Slavery was the only time in the history of the Caribbean that we had sustained full employment. Think about that.

When you are talking about economic transformation if you ever get around to it in your caucuses, think about the fact that slavery was the only time in the economic history of the Caribbean when full employment existed for a sustained period. Now when I said that earlier the Honourable Member for the City jumped at me.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: In 1981 - when I say jumped I am sorry. I withdraw that. I do not want to upset you. He said I would not know what I am talking about. The Honourable Member for St. Peter has spoken before and the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central. They have told this House that full employment existed.....

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I have not spoken yet.

Asides.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: He said the Honourable Member for the City. The other Honourable Members over there like to hear what they want to hear. But I heard him say the Honourable Member for the City jumped up.

Mr. SPEAKER: One minute more.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Sir, we had this discussion as I said about full employment. We are told as if it is some high ideal that in 1981 we nearly achieved full employment for probably one year. And the so-called economists and people who are leading economic debate in Barbados lift that up as an achievement.

We are interested in sustainable, not temporary, not one year full employment, sustainable full employment. And if you have the answer to that, tell the public. I do not have anything to say. I will listen.

We cannot be unfair to the people of Barbados by throwing things out in the public forum and expecting them to lap it up because as I say, as the Honourable Member for St. Peter would tell me, I am being - I am preaching or I am, what is the word he used - sanctimonious. I am too sanctimonious.

Mr. SPEAKER: Time.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: But I still must say these things. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Applause.

Mr. E. BOURNE: Mr. Speaker, there is a major crisis affecting all aspects of agriculture in this country whether it

be sugar, cash crops, livestock markets or fisheries. Nothing in this Appropriation Bill indicates any significant thrust in the area of fisheries.

Aside.

Mr. E. BOURNE: I will read this any time. I may not get to the Heads.

Mr. SPEAKER: Now I have allowed the Honourable Member for Christ Church East to speak, there is no other person who can.

Aside.

Mr. SPEAKER: Continue.

Mr. E. BOURNE: Mr. Speaker, this is the third time that I will be facing Estimates. And two times prior to this I never got to the Head in Agriculture. I intend to deal with it tonight.

Asides.

Mr. E. BOURNE: Mr. Speaker, if I come in here a million times and I see there is no improvement in agriculture, I will deal with it a million and one times. It is nearest and dearest to me. I am from an agricultural community and I will have to deal with it. I am not from any fancy, pretty community. I am accustomed to fishing and cutting canes. I am different from most of the others over there.

Aside.

Mr. E. BOURNE: Over the other side.

Laughter.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please. Order, order, order.

Aside.

Laughter.

Mr. E. BOURNE: No, me.

Asides.

Mr. E. BOURNE: Mr. Speaker, ...

Asides.

Mr. E. BOURNE: I understand that there is a scarcity, in fact I know there is a scarcity of fish presently in this country. And I understand that licences have been given to some people to import fish from no other place

Aside.

Mr. E. BOURNE: than Trinidad.

Aside.

Mr. E. BOURNE: A place where our fishermen have been complaining that they would like some kind of treaty ironed out between this country and Trinidad so that they could earn a living.

It is no wonder that nobody really worries too much about the treatment our fishermen got the other day when they were arrested. I would like some answers from the Minister of Agriculture and some answers from the Democratic Labour Party Government. I am serious about that. I should like to know whether it is true that these licences have been issued.

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, Sir. I would not want the Honourable Member to mislead the House. He made the statement that nothing was done in respect of the fishermen who were arrested in Trinidad.

I think the record shows, Mr. Speaker, that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs did intervene on behalf of the fishermen and did lend substantial support. Even the fishermen themselves recognized that when they got back here. So it is not fair to the Ministry.

Mr. E. BOURNE: Mr. Speaker, I should like to know from the Member for Christ Church West Central what has happened after the Ambassador intervened on behalf of the fishermen from Silver Sands and Oistins?

Asides.

Mr. E. BOURNE: You all can talk to me or behind me. This is a field that you all will have to stand up and listen. I am an authority on this.

Laughter.

Asides.

Mr. E. BOURNE: Now some time last year I had the good fortune to run into an expert in shellfish farming. I drew to the attention of some of my colleagues, some of my very close friends, and this gentleman freely gave us some of his time to explore the possibilities at Long Pond.

Now our Manifesto of 1986 has promised shell fish farming.

Asides.

Mr. E. BOURNE: And this has been going on

Asides.

Mr. E. BOURNE: The DLP Manifesto. And this has been promised in almost every DLP Manifesto from 1971. To date nothing has been done.

Now after we had visited the site with the gentleman - the Prime Minister accompanied the Representative for St. Andrew and myself to the site - there was a lot of write up in the paper, a lot of talk and to date, to use the Prime Minister's favourite words, it appears to be the end of that,

I have been told recently that the project did not come through-6.40 p.m.

- I would like an explanation from the Minister of Agriculture - because the Chief Fisheries Officer will not approve it. Now the shellfish industry, shrimping, will be very lucrative to this country. It is a lucrative business. It will save foreign exchange and at the same time it will bring in foreign exchange and it will generate a lot of needed jobs in St. Andrew. I would like to call for the resignation of the Minister of Agriculture.

Asides.

Mr. E. BOURNE: No, I will not call for it because the Prime Minister has stated sometime ago that he is not going to get rid of them. He is going to keep them on the ship and I know a lot of them are going to drown because most of them cannot swim and the few of them who can swim will find themselves in heavy oil slicks.

Asides.

Mr. E. BOURNE: Now I have been browsing through the Nation the other day and I have noticed an article written by a Dr. Hunt from the Belairs Institute talking about the sea-egg industry and he is giving some suggestions about what ought to be done with this industry. Now I am going to read from this note here.

Mr. SPEAKER: What are you going to read from?

Mr. E. BOURNE: A note I have here, Sir, which says that the best way to control the sea-egg industry is to lift the ban and shorten the time span for harvesting. Well, the Minister knows as well as I do that there was never really a ban especially in his constituency. There was never really a ban. The only people who used to be arrested were mine because the patrol boats would reach my area first and then his guys would get away. But there really was never a ban. It was just all talk. But what I want to point out this evening is that for quite a long time we have been hearing all kinds of arguments about fishing and the sea from strictly land-

lovers, people who have no knowledge at all about it and have no intention of gaining any knowledge about the sea or all that is in it. I can remember quite clearly when at Silver Sands alone and when I say Silver Sands, I mean ranging from South Point until you get to Little Bay, there were no less than 150 people harvesting sea-eggs from August to 30 March and this went on year in and year out and the catches were always very big.

To date the Ministry accepts the stupid information that comes around from uninformed people that over-fishing has caused the demise of the sea-egg and the demise of the fish. If this was so, to date there would never be any sea-eggs around the sea in Barbados. But in an article written in the Nation by the said Dr. Hunt he is saying that pesticides are now found on the reefs in Barbados. Sometime ago I talked about these pesticides killing off the sea-eggs. This I would say was the major reason for their demise and the Ministry is just sitting back having a ball and doing nothing about these things.

Now when I look into this book here and I see Markets it brings tears to my heart. There are 105 workers.

Asides.

Mr. E. BOURNE: Man, I cry from my heart. I do not cry from my eyes. That is where I cry. Those from the eyes are usually crocodile.

Asides.

Mr. E. BOURNE: There are 105 workers at all the markets which happen to be 7 and these markets are: Oistins, Bay Street, which is only a building, Cheapside, Six Roads, Fairchild Street, Eagle Hall, and Speightstown. Now would you know why I would cry for markets? When I think of Oistins, when I think of the money which was spent to make Oistins, the most up-to-date market in the Caribbean, and this was done by the Barbados Labour * Party, it has gone to ruin. Although we have had several promises from the Minister He promised the Prime Minister in front of most of us that he would have these things rectified at Oistins. To date, they have to haul ice in a truck in order to service the ice-boats and to service the people who sell fish at Oistins. Nothing has changed.

Asides.

Mr. E. BOURNE: They are always lying to me. Like the last speaker said, the more things change the more they remain the same especially with the Democratic Labour Party. Oistins Market is still the same way. They still have to haul ice by the truck and I would believe that when the Fish Festival comes around in another week, because I am not a churchman - when the Fish Festival comes around

again fishermen will be told like they were told last time that they cannot get ice. It is for the people who sell mauby.

I was told by the Superintendent that these were the instructions given to him by the Minister responsible.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. He is misleading the House. I have never issued such instructions. I would like him to withdraw it.

Mr. E. BOURNE: Mr. Speaker, I was having a drink that day with some friends, my favourite drink, and I was called away by an iceboat owner and taken to Oistins and in his presence, after I was so mad, the Superintendent told me - it is not me. Do not blame me. The Minister told me so. I am telling you what the Superintendent at Oistins Market told me. I was not there. I do not work at the market. I can hardly go in the market now. People are chasing me.

Asides.

Mr. E. BOURNE: You will know when the time comes, boy. My tongue is long. Always, remember that. Now when you look at the Oistins jetty, every time a boat bounces the jetty, it cost the owner about \$2 000 in repairs. We visited the site - the Members from Christ Church West Central, Christ Church East Central, the Member from St. Andrew, myself, and the Prime Minister. We were abandoned at Graeme Hall by the Minister of Agriculture. They cannot say that I am lying this time. 6.50 p.m.

He was in a party when we visited a playing field site for the Member for Christ Church West Central, and lo and behold when we looked for him at Oistins everybody could be seen except the gentleman responsible. The Prime Minister was there, he cannot say this is not true. The representative for Christ Church West Central was there, the representative for Oistins was there - my good friend and buddy - and the Member for St. Andrew was there, another good friend of mine. To date nothing has been done.

I was asked to go to the jetty and let them know what it would cost. Stupid me, I wasted my time, half day, made a big long list of all these things, to no avail. Nothing has been done. Most of the jetty parts are lying at the bottom of the sea.

The Minister of Agriculture wants to rise to his feet. If he thinks that by sending two guys out there to cut two tires in half and stick them on - which the sea will rip off, since the sea has ripped off most of them already - is fixing the jetty, that is far from being true. What I have found out with the Democratic Labour Party people, apart from one Minister, and I mean a working Minister, because all Ministers do not have working portfolios, and there is only one who I can vouch for who intends to do the people's

wishes, and he does the people's wishes unflinchingly is that they are just talkers, bluffers, misleaders.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. Being one of the Ministers on this side I believe that bluffer and misleader would be unparliamentary in the context in which the Honourable Member said it, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will accept the Honourable Member's interpretation. I think you could use a better term.

Mr. E. BOURNE: Well, most of the Ministers of the Democratic Labour Party just blow hot air. You cannot take them seriously. There is another Minister who was making an aside. My time will come when I will deal with him, because I do not take things lightly.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sure that you are not, through me, going to deal with somebody, because all the speeches are through me generally.

Mr. E. BOURNE: Mr. Speaker, I mean figuratively. I mean when the time comes for me to speak on his portfolio I will treat him in my usual style. That is what I mean, Sir. He tried to set me up, Sir, and my time will come. I leave nothing to chance, Sir.

Now I want to know why is it that planters in this country can't get their produce marketed despite all this big marketing programme and CATCO. It is because the Department is just taking the people of this country for a ride. That Department is more or less a tour guide operation. They flit here, they flit there and they all come back empty handed. We want action. If people are to get into agriculture and to make a living out of agriculture, they will have to find ready markets for their produce, and the only way you can get markets is by going overseas and exploring the markets. You just cannot sit down here and hope that somebody goes on an aeroplane, drinks some booze and comes back and gives you some story.

These are the things the Minister must look into. These are the things people have been crying out for for three years now ;md, Sir, nothing has been done. How long shall this go on? The cries of the poor are going up to Heaven against the Democratic Labour Party.

I remember some time ago we were discussing erosion. I think the discussion was led off by the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central. I joined the discussion. He talked about the top soil going into the sea after we had these heavy rains. I suggested that the Ministry do something about it and at least go back to planting khus khus grass around the hedgerows. The Prime

Minister got up, a very nice speech, he said he welcomed the idea and he would like to see not only khus khus grass but any kind of material that would keep the soil in. To date, Sir, nothing has been done.

Aside.

Mr. E. BOURNE: Staplegrove is one plantation. Fairy Valley belongs to the Government and I can take you all around Fairy Valley. Every time the rain falls, the soil goes into the sea. These are the things, Mr. Speaker, I would like to see redressed. I would hope that the Minister really looks very, very carefully after these things and do not try to fool me, because when you try to fool me, like I said before, I will go out there and pass on the same message to the poor people who you say I cannot go back to, and rightly so, because they have been fooled too many times.

I have been told, Mr. Speaker, to get ten people to go on a work programme. The poor girls went and got their passports and they have not been told about anything since then. How could I ever go back to them? I have to hide, change my road. I am looking now for a boat to come to Bridgetown. No wonder I cannot go back. But this is the way it is with the Democratic Labour Party. A girl called me one day at Miami Beach and asked me what was happening. She was to have gone since October. I have to hide.

Now looking at these Estimates I see an increase of \$1.6 million over the estimate for 1987-88, and now you are asking for \$1.843 million. I would like to know how much of that money will be spent at Oistins. These are the things Mr. Speaker. I would like to tell the Minister some of the things that are needed at Oistins. You can write, I will speak as slowly as I can. They would like another fork lift driver. I see they have about a million on this thing. Five fork lift drivers; we have one at Oistins. One relief fork lift operator. I do not know where he is. One refrigeration plant attendant. You have to station two up there, because none of these things work. One relief refrigeration plant attendant. I never saw him yet.

Oistins is a market which makes money - I had the figures but I lost them somehow - it is a paying concern, and my people must suffer. They are paying their money to suffer. I have never heard of this yet. I would expect that all these things be looked after. The sewage at Oistins. We were promised that the sewerage system would be rectified. It is deplorable. Nothing has been done. Some nights you pass Oistins you wonder whether you are passing by a sewage pit or whether you are passing by a fish market which is handling food for people to eat. 7.00p.m.

These, Sir, are most of my quarrels with the Ministry of Agriculture for now. The budget is coming and the Heads will be coming.

Now as regards the pesticides, I would expect that some action be taken without delay because the goodly biologist states that the pesticide has been found, after testing overseas, in the rows of the sea-eggs. Now I am from a family of people who live long, and I do not want to die early; I do not want to break that record, and I don't want to stop eating my sea-eggs, so I would hope that remedial action is taken right away.

Asides.

Mr. E. BOURNE: I haven't had a sea bath for a long time. They come to me. If I want them they will come to me from St. Philip.

Mr. SPEAKER: One minute more.

Mr. E. BOURNE: Now sewage is apparently a problem with the reefs in Barbados. The goodly gentleman states that the raw sewage is destroying our reefs and I would want to know now or by the end of the week when will remedial action be taken.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, the Honourable Member must be aware that there is a document of this House, it has been debated before that there is a sewage project for the south coast. Reed Crowther has been given a contract for \$3 million. They are discussing the outfalls; the project is on schedule.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would also like to remind the Honourable Member that he is bordering very closely on Committee stage speeches. I would think that he need not elaborate on these Heads.

Mr. E. BOURNE: Mr. Speaker, I am looking at what it will cost us in agriculture, because although there is a sewage project, whenever the effluent goes into the sea there will be an aquacultural problem, so this is how I am looking at it. I am not concerned with the sewage treatment plant; I am concerned about the reefs; I am concerned about the sea eggs; I am concerned about the conchs; I am concerned about the frays; I am concerned about the flying fish that my people are hard-pressed to get at this time because if they go anywhere like sixty miles near to Tobago they are thrown in jail, and nobody seems to be in a position to do something about it. I thank you, Sir.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Speaker, for a very long time and more recently the whole political landscape has turned to morality, truth, honesty, decency, integrity, and within very recent times only people on one side of the House possess all of these qualities. The Honourable Member for Christ Church East who has just sat down, who

is one of those that possess the quality of morality, on numerous occasions on the issue of sea eggs asked me one straightforward question: why are you stopping my fishermen from picking sea eggs? I believe, Mr. Speaker....

Mr. E. BOURNE: On a point of order - while his in St. Philip were catching them!

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Speaker, I think that is a fraudulent point of order. I have never posed the same question to the speaker. As a matter of fact the speaker who has just said that he is an expert in this area and has been refuting all the work that has been done by Dr. Wayne Hunte tells me now that it is due to the pesticides in the sea and not over-fishing that the sea eggs have gone out. But I don't think he has used his high ground of morality to dissuade the people whom he has some type of influence over in the Christ Church area to desist from picking the sea eggs during the season that they are banned. As a matter of fact

Mr. E. BOURNE: On a point of elucidation... Mr.

SPEAKER: If the Minister wants to give way.

Mr. E. BOURNE: From the time I can remember, Sir, and I am now 55 years old - a few days ago, I am no boy, sea eggs were harvested all the year round and it is only in recent times that there has been a depletion in sea eggs in this country.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Speaker, on this particular issue I prefer to take the advice of Dr. Wayne Hunte and my fisheries officers. Dr. Wayne Hunte has established beyond any doubt that there has been over fishing of sea eggs along with other factors which have caused a depletion in the stock. Since the ban was introduced, although it was broken in certain areas - we tried our very best to police it without very much help and assistance from many people - there has been evidence that there has been a recuperation of the stock of sea eggs around Barbados wherever we have monitored them insomuch that we have now decided that the season will be opened this year for a limited time. On this one therefore I would err with Dr. Wayne Hunte until such time as I can see the expertise, the expert advice, the background training of the Honourable Member for Christ Church East besides being able to pick them. I would like to see the other areas that have qualified him as an expert on sea eggs in this country. I prefer not to take any advice from him at the expense of Dr. Wayne Hunte.

Let me deal with the situation of the fishermen in Tobago, and this brings me back to another point about morality. The same Honourable Member for Christ Church East met me on numerous occasions and told me that the Barbadian fishermen did not have to go to Tobago waters to get fish, that they can stay out of the waters of Tobago and

Let ample amounts of fish, and that they were foolish to go into the waters of Tobago, they have no reason to go into Tobago. He has now, on this occasion, got into this House and asked what am I doing to protect his fishermen that have to go to Tobago in order to make a living.

Mr. E. BOURNE: On a point of order, fishermen will be able to go outside of Tobago if they have the proper training and the proper equipment. To date nothing has been done in assisting them with equipment.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not a point of order.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: The Honourable Member for Christ Church East has made the point that if the fishermen go to the east of Barbados they would cut off the fish before they get to Tobago and therefore on numerous occasions he has advised me that there is no necessity for fishermen to go to Tobago waters. I therefore cannot understand the high point of morality.

Let me deal with the fishermen in Tobago, Mr. Speaker. On the Sunday morning I got a call from one of the owners of a fishing boat that he had just received a message from Tobago that one of the boats was held in Tobago and he therefore wanted to get in contact with the High Commissioner. 7.10p.m.

I immediately asked Jiim who was the owner of the other fishing boat and he told me a Mrs. Agard. Immediately I telephoned the High Commissioner in Trinidad and he told me that he had already known of the incident and 'he would immediately get in contact with the authorities in Tobago.

They had already gone before the Courts, ' unfortunately, and they had pleaded guilty because where the problem came was that the fishermen were not allowed to make a telephone call when they were arrested in Tobago and that was one of the issues we have taken up with the High Commissioner in Barbados and with the relevant authorities.

Immediately they got the call and I spoke to the High Commissioner, it was a Sunday so they could have done nothing, and the Monday morning on the instructions of my Ministry in conjunction with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he was instructed to engage an Attorney-at-Law to represent the Barbadian fishermen.

We did not wait to get any permission from the owners or to seek where the funds would be paid. Those - were the instructions immediately and he immediately employed a Mr. Gift to represent the fishermen in Tobago. Mr. Gift on the Monday morning of the case appeared and put in a pleading on behalf of the fishermen, who at that time had already pleaded guilty, but as a result of that, he

put their case and they were fined T.T. \$500 per fisherman. I, immediately in conjunction with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, instructed the High Commissioner in Trinidad to make arrangements to pay the fine so that they could be released and we got in touch with the Barbadian owners of the boats and we notified them of the situation and asked them to go into the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to make the necessary arrangements to repay the fines. As a result, they and the boats were released after the hearing but they were kept on the boats until the fines were handed over and then the boats were allowed to leave.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think it is about time that we talk a little bit about this situation with fishing in Tobago. This did not start yesterday.

Since about 1985 discussions were going on about an agreement between Barbados and Trinidad on fishing. What has happened in the fishing industry is that the Barbados iceboat fleet, as we know it, which developed fairly rapidly between 1979 and now to the point where there are about 82, were accustomed to fishing in the area which we call the Triangle of Plenty between Barbados, Grenada and Tobago but with the Law of the Sea Convention and the Barbados Government as well as the Trinidad Government acceding to it, immediately two things came about.

Firstly, the territorial limits increased from 3 miles to 12 miles and, technically, these countries were now able to claim 200 miles as their exclusive economic zones but because the islands are so close, we now have the median line accepted between Barbados and Tobago, and Barbados and Grenada; so by the stroke of a pen our fishermen found that the 51 miles of grounds they normally had available to them was reduced about 60% through no fault of the Ministry of Agriculture, through no fault of the Government as this was a matter of convention that we all acceded to, and through no fault of the fishermen.

So what has happened? The negotiations continued and we have a situation where the Tobago section, because of the internal politics between Trinidad and Tobago, the representative of Tobago is saying that Trinidad is prepared to play off, in exchange for a trade to Barbados in routes to BWIA, their fish which they see as Tobago fish to Barbados.

As a result, the original negotiation has reached a stage where they have made an offer of a very limited number of boats, without the Ministry having the ability to rotate the licences, to go into Tobago and we in the Barbados delegation said that that was not acceptable to us because there is no way that we could have allocated so few a number of boats among the existing fleet of 82. Therefore, we have continued the negotiations where we have put a counter proposal to the Trinidad Government that we are working on.

Now, obviously, Trinidad is having problems with Venezuela on fishing. Tobago is beginning to express some little annoyance with us and we have to go back to the situation, Mr. Speaker....

Aside.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: We are in negotiation and, as I said, we cannot disclose the negotiation but we have to understand that the exclusive zone of a country and the resource in that country represents the wealth[^]of that country and we cannot encourage our fishermen until such time as an acceptable agreement is concluded to go into the waters of those countries.

At this time, as I said, the negotiations are at that stage and I would not be drawn out to disclose where the negotiations are and I would not, at this point, take any attitude of tit for tat to do anything to impair the relationship between Barbados and Trinidad and I am not going to be drawn into that.

In the meantime, the Ministry has instructed our fishermen to keep within the zone available for them. Naturally the Honourable Member for Christ Church East knows as well that at this time of the year there is always a scarcity of flying fish in Barbados. He knows that quite well.

Mr. E. BOURNE: On a point of elucidation, Sir. Every Easter you know everybody gets fish. Easter is the time when you get most fish in Barbados. I do not know where the Honourable Minister of Agriculture travels.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Speaker, the point is that negotiations are continuing with Trinidad and Tobago and we hope that some time we will have a satisfactory conclusion to those negotiations.

Now, let me deal with the point of the shell fish. I will refer the Honourable Member for Christ Church East to Page 54 of the Estimates in which he would see under (g) Subhead 18 that provides for research work to be undertaken by the Marine Biologist and includes inshore fisheries research. As a result of the visit that the Member is talking about, during the last Estimates we have put money in the Estimates for a study at the same Long Pond for the development of the same shell fish industry that the Honourable Member for Christ Church East is telling me that we are doing nothing about.

Asides.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Those discussions were only held within the last 3-4 months.

Mr. Speaker, let me deal at length with the Oistins Fish Market. It is true that we have made some visits to

Oistins. What has been the position with Oistins? When we got to Oistins both of the icemakers, the internal icemaker and the compressor were completely ruined and the external icemaker certain plates were also ruined as well. 7.20 p.m.

As a result of the intervention we visited Oistins and the Ministry of Agriculture flew in by Air Cargo two compressors in order to repair the one at Oistins.

Now what we had. The Ministry employed a firm to do the work at Oistins. Obviously if the Ministry thought the firm was competent and employed them to carry out the necessary repairs, are you going to blame the Ministry if it subsequently turned out that the firm did not function as well as we thought it would have functioned and the repairs were not carried out as speedily as they were intended to be carried out? We have done everything possible at Oistins. We have to tie them in in order to expedite the situation. Those compressors that normally would have come by boat were flown in. And everything is being done at the moment to put those compressors as well as the plates on the outside one.

In the meantime what I have done on those few occasions where the refrigeration system has not worked effectively, is to give instructions that, as a stand by on any occasion, we must supply them with ice from the Bridgetown complex until we are totally satisfied that the compressors have been installed and that they are functional.

On the matter of the jetty. I went to that jetty with the Member for Christ Church East. He drew to my attention the same buffers that he was talking about. I explained to him then that we on numerous occasions have sought to get a firm to repair them and we could not get a firm. I showed him the file. At that time he offered to provide me with an estimate and he also offered to provide me with a firm that would do the buffers. To this present day he has not provided me with the estimate or the firm to do the buffers. To this present day.

Asides.

Mr. E. BOURNE: On a point of elucidation, Sir. When I send something via the mail to a person, I cannot guarantee whether they will get it or not.

Laughter.

Mr. E. BOURNE: I sent a list, an itemized list, I have a copy at home, an itemized list

Aside.

Mr. E. BOURNE: and I will bring it tomorrow and show you, an itemized list.

Aside.

Mr. E. BOURNE: The name of the gentleman who will do it. Yes.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Speaker, I am saying.....

Asides.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: that after I had shown him the files and pointed out to him that we had tried on numerous occasions, the last which we sought was the Port Authority to come and do the work, I showed him, we asked five firms and they all refused. The Honourable Member for Christ Church East on that occasion said that he would provide me with the name of a firm to do it and I said I would be very grateful to you because we are having difficulty. And I repeat I have not got that name as yet.

As far as the sewers is concerned, Mr. Speaker, after we visited it, the Ministry of Transport and Works decided that they would carry out those particular parts of the functions that we expressed to them.

We are in contact daily with the Ministry of Transport and Works and they have gone out and they have now gotten a firm to do all the sewage work at Oistins which involve the additional provision of a septic tank and changing the pipes from the existing septic tank into the other one.

Mr. Speaker, I have to say that the situation at Oistins was as a result that the sewage was badly done. And that there is only one septic tank and all the sewage both from the toilets as well as the fish waste came to that one septic tank. And when I checked the files for the building, the files revealed that there should have been two septic tanks and that the fish waste should have been going to a separate septic tank than the one from the toilets.

Aside.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: But we did not built that. I found that. And as a result we now have to put in an additional septic tank and separate the fish waste from the sewage. And that is under progress. And the Member for Christ Church East knows that at all times we were working full speed ahead.

- At the time he came and he drew the thing to my attention, that was not budgeted for and I had to use funds from other places and use it at Christ Church to repair that.

*

Aside.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: So he would know that everything that he has asked for at Oistins we have been doing.

But the problem that we have, Mr. Speaker; is that we want to keep expenses down but we still want to do every single thing in every constituency. In the constituency of Christ Church East we need parks, we need lights, we need roads, we need Oistins repaired and we need everything in Christ Church East. But we must still cut back on our expenditure.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: No interruptions, please. No* interruptions.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: On the matter, Mr. Speaker, of the pesticides. There is an existing Pesticide Control Board that has been in existence now for some little while on which the Ministry has a representative, the Ministry of Health has one and that Board has been meeting and having a look all the time at the whole situation of pesticides.

Only this year we have in the Estimates provision to make it possible for the Government Analyst to be able to detect any residue of pesticides in vegetables, *a cetera*. We are fully aware and we are monitoring the situation. What Dr. Hunte has said is that he has found some little residue of pesticide in some of the shell fish that he has caught recently. But it was a very minute one in a particular area. And we are carrying on the work as far as that is concerned.

Mr. Speaker, on the matter of the jetty, I would not even worry to say it because the Prime Minister knew why I was not there. Luckily for me the possibility of my losing my Ministry to the Member for Christ Church East is so remote because even if he lives long enough for him to be in a position to hand out a Ministry to me I would not be accepting it from the Member for Christ Church East. So I do not have to worry about the Minister of Agriculture. Until such time as my Prime Minister sees fit to do otherwise, I will continue to function in this situation.

Asides.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Now the situation, Mr. Speaker, on the markets. The market is another example of many years of neglect.

Aside.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: You do not wake up one morning, Mr. Speaker, and find - I am talking about markets generally - that a physical structure is in complete disrepair. These are things that happen over the years.

I am the first to admit that the markets need some work and we have budgeted for work to be done on the markets. And in this year's Estimates we have a substantial amount of money with which we would do work on the markets. So this should be a thing of the past.

Erosion, Mr. Speaker. We have discussed the whole situation of erosion, and erosion is a problem in Barbados which has not started yesterday. Erosion has been a problem for a little while but it has grown slightly worse with the current practice of the plantations because of the mechanical harvesters. The current practice of the plantations with the mechanical harvesters is that in order for the mechanical harvesters to get into the fields they have to prepare the outer part of the field which will allow the mechanical harvester to get into the field and take the first row. As a result there was a tendency to grade down almost down to the road.

We have issued instructions through the Chief Agricultural Officer that they must desist from this. And if you would notice, they are many plantations that have started planting khus khus grass again. If you go to Bath, you would see that Bath has started planting khus khus grass. All the ADC plantations have started. And we have asked, through BSIL, that they go back to the system of putting khus khus grass around the hedgerows to hold the mould in.

Also, as a matter of fact, this year the ADC is setting up a special division to deal with the practices of erosion and there is a lot of work being done throughout Barbados now to make sure that we do not have that problem in Barbados again.

A list of things have been put here to be done at Oistins. Mr. Speaker, I am aware of some of the requests for Oistins. The legitimate ones will be met. Most of them are in the Estimates

7.30 p.m.

And at Oistins by the end of this financial year I hope the woes at Oistins will be a thing of the past.

Asides.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Work is already going on at Oistins. It is very easy, Mr. Speaker, for everyone to say very quickly that there is nothing going on in agriculture, there is nothing going on in fisheries. It is very easy. But I will always say this, that at the appropriate time when the Head is taken, that we will go through item by item and there are reasons for everything that has been happening in Barbados. The plans for the Ministry you will see and they will be revealed. I am certain that the people will be satisfied that against a very trying situation where the majority of the land in Barbados is held in the type of ownership where they are almost all debt stricken, where we have to balance the situation of tremendous debt owed to the Barbados National Bank We have credit facilities for them against the background of some reluctance to take part in the Ministry's programme of diversification. We have to examine this in its entirety to look at the complete ' situation of agriculture in Barbados. It has not just gotten to

the situation where it is. It is a matter of a debt situation building up over the years to the point where now that the BNB has been asking some very strict questions before they advance any credit to the agricultural sector and this House and the people have to decide what they have to do in the future about that debt situation or whether or not we are going to continue to pour money into that sector when there are other competing sectors in Barbados that have been crying out for resources. That is something that we all have to debate and make a decision on. That did not start yesterday with the Ministry of Agriculture in 1986.

Asides.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Well, that is a matter that the Minister of Finance will be dealing with.

Mr. Speaker, I think the background to the whole speech by the Member of Christ Church East is that he expects to be done in one year all the things that have taken many years to be done and to cut expenditure and that is the bottom line of the Member of Christ Church East contention. The bottom line is that at the appropriate time, the Minister of Transport and Works will read out the list of roads done in that constituency. The Minister responsible will also tell of the expenditure on the park. We will all see the expenditure that has gone on in that constituency. The point I am making is that the bottom line is that the situation is such that you have gotten to the stage where the Member of Christ Church East quite rightly tried to represent his constituency who would believe it is the only one in Barbados. We at the Ministry level have to balance. There are 27 constituencies in Barbados. There is not one only, and the resources of this country have to spread among the 27 constituencies and we have that responsibility to bring about that balance in the resources of Barbados. I am satisfied that we are doing just that and that my Ministry is carrying out its responsibility to all 27 Members in this House and would not be persuaded by any one Member to eschew that responsibility in order to satisfy him and his ego. That is all I need to say, Mr. Speaker, at this time.

Applause.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. P M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, that brings us to the end of Government Business for today. We will return, according to the Standing Orders of this Chamber, everyday of this week until we complete our consideration of the Estimates.

At this point I move that this sitting be suspended until 10 o'clock tomorrow Tuesday, 10 o'clock in the morning, March 14, 1989.

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

The question that this sitting be now suspended until tomorrow, Tuesday, March 14, 1989 at 10 o' clock in the morning, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly. 7.37 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed. The Honourable Member for the City.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I really did not plan on getting into this debate. I would have rather waited for when we are in Committee. But when one is debating a matter as serious as the Appropriation Bill a number of things are raised by Members on that side which either serve, to use the words of the Member for St. John as "a smoke screen" or can mislead the public into believing that all is well when it is not so. Then I believe it is my duty to refer to those points I think need to be referred to in the interest of the people who elect us to represent them.

When one speaks of "smoke screens" and one speaks of coming in here dealing with a matter as serious as the Appropriation Bill and using statistics and figures to mislead people, one must understand that you must clean your glass window first if you are going to see the world as clearly as it should be seen. Because, Sir, it is not good enough for the Member for Christ Church West Central, who I am sorry is not in his seat now, to get up and virtually make a speech which I heard an Honourable Member on this side say sounded like a former Member of this Honourable Chamber would make which was simply that, if the Government is to cut expenditure, we over here should tell them how to do it - the same Democratic Labour Party Government that went to the electorate in 1986 telling the people of this country that not only would they cut expenditure but how they would cut it. There was a lot of talk then about wastage, of the former administration's way of handling expenditure and they would have wanted to talk then about just cutting out the wastage alone, going a long way towards cutting down on this same expenditure. I have a lot of regard for the Honourable Member for Christ Church West Central and I understand that, may be, what he was doing was just finding a way to wriggle out as it were.

When the same Democratic Labour Party, in Opposition then, was going after the then administration about cutting expenditure, I did not hear the Honourable Member for St. John express the concerns he expressed and use his stock phrase about the small people and the working class people in his constituency. I would suggest to the Honourable Member for St. John that, if he wants to know how to cut expenditure without sending home people, maybe he should speak to the Honourable Minister for Transport and Works. I read somewhere recently that he

was able to reduce the deficit of the Transport Board. To my knowledge and from what I read he did not send home anyone. So there is a Minister on their side that can advise him on how to cut expenditure. Maybe that is where the Honourable Member for St. John should seek his advice.

One of the things that continue to come through clearly is that the pledge that was signed in the back of the last Manifesto of the Democratic Labour Party seems to have been signed only on behalf of a few Members, and not necessarily all of them. Constantly we hear talk about not paying attention to the Manifesto and, when we get up on this side and even read verbatim from that Manifesto, there are Members on that side who seem to like to distance themselves from what is said in the Manifesto. I do not need to go over that ground. I think the Honourable Member for St. George South did an excellent job of dealing with that yesterday. If the Democratic Labour Party expects to be taken seriously and as a serious political party, one would hope that they are not going to go down the road that was suggested by the Member for St. John. I believe in his own mind he probably thinks that the pledge does not apply to him because he was not elected when that Manifesto was put out. But certainly he came in on the same wave and one would hope that he would, in his own enlightened self interest, recognize that whatever is in that Manifesto should apply to him also.

I was, to say the least, Sir, very disappointed to hear that Honourable Member say that to use the Manifesto in any place for this discussion is silly. Those were his words. I tried in my own mind to see if I could excuse him because he was not elected in 1986. But as I said just now, he must understand that he is still part of that same team who were elected in 1986. He came in that Administration.

Mr. Speaker, if we are to understand clearly the whole question of revenue and expenditure in simple terms, we have to understand, as was so ably put by the Honourable Member for St. Peter and the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, the Honourable leader of the Opposition, that how one handles taxation and how one handles expenditure *vis-a-vis* revenue determines what level of stimulation the economy will have. I believe that is a given. What we also have to get clear is that how Government decides to spend the money will determine, one way or the other, which direction this country will go in.

The various Ministries had promised that they would make the cuts. There was a lot of argument about it, a lot of debate about it. I am not getting into that again either, but I am going to deal with one particular Ministry. The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce, Sir, must understand, that is, the Minister himself must understand that if we are going to get the kind of export led growth that we constantly hear being talked about, there are some facts that will stare the Honourable Minister in his face that he has to

deal with. There are some mechanisms that will have to be put in place if we are going to get the kind of results that the Government would like us to believe that we will see any day now and that we have been waiting a couple of years for. Let me state that I am not here to criticise the Minister of Trade. Rather I would like to go on a more positive note. I feel it is my duty wherever I see the need to make recommendations, Sir. It is not good enough for us to believe that we are going to be able to make any inroads in any export market, whether, regional or extra-regional, unless we understand that there are several factors involved in marketing that have to be in place to do this. 10.10a.m.

There are some Honourable Members who would say right away that that is obvious. It is not so obvious, because if it is that obvious, then my question would be: why is it not happening? Among the prime things would be the fact that we have to be competitive in our pricing. We are faced - let us go beyond the CARICOM market, let us look at the extra-regional market - we are faced at every twist and turn with competition from countries who are trying to do the same thing as we are doing, namely our CARICOM partners and other Third World countries, and because of a number of reasons these countries are in a position to beat us on price at all times.

I have heard the Honourable Minister say on more than one occasion, and he is correct, that we have to look at niche marketing, we have to look at the upmarket, the speciality market, call it what you like, we have to look at that level of the market if we are going to make any serious inroads into extra-regional exporting. I have also heard the Honourable Member for Christ Church West in a speech to the Manufacturers' Association allude to the same thing. This is true, but no matter how high up in the market we go, price would still be a factor.

Government last year removed stamp duties saying that it would facilitate exports. I am not going to be dishonest and say that that would be the only thing that would facilitate exports or contribute to the facilitation of exports. In his Budget Speech last year the Honourable Prime Minister removed stamp duties from materials for goods for export. I know the Honourable Member for St. Michael West has not been Minister of Trade for a while. I was saying that for his benefit, because I think he was getting a little concerned as to what I was talking about.

But, Mr. Speaker, what really happened then? All we were able to save were the interest charges. I will tell you why. There used to be a rebate system before. You did get back stamp duty on exports, so all you would in fact save would be interest charges. There are still many charges beyond the stamp duty. There are some people who argue that maybe if you can get the port charges dropped on materials coming in, if you can get the other taxes and charges dropped, maybe we can even live with the stamp

duty. That is an argument that some people put. I would like to live with none of them at all, because I believe that when you are exporting, apart from the fact that you are creating jobs, there are foreign exchange earnings of which we are in dire need.

I believe all Honourable Members in this House would agree that apart from tourism, agriculture and export manufacturing must be the two most serious areas we must attack. We cannot do it with a lot of talk and a lot of rhetoric. That is taking us nowhere, without putting the proper mechanism in place.

Let me continue, Sir. I noticed recently - and I do not know if this is Government's policy, because I do not know what Government's policy is with regard to export manufacturing, it has never been stated anywhere that I have ever seen - but only recently I saw where the High Commissioner for Barbados in Trinidad and Tobago was trying to whip up some trade with Trinidad again. Flogging a dead horse! There are some things we have to recognise. The importing countries have, to be able to pay for the goods that you export to them in foreign exchange. The reality is that the purchasing power of many of our major markets in CARICOM, namely Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana, have been substantially reduced because of the myriad economic problems they have had and the fact of devaluation.

Now I am on the point of devaluation, the same concern I showed last year in the Budget about this whole question of removing the stamp duty from CARICOM goods. I know the Honourable Minister is going to tell me that it was something that was agreed to, that maybe he even went and found it there already. That is not the point I am making. The point I am making is that I said then that I had concern that it would have a negative effect on local goods.

The arguments I got then were, never mind the dollar is devalued. Certain things will level out, the Labour Unions will get more money for their workers, the electricity bill will go up, and all these other things, and the manufacturers in Trinidad would be at no advantage over us. That is not true, Sir. That did not happen. The goods coming in from these other so called MDC's in CARICOM are still being landed in Barbados cheaper than we can produce them here. So we have to understand that if you are going to talk about targeting CARICOM as a market for Barbadian goods, it is a waste of time. Let us expend the energies and the limited financial resources that we are given in export promotion on those extra-regional countries. Let us now put our money where our mouth is. Let the Government come now and show us how to get into these niche markets. It is not difficult to figure it out, but the question is, where is the will?

These are some questions I would like the Minister to answer. When are we going to start attacking these niche markets that we keep hearing about, and how?

Aside.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: N-i-c-h-e. Some of us pronounce words a little differently. My friend from St. Philip would know that. My fear is, Sir, and this should be the concern of at least the Honourable Minister of Finance, in my own layman's way of looking at things.....

Aside.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: I am a layman, I am not an expert. I am only an expert at making pepper sauce. You know that.

Aside.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Those are your taste buds. The sauce is good. If it tastes funny to you, it is your taste buds.

Mr. Speaker, on a more serious note, because the question of pepper sauce is serious to me, and the Honourable Member for St. Michael West and myself always exchange a joke on pepper sauce, the whole question of dealing with these exports and being able to access these so called niche markets calls for a completely new approach. You cannot expect to go into these markets with the levels of sophistication they have and continue to think that taking a trade mission here and there, going on junkets here and there will do the job. It is beyond that.

I have repeatedly called, this is the third year in a row, for proper research and development to be done. The same kind of call that the Honourable Member for Christ Church East made regarding agriculture and fisheries, for proper research and development to be done, is the same kind of call I am continuing to make for export markets. My fear is this - and as I was about to say just now in my layman's way of looking at things - I see tourism to Barbados like bauxite was to Jamaica or oil was to Trinidad. That is how I see it. I do not have to go on to say what kind of effect it can have if, God forbid, we saw a slight shake in tourism.

If we want to continue believing that the bubble will never burst, we can continue like that. I would more think that, while we are reaping the sweets from tourism, we should be using the opportunity to get agriculture going again, particularly agro industry, because the same niche markets you are talking about, one of the first things we can get into those markets is exotic-vegetables and fruits and processed vegetables and fruits. 10.20 a.m.

The Honourable Member for St. Philip North must agree with me on that one. He knows that. As I said and it

bears repeating, my fear is that we are overly dependent on tourism. A good job is being done. I am not one of those people who is going to come in here and criticise what is being done in tourism. A good job is no doubt being done because it is growing and these things don't work on auto-pilots. I am not giving credit to one person or the other. I think that over the last four or five years a number of people and a number of Ministers have played a significant role in getting tourism to where it is, including the present Minister. The present Minister is a hard-working Minister.

Again the point was made about playing with figures. If the Honourable Member for St. John wants to know what is good to play with figures, and I am talking about figures in the numerical sense, he would notice that 6 months before and after the budget last year the total increase in exports amounted to about \$8 million, that is, going from \$27 million to \$35 million. If you look at the foreign exchange component minus the cost of the raw materials, it was negligible. I agree you might want to give people a little feeling of getting ahead, but don't let us fool ourselves that we made any strides in exports. We did not.

I can say now, Mr. Speaker, that an NDP position when in Government, will be that we will be pushing exports of course to CARICOM, whatever little we can get, but high priority will be to extra-regional markets and to the expansion of the domestic market.

I believe, Sir, that last year's budget placed local manufacturers under increased pressure and put us in a negative position, as I said earlier, because of the removal of stamp duty on CARICOM goods. There is a clear need for expansion in agro-industry, I do not mean putting up a shell in Wilkey for some processors. I am talking about the kind of serious plans that the Honourable Minister of Agriculture mentioned to me a long time ago. I have not seen or heard anything more about it. Maybe he will tell us more about it today.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central gave clear evidence yesterday of the gross incompetence in the preparation of last year's Estimates - and I do not think I need to go into that - as well as this year's. We saw clear evidence that there was no serious attempt to control Government expenditure. It looks as if there is not going to be any serious attempt again.

Mr. Speaker, as I said when I started speaking, I do not want to get too much into the petty areas, but there are some things that you cannot let go unchallenged. The Honourable Member for St. John asked a question yesterday and I believe that the Honourable Member for Christ Church East was so busy with the Minister of Agriculture that he did not get a chance to answer him. I will try to answer him now. He wanted to know what are the people's needs that the Government was not meeting. Simply I have about four of them here. The people's need

for jobs is not being met. The people's need for houses is not being met. The people's need for financial assistance in small businesses is not being met. I will hear all kinds of arguments about all kinds of places that they can get this assistance from, but ask any small businessman how difficult it is to get at it. Then you will get the next argument, if I can be so presumptuous, that a lot of them do not have their house in order. There are a lot of small people, some of whom were craftsmen before, vendors and they decided to get into something bigger. They never went anywhere to train in business administration. So you have to put something in place to help them to help themselves if you are serious about employment.

That brings me to a point where, I believe, the Prime Minister may have to look seriously at his Minister of Employment, because I believe he spends more time with NCC than any other part. I don't know what is being done in terms of employment creation projects. The people's needs are not being met in financial assistance to purchase low income houses. As was said before, an NDP Government will make sure that 100 per cent mortgages are available.

The Minister of Housing has not yet said or written anywhere that I know about what the policy is on housing.

Mr. Speaker, I see I have very little time left and I have something very important to deal with, Sir. One of the things that the Honourable Members on that side have learnt well yesterday was that you cannot come into this Honourable Chamber and give the impression that the Honourable Member for Christ Church East is not a man of his word, because they found out very quickly that they could find themselves in some very embarrassing positions when they start to think he is not a man of his word. They find themselves with the proverbial egg in the face as the Honourable Minister of Agriculture will find today. I have a copy of a letter, I can make it a document of the House, dated 14th September, 1988, to the Honourable W. O. Franklin, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Graeme Hall, Christ Church. It reads as follows:

Dear Sir,

Quotation: Refendering & repairing
jetty at Oistins Fishing Complex

1 000 ft. x 14" dia purpleheart.
52 pieces 6" x 6" x 6ft greenheart 290 4" x 4" x 3/8" s/s
flat washers drilled for 7/8" bolts
160 2" x 6" x 6" s/s angle washers 3/8" thick & drilled
for 7/8" bolt
100 2" x 6" x 8" s/s angle washers 3/8" thick & drilled
for 7/8" bolt
10 8" x 6" x 6" x 8" x 3/8" s/s clamps with slotted holes
drilled each end for 7/8" bolts
20 7/8" x 10" s/s bolts with nuts
110 7/8" x 18" s/s bolts with nuts

160 7/8" x 22" s/s bolts with nuts
1 800 14" used tyres

The work entails removing existing woodwork, fendering and removing all rusted bolts from concrete platform. All new s/s bolts will be regouted to concrete platform and new wooden supports fitted with necessary bolts, nuts and s/s clamps. The tyres for fendering will be threaded on instead of being cut and tiled on as was done originally.

Kinch Construction, 29 Goodland Gardens, Christ Church will undertake the work for a sum of \$82,680.00 plus duty & taxes on imported materials. Completion expected in 8 - 10 weeks, weather and sea conditions permitting.

Yours sincerely,

Edgar Bourne,
M.P. Christ Church
East.

Mr. Speaker, when we talk about integrity on this side, there is always a lot of pooh-poohing about it, and maybe from people who do not understand what integrity is, but the Honourable Minister made it clear....

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I have had to make several requests about the temperature in this Chamber. It appears to me that people who control the thermometer feel, because they have multiple layers of clothes on and are not uncomfortable, that the rest of us feel as they do. I would appreciate, Sir, if some relief could be granted to those of us who are shivering. There is a Member here who is recovering from the flu and has been forced to leave this Chamber on several occasions. I would be grateful if you could seek to remedy the situation.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will investigate the matter for you.
10.30 a.m.

Hon B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on a point of privilege. I have to agree with my colleague who has just spoken. What seems to be occurring is that somebody or somebodies is or are interfering deliberately or indeliberately with the thermostat controls.

Yesterday in the dining room someone had turned the thermostat down to 55 degrees. There are two knobs and one fixes the temperature and one makes it whether it is high, low or whatever. There are people playing with it and I think all one needs to do is to have it done.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have spoken to the Clerk and asked him to find some way of relieving the present situation. At present, there is very little I can do at the moment in the light of the circumstances.

You have two more minutes.

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Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, all I can say about this is that the Honourable Minister said yesterday that he had never received this letter. Certainly, I would tend to believe that the Minister of Agriculture did, in fact, receive this letter because it was never returned to Mr. Bourne. I would have to assume that the Ministry did receive it. I would suggest to the Honourable Minister that, to save him further embarrassment because he did say yesterday that Mr. Bourne was not a man to his word, and did not give him the information that he had requested, I would think that, to save any further embarrassment, he should maybe investigate at the Ministry what has happened to this letter because it has been since September 14, last year.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: On a point of order. I gave him the undertaking that I am going to check this. We have an "In Mail" Book. I am going to request my Secretary to research this letter immediately in the Registry and I will report to him.

Mr. SPEAKER: Wind up.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, whether it is in the Registry or not, Mr. Bourne did not get back the letter so the presumption is that the Ministry received that letter and if, in fact, the Honourable Minister....

Aside.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: This a copy. You do not sign copies.

Mr. SPEAKER: Time is running out. Just conclude.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: I know that I will have the opportunity when we go in to Committee to deal with a number of other subjects, I would like to deal with under the particular Heads. I am obliged to you, Sir.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I did not expect that I would have had to speak on this matter or, indeed, in this debate, at such an early stage but I have been prompted to do so by the intervention of the Honourable Member for the City.

- Let me deal first with the last point which he made, because in a presentation which was rambling all over the place without any substance, any direction, he eventually landed somewhere in Christ Church and produced a letter which has been made a document of this Chamber purporting to be a document signed by the Honourable Member for Christ Church East and addressed to the Hon. W. O. Franklin, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Graeme Hall, Christ Church, dated 14 September, 1988.

Now, Sir, if my understanding of the way in which Government operates is correct, then this letter is tantamount to a complete break of the Financial - or an invitation to breach the Financial and Audit Administration Act.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please.

I am not permitting any invitation ...

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: No. I do not know of anywhere in the past or in the present where an Honourable Member of this Chamber could quote because what is actually happening, it is what the Honourable Member for Christ Church East is really proposing, a tender, quoting the amount of money it would cost, quoting the amount of pieces of greenheart, the nuts and bolts, the tyres and even suggesting the company that would construct - the firm and the amount of money which would be charged.

Now, Sir, this is most unusual.

Mr. E. BOURNE: On a point of order, Sir.

This letter was written in response to what the Minister of Agriculture asked me to do for him. I am no contractor. I never tried to tender anything. He asked me....

Mr. SPEAKER: There is no need to develop a speech. You just make the point of order and take your seat.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Sir, what is contained in this letter is tantamount to a tender, giving the time period, completion expected in 8 - 10 weeks, weather and sea conditions permitting for a sum of \$82 680 plus duty and taxes on imported material, Kinch Construction, 29 Goodland Gardens, Christ Church.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am going to ask Honourable Members to....

Aside.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think that I need to go through the repetition of asking Members to contain themselves and allow the Member whom the Chair has called to speak. Interruptions that are unnecessary will not be tolerated from this Chair.

I will ask the Honourable Member to continue his speech.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, it would seem to me that this - to be frank with you, if anybody on this side

were so out of their mind or misguided as to accept this and to go along with this suggestion in the way in which it was made - this would be tantamount to an invitation to corruption. It is as simple as that.

Tendering - there is a process for tendering in the public sector. There are Financial Rules governing tendering and these have to be strictly observed. No Honourable Member of this Chamber, no Minister can instruct or even suggest, as has been done in this particular case, the way in which matters relating to tenders should be done. This demonstrates a clear misunderstanding of (a) the role of a Member of Parliament, and (b) a complete lack of knowledge of the rules of the game.

It is as simple as that so that we did not introduce this letter into the Honourable Chamber. It was the Honourable Member for the City who has placed his party Member, the Honourable Member for Christ Church East, in this embarrassing situation.

I am sure that the Honourable Member for Christ Church East, on reflection, is very sorry that this letter has come to light because I think this is going to be very embarrassing for him.

Now, let me just move on. I am sure we will not hear the end of this. I am sure that Honourable Members will be dealing further with this. I think it is something which is fundamental and something which we have to expose. We cannot conduct Government's business in this way.

When the Honourable Member for the City got up, I expected to hear words of wisdom on the export led growth, as he has held himself forth to be an expert in this particular area. One expected to hear a clear policy, a different policy enunciated by their chief spokesman for the National Democratic Party on this particular matter. 10.40 a.m.

He started out on the one hand by saying that it is foolishness even to consider looking at exporting in CARICOM because most of the major markets in CARICOM have had devaluations. The purchasing power of the people in these markets has been considerably reduced. But yet, in enunciating the NDP policy at the end of his presentation, what did he say? That they will of course be pushing CARICOM exports.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: On a point of order, Sir, I did not say any such thing. Sir. First of all, Sir, I never said that the CARICOM market was foolishness. I never claimed to be an expert. I never said that we would be pushing foremost CARICOM exports as an NDP Government. I never said that.

I said, of course we will sell to CARICOM also but our thrust will be extra-regional. If the Minister was not listening, maybe he understands.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: I am not sure what he said. I do not even think that he is sure what he said because he said of course they will be pushing CARICOM exports. He might not have said that at first. The fact of the matter is that, after having given the impression that the CARICOM markets are dead, I would be surprised to hear him come back and indicate that they would also be going in that direction.

The other point he made was that they would be looking at the expansion of the domestic market. Fourthly, expansion in agro industry. Fifthly, and not necessarily in that order, expansion in the extra-regional markets. What is new in this? What, Mr. Speaker? What is new in all of this? The very ideas which we have been trying to promote which we have been trying to get manufacturers interested in. I think we have to understand very clearly that a Government can only create the environment, a Government can do the research as the Government and the Governmental agencies have been doing. But the Government does not manufacture. The Government can only, as I say create the environment in which manufacturing can take place. We need to have the entrepreneurs. We need to have the people with the outlook. You need to have the people with the managerial ability. You need to have the people who can do the manufacturing and manufacture the kind of goods which can gain the foothold in the markets, whether they are markets in the domestic market or the CARICOM market or in the extra-regional market.

What we are trying to do is to cultivate that environment. We recognise that we need to have new manufacturers. We need to have manufacturers with the kind of outlook that would thrust us into the areas which the Honourable Member has been speaking about.

He talks about competitive pricing. We recognise that this is an area which we have to be able to deal with. When one talks about pricing, what are the factors which are involved in pricing? He must know that, comparatively speaking, Barbados is to a large extent a high cost producing area. The wage levels in Barbados, and one does not have to make any apology about this, the wage levels in Barbados are generally speaking higher than the wage levels anywhere in the Caribbean and, I daresay, probably higher than in Latin America, most countries in Latin America, higher than most countries in the Far East. These are facts of life.

When one is out in the international environment attempting to attract investment or, indeed, when one is selling in the extra-regional markets, one is competing against goods or against countries which have levels and

standards lower than Barbados which produce products, if we are producing the same kind of products, they could probably produce them at a lower rate.....

Aside.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: ... than Barbados can produce them. The Honourable Member said that is an economy of scale. That may very well be so.

Again, Barbados is a small country.

Aside.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: It makes the challenge greater. That is why we need to have the kind of people who can accept the challenge and rise to the occasion. The fact of the matter is that we still have to deal with the question of pricing. How do we deal with that?

Now I am not saying that wages is the only element in pricing. I am not saying that at all because there obviously has to be a very important element in the whole question of the management of the enterprise. It is a fact that this, to a large extent in Barbados, leaves a lot to be desired.

The Export Promotion Corporation, the Industrial Development Corporation, BIMAP, are governmental agencies which have been trying to organise programmes and trying to get this particular approach across to manufacturers in this country. Very often, when you organise a programme whether it is to do with financial management or the management of personnel, the kind of people whom you would want to get at, the kind of people who, hopefully, would be able to make the difference in these kinds of training programmes often do not have the time, often cannot spare the time, to participate in these kinds of things.

You see, it is alright to talk about manufacturing. There are a lot of people. I am not an expert in manufacturing, I cannot claim to have the same expertise as the Honourable Member for the City. I know I am not a fool.

Asides.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Neither am I am neophyte. The point is, Sir, that you have a situation in a number of factories in Barbados where they are still operating and using methods which are far outdated. This in itself adds to the cost.

I am sure that, even in the Honourable Member's factory - I have never gone there - but I am positive that, even the Honourable Member's factory could do with some upgrading and some organisation.

The fact of the matter is that most of the factories in Barbados are operating on old machinery. He talked about agro industrial development. Yes. This Administration recognises that agro industrial development is one of the areas in which we can make some headway with food processing. We have identified that. He tried to belittle the effort which we are making constructing a food processing factory at Wildey.

I am saying, Sir, that, it is an effort not only to provide an opportunity for food processors in these small and in some instances medium sized operators, but to provide a factory to meet standards acceptable in the very export markets that he is talking about. We would not want to have a factory producing processed goods whether in our agro industrial goods, or vegetables or what have you and then try to get into the export market only to find that these goods will be rejected because they are not produced in the kind of idyllic environment that one would expect that they would be produced in.

Furthermore, we would not want to subject our people to a situation where they would be eating or using items which are not produced in idyllic circumstances/That is the case with the Government. We are satisfied that this particular factory which is now on stream and which we hope will be coming into operation at some time this year will answer this particular need in some respects.

The question of agro industrial growth and paying attention to that area is an area which we are concerned about and which we are doing something about.

Now the Honourable Member talked about niche marketing as if this is a new concept. If the Honourable Member does not understand the use of the English Language, I cannot be at fault for that. The point we recognise is that this is an area on which we can concentrate and in which we believe we have a particular advantage. 10.50 a.m.

What we have said is that in some areas whether in the United States of America, Canada or the U.K. there are markets where we can concentrate on products produced in Barbados for which there may be a demand in that particular market. I am going to link that with a comment which was made yesterday, to give you an example of the kinds of possibilities which exist.

In the United Kingdom, Canada and in the United States of America any amount of flying fish which can be processed in Barbados can be sold at one fell swoop in those markets. We just do not have the amount of fish to satisfy that market. That is a fact any amount. The Honourable Member for the City knows that. The Honourable Member for the City knows that any amount of flying fish which can be processed can be sold. But where

are we going to get the flying fish from? We cannot even get enough flying fish to satisfy the domestic needs.

Now the Honourable Member for Christ Church East is an expert in fishing. He is an expert in fishing. I really do not know about all these experts in fishing. If they can go, you know, and tell us where flying fish is, we would really like to find out. The Ministry of Agriculture would like to find out. As I understand it, Sir, there is a fair amount of flying fish off Barbados. But my information in talking to people who are involved in this kind of activity is that the most prolific flying fish grounds in this area are somewhere off Tobago and the reason for that I am told is that they are coming off the Gulf of Mexico. There is a lot of food on which the fish can feed coming through there and they are in that particular area. We are outside that zone and the water is a little warmer. All of these are factors, as I understand it. People who are experts have told me this. You are going to get a concentration of fish in that particular area. I think Belairs Research Institute did some tracking of flying fish the other day and they are still tracking it. What they find is that the flying fish end up down there where the currents are taking them and where the food is, and that is where they are concentrating.

Sir, these are facts which have to be told to people. The Honourable Member has said that we have issued a licence to import flying fish into Barbados. That is a fact, Sir. It is not the first time and it will not be the last time. You have a demand for flying fish at this time of the year. One knows that this is the Lenten season. I believe that around this Season Barbadians themselves, apart from the visitors to these shores, eat a lot of fish. If a Government, a responsible Government, sees that there is a shortage building up and knows that there is a shortage, what do we have to do? Don't we have to respond to that? If there is the demand for flying fish, don't we have to buy flying fish where flying fish is available? I do not see anything wrong with that, Sir. There is nothing which was done in secret. It was done in consultation with the Ministry of Agriculture after representations made by the processors. The processors have been granted a licence to bring fish in for the express purpose of meeting the demands, to satisfy the demands of the hotels, in terms of the school meals, the hospitals and various areas they have to supply. I understand it, that because they had no fish, they were about to lay off people.

I think that Government has to adopt a responsible position. It is all right to be emotional. I understand being emotional. You can appeal to people by saying - oh, the Government is doing this. The Government is taking bread out of this person's mouth. The Government does not want the fishermen to earn a living and all this kind of thing. But the fact is that there is a shortage of fish in Barbados and we have to try and satisfy that particular need.

When the Honourable Member talks about having no policy, the Government having no policy in export marketing, the Government has a policy and it has been stated over and over again, as you well know.

Asides.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: We recognise that the export market is of extreme importance to us. There are a number of Government agencies, including the Barbados Marketing Corporation, which are also involved in promoting the exports of our agricultural products. That is another area for which there is a big market, our agricultural products. But again what we find is that, like everything else which depends on the weather, there are times when you get a high production and at times when the production is not so good. The fact of the matter is that we do not have the kind of control over some of these items as the Honourable Member would have us believe. We recognise that there is a market out there for them and will continue, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, to develop the kind of research and product which we will be able to market and sell in the export market.

We have done a study on this whole question of other manufacturers and looking at the other areas, and one of the areas which comes to mind and which presents itself as an opportunity for creating employment in this country is in the area of data processing. That is an area which the market requires. There are possibilities there, and you know we are pushing that. We are not concentrating in any one particular area. You talk about missions and the Honourable Member for the City talked about missions and saying that going on trade missions here and there can not do the job. I agree entirely with you and for this reason that, unlike the former Administration, we have tried very carefully to control that kind of situation. When a mission goes abroad now, it goes with a purpose.

I recall, about 2 years ago participating in a mission to Puerto Rico. It followed one of 2 years before that under the previous Administration. The previous one was a big mission. Persons who participated in that mission and in the one during our Administration, said that ours was much better organised. They had an opportunity to talk face to face with a number of people and were able to understand very clearly what is required in the market. There was a continuing dialogue between a number of people on the mission and their partners in Puerto Rico. They have, 1 or 2 of them, been able to make some headway but not as much as we would like. Working a market in an extra-regional area calls for a lot of hard work. One has to stay with it. One has, as the Honourable Member for the City has indicated, to price one's goods in a competitive manner. One has to have the kind of market information and market

contacts to put them there and to work the market so that their goods could have access to these areas.
11.00a.m.

That particular area is just an indication of some of the things which will have to be done. The Export Promotion Corporation has just done a study of the possibilities in the English market. That study is available to manufacturers. Whenever the Export Promotion Corporation does studies of the markets, they are made available to manufacturers. I will repeat what I said earlier on. The Government can only create the environment. The manufacturers, after the Government has created the environment, must be able to take up the ball and run with it. Unfortunately there are a lot of people who think that it is the Government's role to manufacture, it is the Government's role to sell, it is the Government's role to promote. It would seem as if some manufacturers may be getting the impression that their only role is to take the profits.

I am saying, Sir, that the manufacturers owe this country, in the same way as the country owes them, a responsibility. Their responsibility is after the Government has created the necessary environment to produce goods and go out and sell them.

I thank you, Sir.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Mr. Speaker, every year we look at the economic condition of our country. One thing we know for sure is that there is no magic in dealing with hard economic reality. There is no magician, there is no Mandrake with a hypnotic look at people and a hypnotic spell that can bring about realities in a country by promising serendipity and taking us to lotus land. It cannot happen. When we come here we are looking at allocation of resources. We are looking at how we are going to get the revenue to meet the demands of the population and the legitimate demands facing this country.

Any attempt to analyse the facts before us in the Estimates for 1989-90 and to compare them with what has been happening in the recent past would suggest to us that these Estimates are normal Estimates, in keeping with what has happened before. There is nothing unusual about them that they should be withdrawn or anything like that. We are dealing in fairyland talk. We are bringing the political platform into this Honourable House of Assembly. We are not getting down fundamentally to doing the people's business.

One of the things I have tried to do is to look at the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure, using 1985 as a base line, to see what has been happening in this country. I want to look at expenditure in particular because we get the impression that this administration is guilty of some runaway expenditure, and does not know what it is doing in terms of expenditure for this country. I want to get into

more details to look at that statement and what it means for those who have been making it.

If you look at Current Expenditure in Barbados, using the Estimates for 1985-86 and Estimates down to the 1989-90 Estimates, the one thing that is coming home very clearly to us is that we have to watch the National Debt. We have to look at debt servicing very carefully. That is the major thing facing us. As an administration, the Democratic Labour Party found itself facing a burgeoning debt problem. It had to incur some debts, also after 1986, in order to make sure that this country remained on a sound financial basis. That is the major problem facing Government's expenditure in this country. If you look at Current Expenditure, either by functional classification or economic classification, you will see what the situation is.

If you look at the various categories, in 1985-86 about 17.3% of your Current Expenditure was in general public service. In 1989-90 it is down to 14.4% and it has been coming down gradually. Defence and Security, we have been controlling that from 2.9% down to 2.2%. Education, we are spending less proportionately in 1989-90. We have tried in certain areas which impact on people to maintain levels, as in Health where we have maintained the same 12.3% of our expenditure. We have tried to maintain our social security and welfare. We have gone down slightly in housing. We have gone up in other community and social services. We have even had to cut down on economic services. That is not good in a country if you want to be planning to move forward. But the big area is the area of debt servicing that went up from 15% in 1985-86 to 25% at the present. That is what we should be talking about in this country, not nit-picking and giving the impression that this administration is careless and reckless with the public finances and that we are expending it on matters that we do not have to expend it on. That is not true. The facts do not bear that out.

If you look at economic classification of your expenditures, in 1985-86 you were spending 65.6% on goods and services, including wages and salaries. That is now down to 50.8%. The debt level has been pushing into areas that you have no control over in these days. That is crucial when we are looking at Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure. Interest payments are now 10.6%, amortisation payments approximately 14.5%. Those are the facts you are dealing with. The amount of money you have to spend on subsidies and other current transfers is at 23.8%, down from 1985-86 at 24.6%. Those are the facts of life.

The Democratic Labour Party has not been wasteful in terms of Government expenditure. It has been spending money in the traditional areas. If you look at the traditional proportions they have not changed significantly, except as I said where they have been forced in certain directions because of the service debt. We cannot walk away from

debt, we are not an irresponsible Government. Anybody who gives the impression that this Government does not know what it is doing, that it is wild in its expenditure - and I will come back to that question of expenditure, about the reality of the situation and the dreams that people want to create in this country - let us understand that this is a reasonable Government, it is one that understands management. It is managing well.

I am concerned also about where our revenues are coming from. Again I am pitching from 1985-86 and coming to the present. Our major revenue has always been taxes on goods and services, incomes and profits. Those are our major revenues. If you look at the Revised Estimates from 1985-86 right through in terms of the percentage of our income from goods and services, in 1985-86 we were getting 14.9% of our revenue from goods and services, in 1986-87 it went to 30%, rough figures, in 1987-88 it was 28.2%, in 1988-89 it started to climb again to 31.7% and in 1989-90 it is now being pitched at 32.5%.

On the contrary, if you look at revenue coming from incomes and profits, in 1985-86 it was relatively high, at 32%. In 1986-87 it went down to 22.3%, in 1987-88 it went right down to 18.2% and in 1988-89 it was at 23.5% for 1989-90 it is estimated at 22.6%. What you are seeing is a gradual shift away from revenue coming from incomes and profits and going in the direction of goods and services. As you would understand, there was a transition period between 1986 and 1988 when you were trying to pitch a certain level in terms of your revenue from incomes and profits, because, again, there is no magic wand. 11.10a.m.

When we made changes in 1986 in terms of removing certain bases of income tax and so on, it did not take a genius to know that that change could have only a temporary effect. As there were wages negotiations, incomes would move, so that few people would be left under the \$15 000 band. That is not a band that is cast in steel to be there forever. When you make these kinds of changes one must not give the impression that forever and ever they are going to be there to have the same effect.

Economics must be practised always in a changing environment with the understanding that things change. There is no particular model that will work for one time everywhere in the same way, and I want some people to tell me about these fantastic paradigms that they have developed, these models that are going to work in Barbados or anywhere else, where have they been tested, these supply-side models, where they have been tested, remaining unchanged and bringing about the magic transformation of a country! We will get to that also.

What is clear to me is that the incidence of taxation is moving away from incomes and profits, although it is stabilised now in the 20 to 23 per cent range from where it

used to be at 32 per cent. It seems to be hitting a level of stabilisation. It seems also that the income coming from goods and services is beginning to stabilise also around 32 per cent away from the 14 per cent that it used to be before.

Sir, when you take the two of them together, when you take the revenue from goods and services and the revenue from income on profits, you will find that the two of them together, the incidence is increasing to some extent. Where in 1985-86 the two of them together account for about 46.9 per cent, and that was repeated about 1987-88, it is now moving in the direction of 55 per cent and 57 per cent. That is when you take them together - the impact they have on your total revenue coming in. Therefore, to me it is very difficult to tamper with these two particular methods of revenue earnings. In fact, if you don't want to be increasing these significantly it is going to be very difficult to follow the suggestion of the Honourable Member for St. Peter and remove taxes on land and so on. It is going to be very difficult. If you do that you would be throwing a lot of weight on these two other areas. You really do not have much discussion in areas that you can levy taxes to bring in the type of income that we are talking about to meet the kind of expenditure that we have to face. Let us understand this is no fairy land. This is the land of reality. This is the real world. This is not the intellectual or the academic world. This is the real world.

This is not addressed to you, Sir. This is a statement in terms of the total public finance of this country. I am saying that we are talking a lot of words for political purposes. The reality to the people of Barbados is that there must be expenditure and there must be revenue to service the expenditure, and there are no magical ways of changing it. I have been looking at these things from the 1930s. I was studying economic history of Barbados from the 1930s right away down the line. The things don't change that much. There are certain allocations that must be made. Revenue must be collected. You haven't changed. You have not brought in any new science of economics to change the whole business. There were times when very little spending was done because people were afraid of expenditure. We were all poor. Our standards were all poor. Nobody wanted to spend money except in areas that would benefit them. There was no money under social services. Roads near certain houses were being done. There was no spending on education except for a few people. The masses did not have any money being spent on them, so don't give the impression that there is some new kind of economics going on. It is the same economics in 1989-90 as existed everywhere else. There are certain basic things in running a country that do not change from day to day. There is no magic. There is no new method or any new system, no paradigms that have been checked out anywhere, proved perfect, that you can patent and transfer to Barbados and say that we have a new world. It is foolishness. That is not for intelligent people.

Sir, in a small open economy like ours you do not have many options in terms of what you have to do when you come in here from year to year to provide for this country to go forward. It is true we have to think in terms of economic growth. That is important at times. Our country must think in terms of moving forward, taking us to a path of growth. We can be proud in Barbados that we have been seeing successive years of growth whether 2 per cent or 2.5 per cent. Let us be proud. That, coming out of two international recessions in the Seventies and Eighties, we can still maintain economic growth successfully is a pause for pride. This Administration is proud that it has been able to manage the economy in such a way as to bring growth.

The United States of America went into recession in the 1930s. All of the restructuring processes of the Roosevelt administration took about ten years before the economy started to move again. It took a second World War really to get the economy going. What kind of magic do you want to produce in this country where we just came, out of two recessions, that all of a sudden somebody is going to give you full employment? Full employment from where? A magician? Where is the Mandrake who will take up the black hat and pull it out? He does not exist. Where is it going to come from? Let us understand that you cannot compare Barbados with the other Islands of the Caribbean that have not begun to reach the stage Barbados is at. If they are experiencing higher rates of growth, it is because they are at a different level of development from this country. When you are- at the beginning stage of development your rates of growth might be fairly high. As your economy becomes more modernised and more mature it is going to be difficult to get those same rates of growth unless certain things happen in the world economy. A number of things have to happen before we are pulled along with that. No little fiddling with fiscal measures is going to bring this fantastic growth to this country. Much of the growth in the Barbados economy will have to come from things happening outside.

Sir, the growth that came in the Sixties was largely because of the injections of foreign capital in this country. Although you are trying to release some of the domestic capital by introducing certain fiscal measures, that alone cannot do it. I pity those who are sitting back waiting for this private sector in Barbados all of a sudden to solve all of our problems. It can't happen. They do not have the finances, they don't have the expertise and a whole lot of other things. I don't even know if they have the will or the understanding to do it. That is not to decry our private sector. I have great faith in them. I have pride in what they have done in this small country. I am saying we cannot expect them to perform magic. Let us understand that. We go about giving these grandiose impressions. Impressions are all right but we have to come down to reality. Impressions can last for a year or two. They can't go on forever. There will be outturn figures coming all the time

and you will be able to analyse and see where you are going.

Sir, one of the things you have to do in this country is to start a serious reorganising. I am seeing in these Estimates the signs that we are going there. The amount of money I see put aside for computers is a radical and revolutionary change in this country. I see money being put into the Estimates under Education for computers and new computer programmes. I don't want to look at the various Heads at this time. I am looking at the broad revolutionary elements of Estimates. What that is saying to me is that the Government understands that the role to the future is through the path of technology and training.

That is what is going to bring jobs in this country, that is what is going to bring economic growth, not any fiddling around with any fiscal policies and so on. Let us understand that. We have to do a lot of fundamental work in this country. We have to get into exports. Everybody is saying that in our tradable goods sector. We have to improve the tradable goods sector. It does not happen by waving a wand. We have to make funds available for young entrepreneurs.

How do you develop a hutch of young entrepreneurs? I have never seen more training in Barbados than in the last five years or so. Management training programmes are going on day after day in this country in the private sector and in the public sector. I never used to see them before and I was not blinkered. There is one going on now at Rockley Resort. I would have liked to have been there, to tell the truth. If I had to choose I would have to be here. There is one going on there now and it has been going on for a long time. The University of the West Indies, CARICAD and a number of private sector institutions are coming together in terms of management training. That has been echoing through this country.

In terms of the public service, a lot of training is done there. There are people who are making calls for the disbandment of the Ministry of the Civil Service, and then talking about improving the efficiency in our country - contradictory statements, backward thinking. Disband what Ministry of what Civil Service? Make recommendations about how it can be improved, but if you are against a person, don't talk about dismantling a Ministry. The Ministry of the Civil Service, in terms of the projections about what it is supposed to do, is an area of modernisation in our country. Those who travel to other countries go to Israel and in Israel they have developed what is known as socio-technology. They have a band of experts, management specialists, economists, engineers and so on, they put them together. When a business is in trouble you send the team together and they carry out socio-technological research and make recommendations about how that particular Ministry or enterprise is to be improved.

Sir, we want more of that in this country, not less of it. We want people who are trained in job evaluation, work measurement and work study techniques and so on and the hutch for that in terms of the public sector has to be within that Ministry. We are only putting this piddling change in the Estimates. We can't put money into it because the public sector is not swamping up a lot of money. But you have to put money in there if you are going to be leading to the kind of changes. 11.20a.m.

You are talking about cuts in expenditure that come through efficiency. Then you do not want to put money into a Ministry and to create a Ministry that will deal with that particular matter. Not that I feel that it is going to bring all the answers because the answers to these questions about cuts in expenditure come elsewhere which we will look at again.

So let us understand. These Estimates suggest to me that the Government is looking at the present scenario. They are dealing with the past problems like the debt in these Estimates and with future things, bringing in the computers and other areas.

These Estimates tell a story of a Government that is on the ball and knows what is going on. We deal with the debt that we inherit as a normal day to day matter. We have to look at satisfying the needs of the people of this country at the present and go forward to the future.

I move now to this question of expenditure, those on the other side who talk about expenditure, including the NDP. I am going to be very direct about the NDP. The persons who have formed the NDP clearly, from their pronouncements so far outside and inside this Chamber, are people who feel that the administration that they were in was not delivering the goods to them and to the people in their constituencies in the quantity that they wanted. That is what I have been hearing basically. They could not get this done. They could not get enough of that. They and their supporters could not get the next thing and so on.

Politics at this level is not for children. Politics at this level is for adults. Politics at this level is not for individualistic persons. It is for people who think collectively on broad levels. Positive level is not about individual dreams. It is about the classes and the masses of people that you have to satisfy.

When you become a representative in Parliament you cannot be peevish, churlish and petulant. You have to be deep, broad and futuristic in your views. You cannot be wanting something tomorrow. You have to be seeing down decades and centuries if not all that we have worked for as a people will get destroyed overnight. Somebody gets anxious to get something and it does not happen.

The country is not based on that kind of person. They were formed on the dump heap of history and the shots that are fired in here will be fired outside. Some of them have already fired all the shots they have to fire too because when you get over your peevishness and so on, where do you go from, there? Let us understand.

The expenditure in this country are on people. When I go into my constituency, I see the beautiful things and I see the bad ones too. I see the good roads but I see the bad roads. I am not condemning anybody for living in bad roads. I see those who are working and I see those who are not working. I do not want to condemn anybody.

I believe in human rights. There is a human right that you should work. I see the ugly places and I see the beautiful places. I do not want anybody to live in an ugly place and all of these things that I want mean spending money and all of us want it for our people. Are we going to freeze Barbados in time?

I did history. That is my discipline. I know where the country came from, the Thirties, the Forties and the Fifties and the job is not done. It has to be going on all the time. There are going to be expenses in this country as long as there are differences. The country cannot be perfect. It will never be perfect. As long as there are areas where resources have been spent more than on others, we have to spend money on those areas that did not have the resources spent on them, hopefully, that we will bring things to a certain level. Let us understand these things.

When you are talking about cutting down on public sector expenditures, you are talking about reducing goods and services, or sacking people. That is what you are talking about basically. The kind of sacking you are going to have to do if you are going to make any difference is big sacking, not small sacking.

My friend, the Honourable Leader of the Opposition was making points about statutory expenditures for wages and salaries as against non statutory. All right. We take the point, fine hair splitting because I will tell you this. Whether a chap out there is working because he was on statutory provision or whether he is a casual, he is working and, not onl> that. I am going to represent him as a trade unionist too.

There is no category among trade unionists saying that these are statutory people and these are casual or temporary. I do not make any distinction between statutory expenditure on wages and salaries and the non statutory. The non statutory expenditure is on the ones at Parks and Beaches and those kinds of fellows, the casuals. They eat the same bread as the ones on whom statutory expenditure is made. They are the same people. Do not make those distinctions.

It is true that Ministers might be able to put them in place, rather than the Public Service Commission, if that is the division you want to make that, perhaps, Ministers are exercising rights which are not legal rights to them. They are not breaking any law in providing jobs for some people. Make the point but that is a political point. It is not an economic point. I would like to see the day in Barbados, too, when nobody has to come to a member of Parliament or anybody to beg for a job.

If you are going to bring those strictures to the public sector you are going to bring them to the private one too? The private sector has far more jobs in this country than the public sector. The little 26 000 in the public sector, would the Members of Parliament be able to persuade somebody to get a job in there for them?

Who do you think makes the decisions in the private sector for somebody to get a job? You think people do not send somebody to somebody to get a job in the private sector? Do you think private sector jobs are just advertised and anybody walks in? For a lot of those private sector jobs you have to know somebody too. You had better believe it. In many cases it would not be us who could send anybody to them. So these kinds of unreal worlds that people want to create, it does not happen that easily.

Let us understand what is the real world. Develop the model that you are going to bring into place and then sell it to all the African countries, all the Latin American countries, somebody willing and ready to get this futuristic real world where jobs flow so much in Barbados.

I hear about this full employment notion under Errol Barrow, different time, different place, different circumstances. Under the Barbados Labour Party, full employment, just before elections, a notion towards that. Do not let us glorify these things.

Around an election time, like the Minister of Housing spent the money in 2 months to create jobs for a whole lot of people. The then Minister of Housing at the time, almost bankrupted National Housing!

Places like Lammings, Maynards and so on had to wait 2 years before the projects were completed. Jobs created around election time and then in October the real Budget in your necks and the next thing you know, IMF. What full employment you are talking about?

As the Honourable Member for St. John said yesterday, you are not talking about a notional situation. You are talking about sustaining the thing. You can always do that. You can always sustain the so-called full employment if a number of things happen in the world and in Barbados. There are a lot of exogenous factors affecting the Barbadian economy.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is, I think, unwittingly, because he has not looked at the Central Bank Statistics, trying to mislead the House that the reduction in the levels of unemployment under the Labour Party was a kind of election gimmick.

If he would look at the Economic and Financial Statistics at page 87 he will see, Sir, the third main column, number of persons employed in thousands, broken down into males and females and then a total. Starting from 85 000 to 87 000, to 97 000 going to 1980 99.2 and in 1981 100 000 - in five years 15 000 on a sustained basis for those five years 1976 - 1981.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Mr. Speaker, I really did not recognise the point of order but I am in your hands on this matter to allow him to make a speech that was completely away from anything that I was saying. But I always like to hear the Honourable Member for St. Thomas. He was not addressing the question of full employment. 11.30a.m.

I have been hearing about full employment being near to reaching that target twice. I have been hearing that it was

Aside.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: I do not think he was saying that. What he was suggesting to me....

Aside.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: I think what the Honourable Member for St. Thomas was saying was that under the Barbados Labour Party Administration you could see a gradual growth in the employed labour force. But it did not reach anything near full employment....

Aside.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: ... and that exogenous factors, , and including a recession, pushed you far away from the goal. Whatever you were doing domestically was affected by what was happening out there in the real world. Far from maintaining that level, you retreated from it. The fact is that the unemployment level started to grow tremendously after that particular period. I think it was part of the Barbados Labour Party's policy to surrender employment and to deal with the whole question of inflation. I think that was part of the policy. We were able to enjoy lower levels of inflation and at the same time our unemployment was growing tremendously. Any Government has to decide what its policy is going to be in these two particular factors. Under this Administration it seems to me that we have been trying to reduce unemployment with the effect that we can see some growth now in the inflation rate. That is a fact. There is some growth in the rate of inflation. That is a matter that

we have to look at very, very carefully because if we reach a level where the rate of inflation is growing but we are not making a dent or the kind of dent that we want to make....

Mr. SPEAKER: Just one minute remaining.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: ... on unemployment then we have to rethink our strategy.

I should like to suggest that we need, as a country, very seriously to look at the whole question of trade. I agree with some of the views expressed by the Honourable Member for the City and the Honourable Minister of Trade. Trade is important. We have to ensure that in coming times the buoyancy that we have been able to develop and to maintain in the tourism sector is matched by what is happening in trade. The Honourable Member for the city knows that growth in trade and development in trade are not things you do overnight. He knows that. There is an incubation period. When he acknowledges, if he would care to acknowledge, that when this administration came in that trade was really at its nadir, trade was down, international trade, regional trade was down, then you will acknowledge signs that we are picking up again.

What I find is that there is a do everything now mentality in this country, that everything should be changed overnight. People get anxious because in 2 years or 2½ years' time a Government is not able to complete an agenda. I do not know which administration has been able to do that anywhere in the world.

If you read "The Triumph of Politics" by David Stockman....

Aside.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Yes, you have to read it. You have to read those books. I will quote it, too, like the Honourable Member for St. Thomas. It is a book you have to read. You come in with your bright expectations and you run into something called The System.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will have to invite you to read it another time.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Applause.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am wondering how long the Government will wait before bringing on its top bowler. He was in his usual pugilistic style trying on this occasion, of course, to demolish his former colleague who sat next to him. I want to say, Sir, it is very interesting, the line he took.

I recall however that, in 1986, when the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central held the portfolio of Minister of Finance, the Honourable Member was perhaps one of only two Members on that side who spoke so glowingly in support of the proposals which he then brought before this Honourable House. In fact it has taken perhaps some 3 years before we have seen the full implications of those proposals. The Honourable Member....

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: On a point of elucidation, Sir, I stand by anything that I say at any time. Unless the Honourable Member for Christ Church West wants to quote what I said in 1986 or any other occasion to give the impression that I have changed what I have been saying, I would ask him to reflect or to withdraw the comments he made. If he is suggesting that I gave my unqualified support at any time to any policy, I would say that that could not be true.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I am saying to the Honourable Member, he is now seeing the full implications of what he supported at that time. From his own words today he was able to show to the House that there has been a tremendous shift in taxation, from direct taxation into indirect. What he did not do is to carry through his professed democratic socialist views by analysing the implications of that for those at the lower rung of the ladder in our society. It is shown that the taxation from goods and services has shifted from what it was under us 14.9% of the overall revenue to now a present position 32.5% under the present Government. Therefore what this means is that goods and services have gone up over 100% in taxation within about 2 years, 3 years of Democratic Labour Party rule and the shift of the burden of taxation has moved away significantly towards those persons who have to rely on just goods and services. We are talking about indirect taxation here. It is a stark reality, that we pointed out in the debate if you would go back to the debate the very acrimonious debate in this House in some respects in which the then Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central, Mr. St. John made this point. It is only one of the implications of what has happened under the Democratic Labour Party, Sir.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The shift has been so dramatic, a dramatic shift. We warned the then Government that this would be the stark reality. You would see, Sir, on their own figures. We frequently have to remind them that, on their own figures, it moved from 1986-87 to 30%, over 100%. Then 1987-88 28.2 and 1988-89 31.7%. It is back up to 32.5%. When you compare what has happened, however, with the shift from direct income and profits taxation, you will see a drop to as low as 18.2% under this Government.

Therefore the Barbados Labour Party is gradually seeing that the Democratic Labour Party, what is left of it,

is coming to recognise that our thesis in the period of 1985-86 was absolutely right, that you had to have in place a long-term strategy and not merely go for election politics. That long-term strategy demanded that we reorient and restructure the economy in such a way as to make use of the changing economic circumstances both regionally and internationally and have strategies that would increase revenue through productivity, not merely taking the housewives approach to raising revenue for the purpose of balancing the budget. .

Mr. Speaker, Sir, what is most significant about this Debate is that if the Debate had ended after the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition had spoken, one would have believed that we were merely dealing with a set of numbers because what characterised the Prime Minister's presentation to this House yesterday was that there was no analysis of the performance of the major sectors of the economy. The Prime Minister gave no reasons why he said that last year the country had performed only moderately. He did not explain what were the failures. There is no reason why the Deputy Prime Minister should merely sit in his seat and say that this will come in due course. 11.40a.m.

If you will look at the trend of the debates on the Appropriation Bill in the last few years under the Barbados Labour Party, both under Prime Minister Tom Adams and Prime Minister St. John, there was always an introduction that took this House into their confidence as to how the economy had performed and why it had failed and the reasons for its failure and not merely by a question of setting out how much revenue you have raised, what is the Estimated Expenditure and Revenue up to the end of the financial year and what is the Estimated Revenue and Expenditure for the coming financial year. If this was the only exercise we were doing in this Committee we need not have come in at all to the House. That is all set out on the first few pages of the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure, Sir. So that what we had really was a perfunctory rehashing and rehearsal of basic figures in here and I am not surprised, Sir.

The Prime Minister is obviously preoccupied with developments within his own party and the positive criticisms which he has received from the Barbados Labour Party Opposition on the performance of the Government during the last 3 years of his term of office, Sir. The truth and sting of those criticisms got home so close to him that he spent a lot of time trying to rebut a recent speech made by the real Shadow Minister of Finance for 4 years, the Honourable Member for St. Peter. He spent his time trying to rebut, Sir, the argument which he had set up.

You would recall that we had been in this House almost uncanny in our prediction of what would happen to the economy of Barbados after the Democratic Labour

Party won power and exercised the policies which it said it was going to exercise. We were almost uncanny in that prediction. The Honourable Member for St. Peter was then Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Finance. I recall in the debate in April 1986 the very methodology and logical manner in which he analysed the cost of the proposals of the Democratic Labour Party and their implications for the overall economy of Barbados. We said then, and we were criticised for it later, we said to the private sector and others that this is an economy which is fine tuned and you go on a fine balance and you have, therefore, to be a master of how you determine and when you determine what steps are to be taken and how they are to be taken. You can make the mistake of turning and giving too much in one direction and taking from another direction to give it in one direction and in the long term you will find that the country as a whole would be at a disadvantage.

I am pleased to say that the Barbados Labour Party has been proved right. The Honourable Member for St. Peter can feel highly justified. He has been uncanny from then right up to now. We forecasted it and told the Government last year that their taxation policies were underestimating revenue and we showed despite what the Prime Minister was then saying that he may have to come back to the House to pay a Public Sector wage increase. We showed that his taxation policy will result in his underestimation, having more than enough to pay the Civil Servants and at the end of the financial year to come out with a surplus. The Prime Minister in his speech ended up by saying that he may have a surplus or he may have a small deficit.

Now the out-turn figures for February should now be known to the Minister. I do not have them, Sir. But the out-turn figures will be known now. I hazard a guess that the out-turn figures are known to the Government and they are better than the projected Estimates of Revenue for the period of February 1989. Once again we will prove that the Government will come out on Current Account with a surplus on hand at the end of March 1989. We are also saying, Sir, that if you take into account in all sectors the figures for 1989/90, we are saying and it has been said - and I do not want to repeat it here several times - that the Government again is not reading the economy correctly. It is obviously mistaken on some of the areas in which it is charting the course for this country.

Sir, we are not boasting because we have been proven right. We are not happy because we have been proven right because the results have been disastrous for this country. But the second preoccupation obviously of the Prime Minister has been with the political implications of what has happened to the Democratic Labour Party.

I am sympathetic with the Honourable Member for St. John who in this House finds himself at a loss on really how can you have 2 persons, as he puts it, both saying that this is their Manifesto. That is how he put it, Sir. He is at a total loss to understand how you can have there and here both saying that this is their Manifesto, each criticising the other on the full implications of these policies - one saying that the Government has not implemented the policies or has implemented them wrongly and the other saying that they have been implementing them correctly. The consequence is that he is at a loss because he wants to know, how it is affecting his constituents. One is saying that they are on a new path and the other is saying that they are on a new way, both on the same document.

One is saying that they are the DLP and the other one is saying they are the new NDP. No doubt Sir, the Prime Minister must be over-preoccupied with that.

In 2½ years what has the DLP really come to, Sir? What have they really come to, Sir? We find ourselves in this House as we predicted with the criticism and it is a telling and justified criticism from the Honourable Member for Christ Church East. He has summed it up, Sir, and it must be retained in the records. He said that what I have found out about the DLP people and the Minister is that they are just talkers. They blow a lot of hot air and we cannot take them seriously. Now Sir, he has put it in much more dramatic language than we put it in 1986. That is one from their bosom and they cannot criticise him on the basis that he is not a man coming from the section of the community that represents the mass of people in this country. He is not somebody from the top. He is a man with the people so they have to understand that, Sir. That is his understanding of the position, Sir, quite clearly. They cannot criticise him about that, Sir. He unleashed a tongue-lashing on them, Sir, a tongue-lashing the like of which the Democratic Labour Party has probably not seen among it own for a long time.

Now Sir, what is the result? The result is really a position of disillusionment among the unemployed. Not a word from the main Government Minister of Finance to this country about the unemployment position in this country. We heard a lot of talk about answering the charge of the Leader of the Opposition - his hope for full employment, but not a word or explanation from the Government of how it has failed so miserably in 3 years to deal with the unemployment problem in this country. Not a word about that from them. I am not surprised because, if you look at the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure, that there are very few programmes, if any at all here, that are geared to this very serious problem. At the end of the day, as I said, none of the micro-economics issues on which the country would have wanted to take a lead from the Minister of Finance has been addressed in this debate by the principal spokesman on behalf of the Government. 11.50a.m.

Now the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central tried manfully to fill the gap in dealing with the problem of the national debt. He dealt with it only cursorily by making general statements. He tried to shift the emphasis by saying that the Government's problem is that it is burdened with debt. The Prime Minister himself in the budget debate last year at page 21 of the printed document, which is a document of this House said:

"Conventional ratios used by international institutions to judge the burden of debt, when applied to Barbados, therefore indicate that its foreign debt burden is considerably lower than that of many other countries. We can therefore safely say that by international standards our debt service and debt to GDP ratios are not in the danger zone. Our international obligations are within manageable limits."

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: I was making the point that debt servicing is impacting on other aspects of expenditure. The point the Honourable Member is making is relating, comparatively, debt in Barbados to debt in other countries and whether the ratio is acceptable or not. They are two different points altogether.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: They are not two different points. They are inter-related. I will show you a little later when I deal with the dismal failure of the Government's record on exports and the lack of what it is doing in taping these Estimates to promote exports. One of the reasons why they have been able to look at the problem of getting enough foreign exchange to answer either the debt problem or any other problem that confronts this country is that the exports are falling under this Government. They have come from a high which we had of something like over \$583 million to something like \$214 million. They are falling under this Government. They were going to correct them in Trinidad and Tobago. So I am not surprised that they have serious problems of their own making.

The second thing I want to say about the debt problem, in addition to the fact that they have acknowledged that the debt problem was manageable and within well manageable limits, is the fact that they themselves have increased enormously the borrowings in the 2½ years they have been in power. There has been tremendous borrowing by the Democratic Labour Party. Over their period in office they have borrowed more than we borrowed during the 10 years we spent in Government. When you look at the raw figures they are there. They borrowed more than we borrowed on the foreign market in a period of 3 years, the comparative period of time.

The third thing under the debt problem that the Honourable Member knows is that they themselves have contributed to the problem, and again I am going to rely on the Prime Minister's statement. He said "the 1987-88 Estimates of Expenditure provide for amortisation, interest

payments and sinking fund contributions of \$133.1 m." then he set out how it was provided. "When the Estimates were approved, no provision was made for the servicing of the Euro-Sterling Syndicate Loan which was signed in May, whereas the Estimates were approved in March of that same year." That is a problem of the Democratic Labour Party's making. What he was there doing is throwing the whip at the former Minister of Finance, nothing to do with the Barbados Labour Party at all, and part of the very fracture within the bosom of the Democratic Labour Party arises from these types of circumstances.

The fourth area that we wish to bring out on the debt service, because they must not misrepresent us, is as the Honourable Member for St. Peter said, we took the Japanese loan, the yen, and we left it, we did not use it during our period in office. It was put aside to be used for certain Capital projects over a period of time. Ask the Democratic Labour Party what they have done with it, if they want to know where the problem is.

The fifth problem, as I said, is because the Democratic Labour Party has a dismal record in export promotion. Look through these Estimates, Sir. When we are going to hear from the Minister of Trade and from the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central that what is needed most in this country today is an export led policy. You find the Government - and the Honourable Member for the City made the point too, and made it quite strongly - provided \$1.8 million in these Estimates for the Export Promotion Corporation, a cut, as compared to what was being given to this same important body in 1985-86. No doubt their policies are misplaced, despite all of the words. The Honourable Member said you cannot take their words, there is no action, and that is where the problem with them happens to be. A very serious problem for the country indeed.

They want to know how they can address some of what we are talking about, wastage in Government. It is not the function of an Opposition at this stage of the history of this Parliament to point out to you and give you policies for curing your own ills, but we will be generous and give you some of them within the very Estimates.

The Government ought to know that it is encouraging wastage, for instance, in the Child Care Board. Ask the Minister to explain why they have so many Committees and that you can find a Committee Meeting costing \$1 000 and meeting at people's private homes as well? They criticised the Honourable Member for Christ Church East, but ask him to explain the tendering process. Ask him why it is that the Child Care Board has taken to dividing up its contracts into less than \$100 000 and they are accusing him, because he introduced a letter here in response to the request of the Minister of Agriculture, of putting a document which they say is tantamount to corruption. Tell us how many tenders

have gone out on repair jobs for the Child Care Board. Let them tell us how many have gone out

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. I think the Leader of the Barbados Labour Party must know that tenders only go out for jobs over \$25 000. He must know that That is common knowledge in here. The Child Care Board follows the financial rules, and he is Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The Honourable Member should tell us how many contracts over \$25 000 went out and how many were divided up to be under \$25 000 and under \$100 000.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. If he has the information, let him bring it to this House of Assembly and we will deal with it then.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is no point of order. You are getting into making a speech now.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: I am sorry, Mr. Speaker. I am asking him not to mislead the House. If he has information, let him bring it.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The Honourable Member knows that when we get to his Head, I will not only give him chapter and verse, but I will give him the occasions, if he wants to know. 12.00 noon.

Now he is about it, let the Honourable Member in whose portfolio it is, tell us why it is he is having to pull down the buildings at Bathsheba that the National Conservation Commission put up. Let him tell us why he is wasting public funds in this way. Furthermore, at the very Child Care Board, the Honourable Member knows that they have gone ahead without planning permission within the Board and put up another structure that they are now arguing with the Chief Town Planner about. If they want to hear about wastage.....

Asides.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: You keep worrying about Tom.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please! I will ask the Honourable Members for the City and St. George South to leave the Chamber if they do not adhere to my exhortation to refrain from interruptions. I have no difficulty in sending out anybody.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Sir, Honourable Members want to know how they can get more revenue. Sir, we built a highway which received the most telling criticisms from the Democratic Labour Party and from its then Leader, the

then Rt. Honourable Member for St. John. We were told that the Tom Adams Highway was totally unnecessary. We pointed out the implications for the future economic development of Barbados of such a major development not only from the point of view of commercial enterprise and its attracting that form of activity as we now hear that you are going to have, the development at Warrens which is already taking place, but we also pointed out its implications for production, for the movement of goods and services and manufactured goods between one port and the other. We got the worst criticism of it. But we did more than that. We also had a policy of making sure that the cost of that highway would be recouped, and recouped from those who get the benefit from it.

There is a Betterment Levy Act on the statute book of this country. It has been the practice whenever there is any substantial infrastructural development which takes place at the expense of the public purse to pass a relevant order in order to tax the capital gains that accrue to some land speculators. I am asking the Government if up to today it has yet published such an order. Why is the Cabinet so divided on the issue, that some people want it and some do not want it.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: This is the last appeal for order in the Chamber. I will be proceeding in another direction. The Honourable Member has only one minute more.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: With all those interruptions, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: I will give you two minutes.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Why has it taken the Government so long to bring the relevant order whilst a person who bought land at 40 cents a square foot some time ago is now selling that same land back in Barbados at over \$14 a square foot? Why could the Government not have gained the \$3 million in revenue that would have been available to them from such an exercise?

Sir, I want to go to another area of what is happening with the Government.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, the Honourable Member has just raised a question about \$3 million. I think in fairness to this House that if he is talking about development gains, capital gains that have been made and suggesting that there is a division. He owes it to the House to give the information. Nobody seems to know what he is talking about.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The Honourable Member I credit with being a lawyer, not a barrister. He knows the Betterment Levy Act. He has a Land Tax Department. Let

him ask and find out what development and what sales have taken place on that highway since, and he will find out what we are talking about.

Now, Sir, a typical example again of the Government's failure. The Honourable Member for Christ Church East cited several, but I will give one. Take onions. The onion crop in this country saved us a tremendous amount of foreign exchange and was beneficial to the farming community. Let me give you the figures quickly in that minute. In 1981/82 we produced 900 000 pounds, in 1982-83 1.5 million pounds, 1983-84 1.2 million pounds, 1984-85 1.4 million pounds, 1985-86 1.6 million pounds, 1986-87 170 000 pounds, 1987-88 400 000 pounds and 1988-89 500 000 and the result has been a loss of revenue and foreign exchange to this country. Now they are importing something like \$4.2 million a year in onions using very valuable foreign exchange. No wonder at the end of the day the Honourable Member for Christ Church East can say we cannot take your word. He now knows it. We knew it a long time, and we will always be reminding the country about it, Sir.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, one of the ways in which we can always assess what is happening in the measure of the speeches by the Honourable Member who has just sat down. The Honourable Member who has just sat down has oratorical skills and access to information to which many people in Barbados do not have access. Based on his capacity and ability he is believed from time to time to reach far into areas that other ordinary people in Barbados cannot reach, and therefore, Sir, I take without any reserve much of the information which he puts before a body such as this, because it would have been information gleaned and absorbed in circumstances, which if I described them as they occur in my head, Sir, would cause you to have the words struck from the record, but he knows what he is talking about.

I am not going to attempt to respond to things he says except that when he charges this front bench impliedly with certain activities, what I know about it I will speak. He talked about contracts in the Child Care Board in the course of recent questions. It is not so. What the record will show is that they never used to have any contracts *per se* in the Child Care Board before the Democratic Labour Party came to power. They had a sweetheart arrangement. Let the records show that they had a sweetheart arrangement where one single individual was able to get all of the work. That is why, if he attempts to suggest that waking up that situation constitutes corruption, I will take him on, Sir, because I am not going to pretend. Mr. Speaker, I am not going to pretend that I don't know who the Chairman of the Child Care Board is, and therefore when he is putting it in the record whether the Minister speaks or not, I would help clear the record up.

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TATTT: I know her well, very well.

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TATTT: You were in the DLP when she was made Chairman of the Board.

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Well that is true, but you know now. You and the NDP will not get away with any *sotto voce* things with me either. So don't start getting over there talking about the DLP. Whatever we did in the DLP until you went over there you were part of it.

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Well if you didn't know you were ignorant, but you were part of it. You are not going to walk away from the decisions we made over here and then say you didn't know. The Leader of the Opposition will not behave like that because he was privy to it and therefore he knows. If you didn't know and he knows, you now know because you are part of him. 12.10p.m.

Mr. R. P. BYER: I want the Minister of Health to refrain carefully from any suggestion that I am part of anybody. I am I.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I accept that. That is fair. You are your own man but he is not. You see you are going to laugh, now? Mr. Speaker, you see he is ready to smile with me, now, Sir? I am a vagabond when necessary, Sir, only when necessary.

Mr. SPEAKER: But I would not like you to be a vagabond in here.

Hon. B. M. TATTT: Not today. In here, Sir? Never, Sir. They have to understand that there will be no playing around when it comes to discussions with me. There will be no little voices when you come and whisper to me one thing and then whisper something else. We are going to be speaking out front. Let me deal with the Honourable Member.

The Honourable Member, to get back to the project, says that there was no discussion of the macro-economic situation when we came to introduce the Estimates. The fact is that we have been trying from the time we became the Government to bring the Estimates back to the position where they used to be in this country, where they used to be a method for Members of the Opposition, in particular, and the back bench of the Government of the day to examine the various departments in some detail, to use the financing of the various departments and the Appropriation Bill as an

opportunity to ventilate the workings, the administrative practices in the various departments.

With the coming of the Barbados Labour Party and the new economists, those economists who were put together rather than those who had been structured, those economists who had been created by the publicists, it became necessary for - I am talking about people like Tom Adams - people who were put together as publicists as economists, unlike the Honourable Member for St. Peter who is a true-true, real-real economist, I am saying that it is during that time of the Barbados Labour Party that it became necessary for people to recite (what in essence the record will show) that I have taken that position. This is what concerns the Honourable Member for St. John, when the recitation of the proof of knowledge of economic data, a proof of knowledge of the economic theory, was necessary.

The late Right Honourable Member for St. John, very early in his political career in this country, as a strategy announced that it was necessary for a Prime Minister to be an economist in order to understand what was happening in the various departments. From that day forward he became the Prime Minister and he was an economist. What has happened in this country is that there is a thing called the economic debate where certain levels, first year economic principles that form part of the education of almost everyone who does the Social Sciences, have been elevated in this country to an area of mystery. When the Leader of the Barbados Labour Party, who is an eminent lawyer in this country, and who understands these principles (because he did them as part of his training, not as an economist, but as part of his training as a lawyer, as he knows) gets up and tries to give the impression that the present Prime Minister and the present Minister of Finance who also did these principles in his training - and 90% of the people in here understand these basic principles but he comes in and tries to give the impression that, because the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, who is trying to get on with the Estimates debate in the way we have become accustomed, and because the Leader of the Opposition did not flesh out the position to do an analysis in the country, he then says that we have not done what we ought to have done so far.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that the Leader of the Opposition is going to make his major speech on the economy after the Minister of Finance makes his major speech on the economy during the Budget. That is clear, so do not let us try to fool the people that somehow the Democratic Labour Party has failed because we have not had a massive debate on the economy and the pointers.

(Certain remarks made by Hon. B. M. TAITT were ordered expunged from the records by Mr. SPEAKER).

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The fact is, Sir, that the Estimates are to discuss the departments and to the extent that you do

not question what is going on in the departments in detail you are failing in your parliamentary duty.

The Ministers on the front bench are here to answer the public for what they have done or not done during the last year and for too long in this country the Estimates have gone by year after year without any systematic examination.

The Honourable Member, the Leader of the Opposition knows, that on a previous occasion we[^] took the opportunity to examine a Minister of Health in great detail for two days.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: You know you will find me ready. The Honourable Member says he is coming for me this time but he knows better than anybody else that whenever he comes for me he is going to find me ready. He knows that better than anybody else. The whole group knows that when they come for me they will find me ready, including you, but the fact is we need to examine it. I will take him on the issue of macro-economics.

He then proceeds to suggest that the Democratic Labour Party has taken the country toward indirect taxation and that we did a 100% movement. Percentages, Mr. Speaker, is a dangerous methodology for argument. One plus one, the second one is 100% increase over the first one but it is still one so you can always say 100% so he says there was 100% movement in the two years toward indirect taxation.

Mr. Speaker, the indirect taxation began with the coming of the Barbados Labour Party. In their very first Budget in 1977 this is what the then Right Honourable Gentleman who was Minister of Finance and Planning said at page 11 of this document:-

"Accordingly the Government considers that the tax structure in Barbados should, as far as possible, be reshaped to encourage the fullest utilisation of the most abundant resource which is labour."

And then, towards the end of that paragraph it said:-

"A comprehensive review of the entire system is already underway and can be expected to bear fruit in the relatively near future."

By the following year, 1978, at page 20 of the Budgetary Statement, this is what the Honourable gentleman said -

First, Indirect Taxation. "The CARICOM Treaty has had two very important effects on public financing in Barbados. By releasing all our regional imports from

liability to pay duties it has had a depressant effect on customs revenue, and it has also limited the Government's freedom of taxation."

On that same page later he said:-

"Indirect taxes, notwithstanding that they are described as regressive, generally have a number of beneficial applications for the revenue; the yield commences immediately on the imposition of the tax by the Minister of Finance and the power to vary rates gives a Minister of Finance a useful general economic regulator."

Mr. Speaker, that is when the tendency began in 1977 and it has been fomented and informed by a change in the economic philosophy that was governing the countries around the world. 12.20 p.m.

In the United Kingdom and in the United States two Leaders, Mrs. Margaret Thatcher and President Reagan, moved decisively and deliberately from the social liberal policies that had informed Governments in the Western world up until then, moved deliberately to the right. They determined after careful analysis that it was acceptable to eliminate a substantial segment of their own community, to write them off as it were in the economic equation. They moved to a form of indirect taxation and a reduction in the spending for social services to bring about a drop in inflation without any reference or care about the increase in unemployment. Thus was begun a new era.

When countries and individuals in the rest of the region observed that Mrs. Thatcher could win an election in spite of her eliminating a substantial sector of her own community and when they could see the love and approbation which President Reagan got even as he ignored and completely eliminated a substantial sector of his community it soon became apparent that politics had taken a different turn to the right.

Hence, in most countries including Barbados, we have seen the rise of the concept of indirect taxation. Let not the Honourable Member for Christ Church West then come to this House on this day and try to give the impression that indirect taxation is a phenomenal that was hatched in the breast of the Democratic Labour Party and came to fruition 2 years ago. It is a continuation of a trend. It is a trend which has been acceptable on both sides of the House. I will remember the same Honourable gentleman that he referred to when he was Deputy Prime Minister expounding from that corner of the table on the concept of indirect taxation and what it would do for Barbados.

I want to deal with another myth that needs to be exploded. It is well that we should discuss export led growth. It is proper that we should have that standard. But

w,e must not pretend that our exports, as they have been articulated and documented in our own documentation, have been anything more than a re-exportation of raw material that has been fashioned, having come in from the United States and gone back to the United States.

The fact is - the Honourable Member talked about exports have gone down - that once INTEL and the relevant companies had left Barbados, exports were bound to go down because a substantial part of the recorded exports in the Barbados literature are exports from companies that had been brought into this country under the offshore company methodology.

Hence, when you talk of the massive exports, if you look at the exports that were generated from purely Barbadian resources, you will see that, in fact, those exports have tended to show modest but steady movement upward. It is when you look at the statistical information and examine the exports drop to the United States that you will see where the massive drop in exports is concerned.

This seems to suggest, Mr. Speaker, that a policy of sustained development that will bring real jobs must include massive investment from outside Barbados into Barbados. There is a myth, Mr. Speaker, that we ought not to go seeking investment elsewhere.

I wish to suggest that countries like the United States, the Soviet Union, Italy, China, all spend massive sums of money trying to attract foreign investment. The United States itself is now a net importer of foreign investment from Japan. These are factors which are available to all those who pay attention to these matters. You will see that the Japanese had determined that one of the ways in which they are going to solve the problems of trade imbalances between the two countries is to send some of their money over to the United States as investment. Hence they are building some of the largest factories and acquiring some of the largest properties in the United States.

When we in Barbados are talking about exports, we cannot talk about them in a vacuum. We must discuss exports in relation to investment. We must get additional investment from outside of the country because, as the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central has made the point, we may not have enough resources among us to generate the kind of exports that would lead to the export led growth which our theoreticians can write down. The proof of the pudding, Mr. Speaker, is not what the theory says, it is how it is implemented and whether it can be implemented. There is no doubt that the Laser can be used to do a brain transplant. The theory is there but it has not been perfected yet.

I am sure the theory for economic development for countries like Barbados is there. We have been successful because successive persons with responsibility for running

the country have been able to calibrate whatever situation we had and to walk through or ease through the turbulent times because there is an inherent prudence in the minds and concepts of Barbadians generally.

When we are discussing politics, we can discuss politics at one level. But we must not let ourselves become so carried away that we lose sight of the reality of life in this country. This brings me to the concept of the deficit. For the first time under the direction of the International Monetary Fund, when we were being carried into the international arena in 1981, the methodology for determining what constitutes the deficit was determined for us outside of Barbados. Hence we now have what they call the aggregate deficit. But deficit financing over the years used to mean deficit in relation to current expenditure. It is only in recent times that capital expenditure has been added to determine an overall deficit. Here is the fallacy, Sir. If you take this document now, it shows a capital estimate of \$218 million. You can reduce the deficit by \$100 million right away by determining not to do \$100 million in projects. That is why it is sterile economic dogma and argument to discuss the aggregate deficit in the same terms as you discuss the current account deficit. It is a current account deficit that will determine to a large extent if the country's balance of payments, if the country's unemployment situation, if the country's inflation, can withstand the pressures. It is the current account deficit.

When the Honourable Members talk about the aggregate deficit, it is just like in the days when, in the United States, they did not include in their national accounts their Social Security receipts. When it was convenient, because they needed to strengthen the dollar, they immediately included what is in essence the National Insurance payments as part of their receipts. Clearly, if you do that, your position is immediately different from if you separate your Social Security receipts. That is one of the problems in the United States today, that they include their Social Security receipts as part of their national treasury if you would pardon the expression, That is why the deficit in the United States has such a deleterious effect on the prospects as perceived by those who are going to be around thirty or forty years from now.

The truth is that this is mostly theory. At the end of the day, if the dollar is going to be the basis on which other currencies are determined, then if the dollar is worth fifty cents 30 years from now, it will have no effect except for people like us. In the United States a dollar would still be a dollar. 12.30p.m.

It will still buy what it has to buy because they will be generating the vast majority of what they use. It is countries like ours who have to import what we need, who no matter what happens, cannot become self-sufficient in certain ways of our lives that have to be constantly on the look out for

ensuring that our economy can hold. That is why our colleagues in the Caribbean - Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana with superior resources on the face of it; I say on the face of it because, you say we cannot depend on tourism. We cannot always depend on tourism. It is only if you do not understand what tourism is. If you think of tourism as somebody coming off a ship and drinking rum and coca cola, then that is a problem. If you see tourism as a fundamental part of the resources of this country, that is to say the land and the sea, what we have will not change unless the green belt changes it. The people should not change unless the political people behave in such a manner as to change them irrevocably. If you take the cultural heritage which we have and we put them together we will always have a product of interest to people other than ourselves. That is the tourism product.

It is not getting Americans or Canadians. If you could bring people from anywhere and they are coming to see you to exchange views with you, to share in your culture, that is part of the tourism product. Tourism is always going to be with us. It is how we use it, how we manage and how we deal with it that will determine to a large extent whether it will be profitable to us. We have to put next to it our agricultural resource which has always been and will always be there as long as we use it. When we come to do the Heads, it will be seen that in the last 15 years to 20 years - I do not want to take credit for the Democratic Labour Party - I am saying the Governments of Barbados over the last 20 years have made tremendous strides in agricultural development. We allow ourselves not to tell the truth about ourselves because it is expedient not to do so. But the truth is that we have moved from nothing to a point where we are self sufficient in a large number of agricultural products.

Why do we keep hating ourselves to the point where we cannot accept or recognise that there has been some success? The people of this country deserve to be told that they have been successful at something other than cricket. They have been able in the manufacturing sector to change what we used to wear to what we now wear. Sortie of us do not always wish to adhere so much to what we used to wear that we might not wish to give credit to what we now wear. But that is a personal taste. The fact is, though, that manufacturing in this country has moved to the point where we can be proud that we have been so successful that we now argue about exports. We now argue about exports. There was a time when we did not have any exports to argue about but sugar. Here we are now discussing export led growth.

This country has something to be proud of. Three hundred and fifty years of Parliament, Sir, is not something that we should not be proud of. That 350 years includes a period from 1966 when we became independent and we have had growth and development throughout that period. Politics, however, allows us to show how it could have been

done better, or how it ought to have been done a different way. Do not let us try to pretend that somehow God has endowed certain people with certain abilities and especially my friends and colleagues over there, Sir. I want my friends and colleagues to understand that they ought to feel strongly about the position they have taken if they wish to. They must not behave as though the world came to an abrupt end suddenly one day and a new world started the next day and all that happened before is now obliterated. You are what you are. You cannot change that. You, yourself, the Honourable Member for Christ Church East, has one of the best friends in the Honourable Member for SL Andrew as they have both said. It cannot change overnight. But the Honourable Member, Sir, while putting the case for the NDP, must not become so self opinionated as to suggest that the only constituency of Barbados is his. Sir, I have been serving mine longer than he and they say they who wait upon the Lord. The Lord took me a long time to get a road. It is only two year ago that we had prospects of getting roads.

The Barbados Labour Party made sure that over 10 years not a single road was, done in my constituency. We got a road in Prescod Bottom because we let the people believe that the road belong to another person.

Mr. SPEAKER: One minute more.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Hence, when the Honourable Member has been able to get as many things as we were able to get in so short a time, it does not fall well from his mouth to be discussing us in terms of what we did not do. It cannot be what we did not do for him. It will have to be what he could not appreciate that we were doing for him. That is his problem. His level of appreciation, Sir, needs some boosting. But we understand. Let us not make this divide a bloody one. Let it be a divide. There is a chasm at the moment. Let it not be a bloody chasm. It does not have to be. I will merely say this. Seek if you must the weapons with which to destroy yourself. You will find them over here. If you wish, however, for us to have a political division at the end of which you will find the people better off, we welcome it.

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: It is not a threat. It is a promise. Not a threat... Mr. Speaker, you know I would not threaten anybody. What I am saying to you is that if you throw stones and you do not look and see when they leave your hand you might not know where they are going. Aim properly. Use a different weapon. Do not throw any scatter-shot over here.

Mr. Speaker, I am satisfied that we should get down to the discussion of the Schedule to the Estimates and that they will show their worth. When the Members of the Opposition and the Honourable Members on the back-

bench challenge the Ministers to account for their work from last time to the present time, we need not go into the micro-economic discussion. That time will come. I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I want to continue from where the Honourable Minister of Health left off. I had hoped that it would not have come to this because, as he said, this is an opportunity for Honourable Members of this Chamber to try and ascertain from Ministers exactly how they intend to spend the people's money. However, as a result of some of the comments made by the Leader of the Barbados Labour Party, I feel somewhat obliged to make some replies or responses and I sincerely hope that it will not take me half of an hour to indicate exactly where I am going.

He made mention I believe of the Child Care Board and that as far as he was concerned, we were not putting up repairs for tender. I want to make 2 points. I think that he should have realised, if he was in control of what was happening at the time when the Barbados Labour Party was the administration of this country, that all the buildings under the Child Care Board were in an absolutely dilapidated state. We have had to spend money on each and everyone - Campwood, Haynesville, Fairs, Barrows, Sterling, Glendale, Sayers Court, Nightengale - these are children's homes - the Nurseries at Colleton, Eden Lodge, Belleplaine, Sayes Court, Nightengale, Grazettes, Bagatelle, John Beckles, Joan Arundell, New Haven and Ellerton. between September 1986 and November 1988 we have had to spend \$469 184 on these and we still have to spend \$700 000. 12.40p.m.

Not normal expenditure, total dilapidation. You should go into some of them. Campwood, a total roof. Do not talk about Glendale, Sterling, Nightengale Home! Windows dropping off! Campwood is the one in which the Barbados Labour Party put the sewage well in the middle of the building. We had to go and put it outside the building. Bagatelle, likewise, a five foot roof! Only pygmies could get into it! That is the level of the maintenance you carried out.

I just want to say this. At the present moment in this country, Mr. Speaker, the work level is so high that, even when you advertise for tenders in the newspapers, nobody replies. You then have to go and ask people if they would be* so kind as to come in and discuss it with you, and then hand out the work. Then you have to go to Cabinet for Cabinet approval. I just want to say that because every decent artisan at this time is employed.

There are four persons at this present moment carrying out works for the Child Care Board, unlike prior to 1986 when one man did everything. Hoad Associates did everything, was on a retainer of, I think, \$2 500 a month.

Of course, some years nothing happened, except that the buildings were falling apart. We have now got three persons at least and we do not give out work unless it is under \$25 000. Everything else goes to tender.

I believe that when the Leader of the Barbados Labour Party was talking he forgot about Bush Hall Yard Gap. That is where the Barbados Labour Party paid a man to build a community centre. Three years! Paid it in full! We have now got to pay \$75 000 to complete the centre because the company is in liquidation. It is pointless running after something you cannot get. We have forgotten about him.

Station Hill, likewise. We are now asking the prisoners to finish it for us, because we cannot take Government's money and spend it that way. They have decided that, because they want to use it, they will help us to finish it. That is probably another \$100 000 we will have to spend. That is the extent of the care they took in spending the Government's money. Any Tom, Dick and Harry could set up a company and become a contractor overnight and then go and build buildings. Of course, one would understand the corrective work which has to be done, because if a fisherman goes and builds a building it cannot be as if a contractor had built it, so rather than push it down you have to do some corrective work.

Incidentally, I do not know it" the Leader of the Barbados Labour Party was out of the island during the last 4 months. Bathsheba has been opened, it was opened 2 weeks ago. We had problems with Bathsheba because some of the residents were complaining about the height of it. We went down there, as good politicians and representatives should do, with the representative for St. Joseph and we discussed it with the residents. They said the roof was too high, because they could not see. As a matter of fact, I think they really felt it would be a restaurant, so that was all the complaint. But so as not to embarrass them we compromised and we lowered the roof. It was opened two weeks ago. The most beautiful public convenience in Barbados, something people will be proud of.

Aside.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: Yes, but you are satisfying people and you make a compromise. Any compromise is a cost. It might be a social cost. If people in the area are displeased about something, you meet them. They came out with one side saying they thought it was a restaurant and they went to the Press. We do not want to embarrass them by going to the Press and saying they were talking nonsense, so we went down and had discussions with them. They said they would agree on this and they would accept it if we were to lower the roof, so we said okay and compromised and that is it.

But, you know, in all this talk we are working in Bonnetts and the St. Matthias' Housing Area. We do not

pick out areas to work on, we are working in two housing areas in Christ Church West trying to make sure the standard of living of the people in the area is upgraded. Under the Barbados Labour Party you never used to get housing developments in Democratic Labour Party areas. But we have not only put them in there. We are beautifying to make sure that all Barbadians can enjoy a good standard.

Aside.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: I am glad he said that, you know. They start houses during election time and take five years to complete them. Maynard's, Lammings. Started in 1981 in time for elections and five years after....

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The Honourable Member should know that Bonnetts was started under the Barbados Labour Party, and a substantial part of the first area of Bonnetts was completed in the Barbados Labour Party's time. The second block was started. It has taken this Government almost 3 years and the second block of 50 has not yet been completed. Those which were completed went untenanted for over 6 months.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: We were spending the time trying to complete Lammings and Maynard's which were started in 1980 for the 1981 elections. In 1986 not even the foundations were completed. So we had to go and complete Lammings and Maynard's. I would like him, when he is talking about neglect and tearing down, to reflect on what went on before, before he starts to go in that vein.

But, Mr. Speaker, to be on a more serious note, the Leader of the Opposition spoke of Government expenditure running away. I do not have claims to be an economist or anything of the sort. My understanding of it is that if you want to cut Government's expenditure, you can do one of about 4 things. I think the most important, however, is that you should try to control wage increases. In this economy as it is we cannot continue in the way we are going with the massive wage increases we are having. I would caution all responsible - it is true the Leader of the Opposition said he was not so responsible - people in this country to try to implore the workers to be careful when we are negotiating for wage increases.

I must really have a word as it relates to the Member for St. Peter. Normally he is responsible for what he says. But he too was encouraging the workers of this country. He said "they can pay, 11% or 10% does not matter." But yesterday this same person after 3 weeks ago telling workers to ask for anything because the taxes collected were so great they can pay, is saying now you have to cut back on Government expenditure.

In a country such as ours the expenditure on Current Account is over 50% in wages and salaries. You do not have to be an economist, you just open any of the financial

reports and you will see it, it is there. In future, one has to look at the rate of increase of wages, that is one. It seems to me that is not what they are asking for. So the only other alternative, as I understand it, is a cut in employment. The workers will have to go home. It seems to me that is what - they are saying. Nobody from NCC is going home, for sure. They are doing too much of a good job, Barbados is looking much more beautiful than it ever looked before and they are in dire need of the work which they are getting. We have increased that force by 600 persons. That has come straight out of the report on employment which was set up by my friend, the Minister of Tourism and Sports.

Certain remarks made by the Honourable Member for St. Thomas were ordered by Mr. SPEAKER to be expunged from the record. 12.50p.m.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: The Honourable Member for St. Thomas said yesterday that it was a one day game, five one day games, so he swiping. He laid the ground rules, so I understand that.

The point I am making really is that if, as the Opposition says, we are to cut expenditure, there are areas which we have to look at. I believe they should tell the workers of this country in the public service exactly what they want to do and not put it in any economic jargon to confuse them, come in here and talk about all the percentages and arithmetical problems etcetera. Barbadians have much more commonsense and learning than people understand or think and they know by now when you talk about cutting Government expenditure what you are thinking about.

In 1982-83 there were civil servants who refused to take their holidays in this country because they believed - I am not saying it was so - that if they had gone on holiday, they could not get their jobs back. I am not saying it was so because of the Barbados Labour Party, but I am saying that there were civil servants in 1982-83 who did not take holiday because they felt that the Government of the day would not have brought them back on. When you think you can talk to people about wage increases, cutting Government expenditure and you are not talking about cutting the labour force, you have a mistaken idea. These are two arers. Of course staff efficiency would give you better productivity. I believe the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central spoke of training. I can understand about greater efficiency, but it is not our fault, that over the last ten years, prior to the Democratic Labour Party coming to office, training was virtually stopped. But you don't expect to get all the people trained overnight either. It takes time. As soon as one person goes on training, that is one person less in the office, so it has to go on a rotation basis. It would take us four or five years to get the people to the standard you want to get them to understand

that there will be continuing training as well so that morale will be built up into efficiency.

Sir, talking about morale, training is one thing, but the conditions under which people work are something else. We are spending lots of money trying to make sure that conditions under which people work are conducive to the type of productivity which we expect of them. You go around to any of the offices now. The National Assistance Board has just moved into new offices. For the first time since the Board was in operation the staff is seeing proper offices and not only the staff, but the people who go there realise that they are not going to beg for anything. They are going as though they are going to discuss their business in proper surroundings. So productivity must be better. Of course, there can be a cut back in projects. Then again if you cut back on projects you are looking at cutting the labour force because, if you cut back on building, it means that the people whom you want to build can no longer build. So we have got choices from which we can take.

Because I have responsibility for employment, this vexed question of increasing the rate of employment always comes up. I am amazed when people compare Barbados with the United States of America. I was in the ante room and I heard somebody mention that some firm in America employed 125 000 people. I am not so sure if the intention was that we can have firms of that size.

I want to make two important points, and the first is this. Industrial countries and developing countries usually go overseas and set up industries for one of two reasons or both reasons.

The first point is that labour costs are very low, and quite frankly Barbados cannot compete with the labour costs as far as the Philippines, Koreans and even Mexicans are concerned. Two years ago I was in the United States of America trying to boost our offshore labour programme and the persons with whom I had discussions said to me quite frankly: "Look, the Koreans have told us that they would transport 53 000 workers here tomorrow at no cost to us to work for half the amount of money you work for." So if they had a choice, whom would they choose? Likewise, if you know anything about the shipping industry in the world, the reason why West Indians are not working on ships anymore is because the Philipinos work for 1/10 of the wages that West Indians work for.

The second point I want to make, which is as important or even more important is, that a lot of these industries use very toxic chemicals. We in Barbados have to be very careful. When somebody applies to bring an industry here, the one thing that the environmental unit of the Ministry of Employment, Labour Relations and Community Development does is to find out the ingredients of that particular project. Then we go to the Environmental Centre in Hamilton, Canada, and check out to see if

anything they are using would be detrimental in 2 ways: (1) as you know, our rock formation is very porous and, therefore, when they drill their wells into the earth to let off their waste, it can easily get into our drinking water system and (2) it can go into the sea because a lot of people seem to think that a lot of water runs into the sea from surface water, but it goes into the sea otherwise as well. We have got to be very careful. We have got to check out all of these.

Now a subsidiary point is this, when we are trying to supply a big market. I believe the furniture manufacturers will tell you. They went on an exhibition to the United States of America once, in which a small company in America was asking them if they could produce 50 000 chair rungs every two months. If you were to take all the furniture manufacturers in Barbados, plus the small ones scattered throughout the Island, there is no way that they could produce at that level. This is chair rungs alone. They did not ask for anything else. We have got to be sensible and try to put forward a picture in the correct perspective for the inhabitants of this country to understand what we are talking. We cannot get up and just give them half the story and make people believe that the Government is so foolish on this side that we do not understand what is going on. It is not as simple as to get up one morning, go and meet 2 or 3 people to bring in a factory and then they employ 200 or 300 people. People have to be trained to go into the factories and things of this nature.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to finish here because I know there is some anxiety for people to get down to the Estimates. I just thought I would respond to a couple of points made by some Honourable Members. I thank you.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I think the time has come for Your Honour to have a break. I think you deserve a break like the rest of us.

I therefore move that this sitting be suspended until 2 p.m. today.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly. 1.00p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING Mr.

SPEAKER: This sitting is now resumed.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, we have had a very long debate.

Hon. B. M. TATTT: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege.

Mr. Speaker, earlier today we had a problem. It is a little warm now, Sir. There are some Honourable Members on this side who do not feel quite comfortable. I am wondering if we could not have a short recess of about 5 minutes when we can check this thing. Quite seriously, the temperature in here is strange. It is faulty.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I beg to move, Sir, that we have a 10 minute recess while we check this thing.

Mr. SPEAKER: We are still on Government Business and, obviously, it would be the Leader of the House if he needs a suspension.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: The problem apparently is that some Members on this side are probably not as comfortably attired as on the other side, and are complaining about....

Aside.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I move a recess for 10 minutes.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that the sitting be suspended for 10 minutes.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I believe, Sir, that the motion for the suspension of the House has nothing to do with the temperature of the House and has to do with who is sitting in the seats of the reporters upstairs.

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I am not questioning the motion. I believe I have been around long enough and I know the Honourable Member for St. Michael West long enough to understand very clearly what is the purpose of the suspension of this sitting for 10 minutes. I wish to make that clear for the record.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, since the Honourable Member says he knows me and says it for the record, I really do not understand what he has said except that he said there were no reporters.

Now, Sir, you know that in this House we cannot draw attention to anybody. I see him when I look across. Is he saying I am a reporter?

Aside.

The question that the sitting be suspended for 10 minutes was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the House accordingly.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I think the temperature in the room is now somewhat more accommodating for Members and I believe we can proceed with debate on the 1989 Estimates.

I wish just to reply to the debate on the Second Reading of this Appropriation Bill and I wish to state at the outset that it was with almost uncanny prescience that I indicated the kinds of areas of disagreement which persons may have in this business of economic discussion. I did point out that there may be discussions about magnitudes in the area of positive or normative economics as well, but little did I realize that all kinds of criticisms would have been made, some veiled, some more open, some subtle, some not so subtle on the 1989/1990 Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure on those whose task it is, whether at the policy level or at the level of technician, to prepare those Estimates.

There have been all kinds of discussions of numbers as well as conjuring with numbers as though it is a kind of exercise in magic. People like to play around with numbers whether it is 3, or 5, or 7. Thirteen is well known and the favourite number now is 1 billion. That is the number which we want to conjure with and speak about, expenditure reaching 1 billion.

I have heard all kinds of criticisms made so far during this debate in relation to these Estimates. I have heard about bad forecasting, about inordinate, excessive and unnecessary expenditure and taxation, about a lack of fiscal policy.

The Leader of the Barbados Labour Party Opposition himself said he did not hear anything about something he called macro-economic background in the presentation of the Estimates or words to that effect. I heard a wild and reckless call for the withdrawal of the Estimates.

Mr. Speaker, I see things in a completely different light because the only thing that has not been said is that the management of the public finances during this current financial year, 1988 - 1989, has exhibited a sureness of hand, a sense of moderation and balance and a decided success for this country, those public finances and the economy generally. We have been able to date to keep our expenditure and revenue in balance. We have been able to provide additional jobs in the economy. No one wants to admit that, additional jobs in the economy. We have been

able to maintain a measure of profitability in the general economy as evinced by the performance of some of the companies in the private sector. All of that is part of what has been happening in (a) in the public finances and (b) in the national economy. These things do not happen by chance. Certainly not all of them. 2.25 p.m.

It is really a commentary on the nature of political debate in this country that, when there is success, that success should be given due recognition. Give it to the Democratic Labour Party Administration for taking bold and courageous steps in order to correct some of the ills that were surfacing in our public finances and in the economy generally.

I say things as I see them. I do not look, and my Government is not looking, for cheap popularity. We take a hard look at the state of public affairs and at those measures with which we have to deal. We take the decisions that need to be taken. We are not inflexible. We are the voice of moderation. We do not make reckless claims. We do not take positions believing that only we can make adjustments to those positions. If adjustments are required, adjustments will be made. But it has to be on the basis of information, on the basis of analysis and on the basis of acceptable prescriptions.

There is nothing in the public finances to indicate that it is like the law of the MedQs and the Persians. It is subject to change depending on the prevailing circumstances.

I shall seek very clinically to refute the broad charges and some specific ones that have been made during this Debate so far. I have made the position of my Government very clear, that whenever our policies are attacked and whenever, I will add, the public officers duly carrying out duly approved policies are attacked unnecessarily, we will come to their defence. It is the policy makers, including myself, who will defend ourselves and these policy makers will defend the public officers when they are subject to unnecessary attack within the framework of approved policies.

I have heard all kinds of arguments during the Estimates Debates and there is no one in this House who has a longer experience in public finances than I myself have as Father of this House, and next we have the Deputy Leader of my Government. I have spoken in more Estimates Debates as well as on more Financial Statements and Budgetary Proposals than anybody else in this Honourable Chamber.

Aside.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I am older than you are, I think than the Member for St. Thomas also.

Aside.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: The Leader of the Opposition cannot say that, that Opposition nor this Opposition here. They are older than I am. You did not know that? Look at him and see.

Laughter.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, let no one get up and believe that they have some special knowledge of the public finances of this country which is not vouchsafed to Members over here, and that they have been sent from on high in order to give the beginning and the end, the Alpha and the Omega of public finances in this country. That is alright for the public platform but when we come in here and we have to face one another, that kind of argument cannot hold and that kind of posture cannot hold any position in this Parliament because whenever the comments are made, we will answer them.

Let us take the position of forecasting. I have not heard any reputable economist anywhere claim that forecasting, particularly in the field of economics is an exact science. Indeed it is the contrary. Ever since, particularly during the early 1970s, we have had one kind of forecast after another by the economists which has turned out to be false. It has either overshot the mark or it has fallen short of the mark. This applies whether you are talking about forecasting for one year, for five years or for more. It depends on whether you are using the economic models or whatever kind of approach you are using.

There are so many imponderables here that to base an argument for the withdrawal of Estimates on the basis of bad forecasting is, Mr. Speaker, I find it difficult how to describe that kind of extravagant call. 2.35 p.m.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, my call for a withdrawal of the Estimates was based on my assessment that expenditure at this level, as presented in the 1989/90 Estimates, has considerable and potential dangers for the Barbados economy.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: You said it was due to bad forecasting and you took the Estimates for 1988/89 and you took the Revised Estimates and you compared them, not you, Mr. Speaker. I am talking through Mr. Speaker. I am addressing the Chair ... and you took the Estimates and the Revised Estimates and went through a boring exercise and dealt with the differences - Corporation Tax, Income Tax, Land Tax, Property Transfer Tax right down the line. You said it was bad forecasting leading to other decisions.

I am not going to take as long as you have taken in dealing with those matters. If there are afraid to speak to you directly, I am going to speak to you directly. They

know who they are. I will speak to you directly. I tell you we will speak now. We will speak. I told you that I have said I am not going to take as long as you did over that exercise. I am going to take the Estimates for which you had responsibility to show the divergence between these Estimates and the Revised Estimates and point out the emptiness and the recklessness of the call that you have made for the withdrawal of the Estimates. If that same call had been used in relation to the Estimates over which you presided the logic of your position would be that you would have been calling for the withdrawal of the Estimates of previous years.

There were grave fluctuations. Let us take the Corporation Tax. You estimated that the Corporation Tax in the 1987/88 Estimates would have brought in some \$59 million, but the Revised Estimates show that they brought in \$67.5 million or a 14.4% change between the Estimates and the Revised Estimates. Did anyone say that you were underestimating revenue? But that is the charge that you have made. That is the charge that you have made when the Corporation Tax brings in more in the 1988/89 Estimates on the revised basis than on the proposed Estimates. I can go through the whole list. Income Tax - no, not Income Tax. I am not going to deal with the Income Tax. Do you want to deal with the Income Tax?

Asides.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: In my life I have never been backing-back. I do not "back back".

Mr. SPEAKER: I have allowed other Honourable Members....

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: NDP is backing-back. Land Tax - Estimates \$25 million - Revised Estimates \$21 million, a 16% variation. Property Transfer Tax - Estimates \$7 million - Revised Estimates \$9 million. Now you are dealing with small figures here - 28.6% variation. Consumption Tax - Estimates \$130 million - Revised Estimates - \$146 million, a 12.3% variation. Stamp Duty - \$90.9 million - Revised Estimates - \$102.9 million, a 13.2% variation.

Asides.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I do not know. I will not go into a matter like Special Receipts, and Income Tax ... estimated at \$100 million and brings in but \$56 million Income Tax, now a 44% change.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, on a point of elucidation. I believe, Sir, that there are certain responsibilities as a Minister of Finance and there are certain Cabinet responsibilities. I believe at this stage I should inform this Honourable House that the estimate for Income Tax for that year by the Ministry of Finance was

\$80 million. That was the figure that was taken to the Cabinet of Barbados and a Cabinet request was made to increase it to \$100 million, was that not the position of the Ministry of Finance or the Democratic Labour Party Cabinet? Let us get the record straight.

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: As a matter of elucidation, Sir....

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: I cannot allow a speech to develop.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I am not making a speech, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think you should elucidate....

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I was just making the final point, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, fair enough. Make the point quickly.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: The final part of the point, Mr. Speaker, was that, because there was some uncertainty in the level of refunds which had no prior history of it, I thought it a reasonable estimate to so pursue but that in the long run if you failed....

Mr. SPEAKER: But you are now - I cannot allow the Honourable Member to go on like that.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: That is a fact.

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

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, on a point of order. I am a Member of the Democratic Labour Party Cabinet and I have been from the time it was formed this second time. I am not going to inform this House or any other agency of any decision in which I participated in the Cabinet, because I am sworn not to do so. However, the Honourable Member, the Leader of the Opposition, seeks to give information on this matter. I think that he needs to be advised that if he is going to give information he has to give full and complete information. I do not recall advising him to change any estimate.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Yes, I have to, because not everyone understand the Cabinet system. The next thing you will hear is that the Honourable Member came to the Cabinet with proper figures and we changed them.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member....

Hon. B. M. TATTT: I am on a point of order, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to remind Honourable Members that points of order are short and precise. They cannot go into extended arguments.

Hon. B. M. TATTT: Sir, I beg your pardon. I should have said, a point of privilege, but I acknowledge that it was a point of order and that I should not go so far.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, let us not sidestep. Mr. Speaker, I know you would not permit me and I certainly would not do it. I did not interrupt anybody on any point of order. I did not get up to ask for any explanation or any quarter or anything like that. I said I am going to do it clinically, so do not get upset yet.

This argument or this position that it was the Cabinet, of course, if in here we are acting on constitutional principles we cannot accept anyhow. He was the first one to resign, he said on principle. If there was any change in any figure which he did not agree with he was in duty bound to resign. So do not come with that kind of argument in here.

Aside.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please, Order, please! Order please! Order!

Asides

Mr. SPEAKER rose.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have risen. I invite all Honourable Members to speak by the rules of the House without unnecessary interruptions. I will be speaking to Members or calling on Members three times to desist. After the third time rule 40 will prevail.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know, Sir, on the Floor of the House it is not issuing press releases. This is debate and argument will clash with argument. That is what you will have to face in here. If you get upset, so be it.

Aside.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: You sounded so to me. *

Aside.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: You understand the Leader of the Opposition was not upset? Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: I thought you had concluded.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I am the same Barbados Scholar as he is, so I have the same kind of intellect. Yes,

Mr. Speaker, and if you need advice from the Clerk of Parliament, he also is a Barbados Scholar, so we do not have to bring in the words of....

Aside

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir, I just wish to know if that makes them different from the rest of us.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is no point of order.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I just wish to know, Sir. I am asking on a point of order. I just wish to know if the people vote for you differently when you have a Barbados scholarship.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is no point of order. It does not relate to any rule of the House.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I said, Sir, I will not take long over these matters, I will make my point and pass on. So much for the question of forecasting. I do not know how, on the basis of forecasting and so-called errors in forecasting, you can then come and erect an argument, a superstructure, to go from there to say that that led somewhere into some other kinds of decisions and so on, because if that were so it would apply to the 1987-88 Estimates as well.

Aside

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I know the argument was a stupid argument. I am glad you recognise it. Remove the premise on which the whole case was built up and the argument falls flat, but, of course, we can see into the reasons why that line of argument was developed. It has nothing at all to do with justifying of an attack on the 1988-89 Estimates. That was more justification by faith, justification for positions taken before. That is the whole purpose of it, but more of that at another time as well.

Those who follow may not be able to see through those matters, the young and innocent. I leave the point about bad forecasting and go on to another charge, the charge of inordinate expenditure. I have indicated, Sir, that there is a kind of fascination with numbers. We are now facing the prospect of \$1 billion in expenditure. An earnest, and I would say a very competent, journalist asked me recently: how do I contemplate the prospect of \$1 billion in expenditure? I did indicate that I am not really scared by numbers. It depends on what the numbers are related to. If we say \$1 billion, \$1 million, \$1.00 or \$2 billion, by themselves they float. When you tie them down to something else, then they have some kind of relevance. The argument about inordinate expenditure has to be tied to something. Simply reeling out the absolute numbers is not enough by itself. There is one thing we have to understand

in this country as a developing country, that as per capita income arises, more likely than not there will also be a rise in Government expenditure. 2.55 p.m.

In the social areas, whether it is for health, infrastructure, education, whatever it may be, that is the experience of most developing countries. You look at the increase in per capita income in those countries and you look at Government expenditure and you will see that there has been a rise in the Government expenditure. Our expenditure, related to the gross domestic product, is not out of line with what has been happening in this country down through the years, and certainly does not sustain the argument that there is any runaway expenditure.

In fact, when, from the 1989-90 Estimates, we take out any reference to the surcharge which will be applying generally speaking in the 1989-90 Estimates, at least the legislation would have come to an end. Anything coming in there would tend to be residual. When you take that out we will see in the increase in expenditure over the 1988-89 financial year, that these Estimates will show that we are on target as far as that is concerned and that there is nothing unusual about it.

I am talking about the revenue side. But let me complete the argument on expenditure. First of all, there is nothing unusual about the percentage of expenditure in relation to the gross domestic product, and on the revenue side there is also nothing unusual about that. Indeed, when we look at the year 1975 our revenue was something like 23.4 per cent of the GDP. When we talk about excessive taxation, the total revenue we are talking about, the high point was reached in 1979 when total tax revenue reached something like 30.8% of the GDP. Then it was in the region of 26.5 per cent in 1985. So basically we have a low of 23.4 per cent in 1975 and a high of around 30% in 1979. Our total tax revenue as a percentage of the GDP falls somewhere in that particular region. That is where we are.

What is the basis for saying and for charging that there is this runaway expenditure? What is the basis for charging that there has been over taxation when, in whatever statistic you apply to revenue or expenditure, we are in line with the development or our own historical positions as well as within the context of what is happening to Barbados as a middle income developing country. There is no justification on a statistical basis for the kinds of arguments that have been advanced, neither in the area of excessive taxation measures nor in the area of excessive or unnecessary revenue.

There has been another argument relating to the policies to be followed. I heard it said, I think the Leader of the Opposition said it, that the only argument advanced during these Estimates in relation to a policy relating to

them was in respect of the balancing of revenue and expenditure. 3.05 p.m.

I enunciated the policy and, of course, he agreed with the policy.^ He went further and committed all other Ministers of Finance. He said they agreed with that policy too, so if there is all of this argument, what are the subsidiary arguments all about? He agreed that revenue and expenditure should be held in balance.

I wish to state that, in this country, I tend to be very economical with words and I do not see the need for excessive repetition. I do not know how the Leader of the Opposition remembered that the words "shame" and "pudor" had been used consistently during these debates. I do not know if you are accurate on that.

I remember it was used in 1980, I believe, or 1981, I do not remember the year, when he told the House that when he was a younger man he was called "pliny" and then he used the word "pudor". That is the only occasion I recall, apart from today, but you may be right. I do not know of that. I am not really getting into that argument.

I am not going to repeat myself on these matters because I spelt out very clearly for the Member for St. Thomas and all others to hear last year....

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

The Prime Minister saw me betraying a countenance of confusion because I was not following. At one time he was talking about the surcharge as though it was a matter of expenditure rather than revenue. I drew that to his attention in a *sotto voce* remark and he acknowledged it.

What he has not said, Sir, since he has mentioned me, is what is the percentage of expenditure in these Estimates in relation to GDP. We were saying that it is 33 1/3% and that in 1987/88 it was 26%, that there is an increase this year of 7%. I was trying to see if he would explain or agree with that. That is the issue.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I shall continue, Sir.

Mr. Speaker, I have set out the fundamental economic objectives in the Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals for 1988. I said what those are.

Aside.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: There is nothing there. I expect that, with the out-turn figures - there is nothing firm yet on these matters, we are talking again about projections - I expect that it will be between 25% and 30%. I expect it will be in that range. Now, you listen to my words.

Aside.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: It ranged too wide and that is what I will go with, just as I would go with the forecast. As I have stated already, by the end of this financial year I expect we will have either a small surplus or a small deficit on the current account of about \$3 million one way or the other, approximately, and no one is going to get me to use any statistics so that those who record these numbers will then come and say: "you said it was going to be 2.5 but it is actually 2.4."

The leader of the minority Opposition wanted to know what were the economic theories underpinning the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure. Obviously, I was so economical in my words when I introduced that that he, perhaps, missed the point that I said I considered the Estimates of Revenue and the Financial Statements and Budgetary Proposals as two parts of the same exercise. I did not intend to go into undue details on these matters.

I felt that the time of the House was better taken up in examination, as the Minister of Health has said, with the departmental Estimates and the Estimates of the various Ministries and so on. That is my view. If we use up the time on Second Reading then, obviously, we will not have the time to spend on the examination of the policies relating to the various Ministries and Departments. That is a matter solely at the disposal of the House under your direction, Sir. That is how it has been going. Let no one then come and blame Government for failing to provide the time for that kind of examination.

I gave a relatively short introduction to these 1988/89 Estimates. Now I am prevailed upon for more information. Members wish to know something about what the monies will be spent on but that precisely is the purpose when we get into the departmental Heads, what the Ministers may do.

Let me say one thing here. As far as the Ministry of Finance is concerned, I have been having discussions with the Minister of Housing. We have been talking about this for quite some time. We have identified one area in which there seems to be a bottleneck as far as the provision of funds to assist persons in owning their own houses is concerned. People are able, from their salaries, to pay an appropriate mortgage but some find difficulty in raising the down payment. NDP in action?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order. Order, please.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Well, I am not talking about 100% mortgage. You know that is the only purpose of a minority party too. Minority parties throw out ideas from time to time. They may throw out ideas but they never get the reins of Government.

Asides.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: The Member for St Thomas should be the last person to talk about losing a few. You should be the last person to talk about that.

Aside.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I am not even talking about that. Because by some strange coincidence I, the Minister of Health and you were at a luncheon party one Sunday and as soon as you left that luncheon and went to a function - I do not know what the Barbados Labour Party was having on the Garrison....

Laughter.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: ... thereafter I heard all stories about the General Secretary of the Democratic Labour Party and another Party Member both carrying the same name Lewis and Lewis, in a pugilistic combat and I as Prime Minister going in as referee to part them....

Aside.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: ... and then I heard about glasses being destroyed.

Aside.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I only said he should be the last person to raise that problem.

Laughter.

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

Laughter.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You see, he drags me into it again, Sir.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: No, no, no.

Laughter.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I was talking about losing a few when the Prime Minister a few weeks ago said that the NDP would not get any seats.

Mr. SPEAKER: Did the Honourable Member, did you make that comment in your speech?

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: No, Sir. What I am correcting the Prime Minister about, Sir....

Mr. SPEAKER: No. You said you made some....

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: ... it is his assertion that I was at a luncheon with himself and, indeed, the Deputy Prime Minister was there and the Minister of Health.

Mr. SPEAKER: What I want to be clear about from the Honourable Member, is he referring to a speech he made in here?

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am referring to the speech that he is making now, Sir, that he made just now.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Oh, yes. Okay. Sit down, Sit down. Sit down.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: No, no. Do not tell me sit down. It would not be that.

Laughter.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Let us finish.

Mr. SPEAKER: So then if you have not....

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I was his greatest defender....

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: ... when I reached the Garrison and I was told, Sir....

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sure the Honourable Member knows he cannot raise a point of order on something that he has not said. If you have not made that in your speech you cannot rise on a point of order.

Laughter.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Would you allow me to elucidate, Sir.

Laughter.

Mr. SPEAKER: Well you cannot have it both ways, so you have lost the first one.

Asides.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I am not accusing you of anything.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You know I defended you.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I know that.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Well, right, put that in the record.

Laughter.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: He wants to tell the people it is a lie.

Asides.

Laughter.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I would never accuse the Member for St. Thomas of anything like that. I knew exactly what he was talking about and I know exactly what I was saying. I was not accusing him of anything like that.

The talk about losing a few and about broken glasses was all a figment of the imagination, absolutely no truth in any of those matters, just as some of the other things we hear, that we had a visit of Her Majesty incident free and a newspaper has to talk about what might have happened.

Asides.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Sir, I believe that quite a number of people over time will be able to achieve their objectives as individuals and families in owning a home in this country. We will try to remove or to alleviate that obstacle which may be standing in the way of it. Let me say again that persons may be able to obtain a mortgage and to service that mortgage from their incomes but some of them find difficulty in being able to conclude arrangements for a mortgage because they may be short of the down payment.

We are working on the details which would provide in the first instance, some \$1/2 million to assist in that particular area. The details are being worked out and early in the Financial Year should become operational in collaboration with the Barbados Mortgage Finance Corporation. That is one area in which we are working, Sir.

Some of the money on the capital side is going for a study of our competitiveness in the export sector. I heard a lot of talk about exports here. We have already commissioned a study dealing with competitiveness in our export sector, and also a study of the tourism sector, a tourism study. These are in consultation or by arrangement with international institutions.

Asides.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: So, Sir, let it not be said that these funds are some runaway expenditure. I am not going into the details of these matters. My Ministers, starting with the Minister of Education, I believe, will be going into the details of capital expenditure. I do not propose to take up the time of the House any more on these.

But let me say again, because this has been the burden of* the contributions, that over 50% of our expenditure in this country relates to staff costs. Over 50% of our current expenditure goes for staff and staff related costs, when we take both the Government departments and the statutory boards into account. Then the amortization is another 25.3% of current expenditure, that is debt servicing and debt management. When you take these 2 costs together they are inescapable, unless, as the Member for St. James South said, you send home people or you cut programmes. When you talk about cutting programmes or rather cutting goods and services, that accounts for just about 10%. So you may be able to collect a dollar here and a dollar there but the substantial savings go into areas in which, so far, unless there is a complete change in our approach to public financing, a hardening of the heart or of the arteries, there is not much that you can do. 3.25 p.m.

So you may be able to collect a dollar here and a dollar there, but the substantial savings go into areas which so far unless there is a complete change in our approach to public financing, a hardening of the heart, there is not much that you can do there.

I can understand the argument put forward by the Member for St. Peter this year that you seek to have more discretion over your capital expenditures but that road also has problems. It has problems in it and therefore any Minister of Finance has to keep a balance hand on the tiller. There must be a sense of moderation and to note the trade-offs between one policy and one approach as opposed to the other. I think we have displayed that level of moderation, Sir, and as I come to address those matters sometime in April or May, the kinds of answers that some Members have been asking for just will not be available until that time. Thank you.

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

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. L. L. BRATHWAITE in the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

HEAD 34 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE \$ 104,446,481 (As Amended)

Hon. C. V. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, in the last 3 years and this is the third year I have had the pleasure to be in this Honourable House, this is indeed the first occasion

which we have to discuss the Subheads under this particular Ministry.

Indeed, we have a sum of \$104 million which is allocated to the Ministry of Education and Culture, I would also like to state, Mr. Chairman, that it is clear that out of that \$104 million we will endeavour to point out and to ask for the permission of this Honourable House to perform the functions as they relate to the various Departments in this Ministry. Due to the fact that we have not been able to have any discussions on the various Heads over a period of time, I would like first to start with some general background as to the basics of the Heads under Education.

First of all, Mr. Chairman, one of the constant comments we hear in Barbados has to do with the whole question of reading ability and indeed one of the objectives of the Ministry of Education and Culture is to improve the reading skills of the children of this country. Indeed, it is generally known that we have introduced into the schools a reading assessment kit in order to assist the students and both headteachers and teachers have attended seminars, a number of them, designed to provide them with adequate orientation of the reading assessment kit.

We have also introduced measures such as the introduction of the 1-year post Education Certificate Course to equip teachers with their skills so that they may be able to improve the teaching of reading and remedial methods. We have also instituted programmes for the provision of information so that the schools can endeavour to spread to teachers who have been trained in this particular area throughout the school system.

We have also introduced specialist teaching in primary schools and indeed that specialist project is continuing. We have also introduced special education although we have not been able to satisfy all the requirements and here I speak in areas such as retarded children. But we find that we are currently spending approximately \$2,368 on each mentally retarded child, but yet we have to do more because there are approximately 300 pupils who are still awaiting placement.

To cover in general again, Mr. Chairman, we have indeed, this Democratic Labour Party in 1986 made a promise to the people of Barbados that we would look at the Education Act 1981-25 and that with the cooperation of teachers, unions, Boards of Management, and all the other agencies and groups which may be interested in education that we would endeavour to make the requisite changes so that this Act may then be more suitable to the community. I can report to this Honourable House at this time, Mr. Chairman, that legislation is with the Minister of Legal Affairs for preparation of the relevant Bill and we will soon be having another discussion in public about that Bill. 3.35p.m.

The other significant area we mentioned at that point, Mr. Chairman, had to do with the question of teachers who were in the secondary schools who were caught in the transition period, if you will, from the old Board of Management to the new Education Act. I am also happy to report that we have been able to achieve an agreement with the secondary teachers whereby we have agreed on what we call a memorandum of understanding to deal with all those who were appointed or who were in the Service prior to the Education Act.

The other significant area, the management of the secondary schools, Mr. Chairman, we are in the process of trying to simplify the management of secondary schools, and indeed we will be instituting some changes in that area. While I am on the question of the Boards of Management and secondary schools, I should like to state that we have a problem with a few problem students in secondary schools. I will refer to them as problem students, those who feel that they can enter an institution and challenge the teachers, and indeed some challenge the Members of the Board.

I would like to state at this point, Mn Chairman, that we will not allow a minority of students to enter secondary schools and disrupt the total management and education of students in any of the secondary schools. When I say that I do not necessarily mean what people refer to as the so called newer secondary schools, because we are finding out that this is occurring in all of the secondary schools, and we will be dealing with that.

We have addressed the whole question as well of the textbook loan scheme, as was promised. Indeed, in the process of modernising that system we have been able to come up with some savings of over \$200,000 which we hope we will be able to spread towards procurement of textbooks in the primary area.

The whole question of training, Mr. Chairman, as it relates first to the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic. We now have full time day students, part time day students and we have evening and special students. We have provided training for some 1795 students in those aforementioned programmes.

Still in the general area, Mr. Chairman, we will be introducing in September the continuing education programme, and we have decided that we will start in at least four secondary schools, yet to be identified, whereby we can have continuation programmes, educational programmes in the evening, as those of us who were aware of it in the early fifties where you can go to the secondary school and take additional courses.

Another comment before I come to the specifics, Mr. Chairman, and this has to do with the whole question of maintenance of school buildings. No doubt, Mr. Chairman, I do not have to tell you, because indeed in another capacity

I think you yourself have asked questions in this Honourable House about a particular school and the condition thereof in your constituency. There are currently some 107 primary, composite and senior schools and we have the problem of lack of maintenance on these buildings prior to our assuming office in 1986. We have discovered that they were in constant need of repair and we are endeavouring to ensure that they are habitable for the children of this country.

Indeed, some of the projects completed so far, Mr. Chairman, are as follows. We have done some minor structural repair works to some 77 of those schools, plumbing work was done at 107 schools, electrical repairs at 49 schools, termite control at 17 schools, upkeep of grounds at 7 schools, repairs to furniture, general repairs and maintenance, pumping sewage at 13 schools and sinking wells at some 4 additional schools. That kind of maintenance cost us over \$2 million, \$2,305,000 to be exact. I will have a little more to say about that later.

Another area, Mr. Chairman, which will come under Capital, but just briefly, we> will continue to provide places at both primary and secondary schools for the students of this country.

Now to the details and to be specific, Sir. Under Subhead 1 which has to do with General Administration, we will note that out of the requirement in that Head, we are looking at \$1,151,184. It is true that under the Head as called we are not discussing the statutory requirement, because that does not really come here. However, it is interesting to note that over \$3 million will be spent under that Subhead as a statutory requirement. Under Subhead 2, Mr. Chairman, Subscriptions and Contributions, there we are dealing with what we know as standard contributions to agencies, and they are all listed. I do not have to repeat those. 3:45 p.m.

Under subhead 3, a word on teacher training. Mr. Chairman, we have endeavoured to put training back into the educational system, the training to which we had become so accustomed since Erdiston opened its doors in 1948. Now Erdiston continues to play a key role in the educational thrust of the Government of Barbados. We have been training teachers for primary education and for secondary education. We have been training specialist teachers for the system, and we have been training teachers in classroom management, discipline, record keeping and guidance and counselling and to the related areas that are now required to operate an institution in this modern day.

Indeed some time earlier in the week we had to clarify a situation whereby someone was trying to make the point that we were not training teachers. Mr. Chairman, we have been training teachers at Erdiston College and teachers have

been going on study leave and you will be hearing more about that a little later as well under another Head.

Under subhead 4, local and overseas training, again that more or less ties into the whole question of Erdiston as well as the other training to which reference will be made a little later. Here we are asking for \$1 451 706.

Subhead 5 Mr. Chairman, deals with primary, pre-primary and special education. There were some 3 932 students in the pre-primary portion of the educational system at the start of the school year and there are some 27 634 in the primary area. Indeed, Mr. Chairman, we are committed to increasing the nursery schools. Currently there are only three nursery schools, Erdiston Nursery, Government Hill Nursery and the Eden Lodge Nursery. We are committed to increasing the nursery schools so that we can give more places to those youngsters and give them, as they used to call it, many years ago, a head start.

There are some corrected notes and I must note that all Members should have received the amendments to the explanatory notes. We have a number of schools here which will cost us over \$16 million.

Under subhead 6 which deals with special grants, there is a requirement for \$140 000 and this is for the Challenor School and the Learning Centre.

Under subhead 7 - Secondary Education, there are approximately 22 000 students currently in the secondary school system at the 21 Government secondary schools, and there is a requirement for some \$16 809 416. Mr. Chairman, the enrolment as I said is approximately 22 000 and we have a staff in these schools of some 1 145 teachers giving us an overall ratio within the secondary school system of one teacher to 19 students. It is important to note, Mr. Chairman, that from time to time we hear comments that there are no trained teachers or graduate teachers within the system. I would like for the records to say that there are, and I will give the details of this because I think it is important, 536 trained graduates, 242 trained non-graduates, 239 untrained graduates and 228 untrained non-graduates. In other words only 228 teachers within the system are neither trained nor are graduates. As I said, Mr. Chairman, we are asking for \$16 809 416.

The next subhead, Mr. Chairman, deals with assisted private schools, and we still have as of this date 15 assisted private schools commonly referred to as private secondary schools. It is a known fact that there is a scheduled closing of one, but here we are asking for some \$3131 455 and this is also a requirement because -we provide some 2 900 bursaries and I must say these are on a rotation basis. In other words at some time you can have 2 800 or 2 700, but we provide some 2 900 bursaries which are awarded to children who attend these schools as well as there are grants given to schools in specific subject areas.

Under subhead 9, there are subscriptions and contributions in terms of supervision of examinations and overseas examination fees for CXC etcetera. 3.55 p.m.

I recall a year ago when the figure was then \$16 million. There was a query as to whether or not we were not supporting the university. Indeed, this year we are asking for some \$22 003 850 and as this Honourable House knows, we cannot reflect on a vote but we have done something in that area quite recently.

That, Mr. Chairman, represents the commitment of the Government of Barbados in such areas of the Diploma of Management Studies, Diploma in Electronics and Computer Technology, Diploma in Resource Management and Environmental Studies, Certificate in Labour Administration and all of those other things, the ones that are also listed.

Aside.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: The Certificate in Labour Administration which comes out of that, of course.

Then we have under subhead 11 which is the Higher Education Awards and, Mr. Chairman, this has to do with the annual provision of scholarships, exhibitions as outlined and just to give some information to this Honourable House, we currently have some 18 Barbadian scholars in British universities, some 24 who have gained exhibitions in British universities.

We have some 8 Barbados scholars in Canadian universities and another 17 who were there on exhibition. There are 11 scholars at the University of the West Indies and 27 who are there on exhibition and another 5 who are strictly on exhibitions at UWI.

Under subhead 12, University and Colleges, at the Community College here, Mr. Chairman, there are some 2 149 students and we are sure that most people are aware that there are 9 divisions being handled at the Community College in the Division of Commerce, Fine Arts, Health Sciences, Language Centre, Hospitality Studies, Liberal Arts. We have also the Library Assistants Programme with a one year in-service programme, Division of Science Technology, General and Continuing Education, a Computer Department and the Summer Programme.

Subhead 13, Subscriptions and Contributions, I covered that earlier and that is straightforward in terms of the NUPW, BWU, etc.

Subhead 14 - the Samuel Jackman Prescod. I have dealt with that before. I just want to say, Mr. Chairman, the requirement is \$2 688 427 and in the case of the Industrial Schools the requirement is \$668 784. The Adult Education

Programme was mentioned. Under Occupational Training the requirement is \$4 279 380 and the School Meals, \$13 113 191. That is Subhead 18.

Subhead 19 Transport of Pupils across the country* \$2 million. Subhead 20 under Audio Visuals, the Archives, Subhead 21 - \$217 445, the Library Service \$16 692 178, Subhead 23 Culture \$201 136 for Administration and for Subhead 24 - Grants, \$85 000. Subventions to Cultural Organisations under Subhead 25 \$2 356 00 and the last under Subscriptions and Contributions and , Culture, Subhead 26 \$7 672.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would just like to indicate that the Minister has one minute....

Hon. C. V. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, that brings me to the end and I now move that this Head stand part.

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

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, it is really somewhat pathetic where in the consideration of the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure Members of a Government cannot understand and cannot participate in a debate apart from one Member, the Honourable Member for St. Michael West, a debate which seeks to pitch issues firstly at a macro-economic level because all else flows within that context. Nothing in these Estimates makes any sense either in absolute or relative terms unless there is a proper understanding of the macro-economic framework.

It is not our fault nor do we intend ever to reduce our level of debate in this Honourable House to the kind of presentation which we have just heard so neither in terms of the macro-economic framework of Government, or of the country, or of the totality of the economic environment in which we have to examine particular Estimates, have we had any kind of meaningful response from the other side.

Now, we have a recitation of what should be a policy position in relation to Education and all we have heard is the kind of recitation as to what public servants might well come up and put to a Minister of Finance as he sits down and looks at figures adjusting one claim against claim.

This is what I mean when I talk about intellectual bankruptcy because, so far, in this debate this is now in the second day, one cannot detect any policy line apart from the same kind of thing that you used to get when you sat on the other side when you were in Opposition years ago everybody asking you where you are going to cut expenditure, where you are going to do this, the same old arguments that went on for 10 and 12 years, the same kind of argumentation that really adds up to nothing.

It is a tragedy, in my view, that the debate cannot be lifted to any other kind of level of conceptualisation and

each time Members of this House on this side both in the NDP position and in the Barbados Labour Party Opposition try to pitch debate at a higher level, you cannot get beyond the level of talking about cement blocks and otherwise. 4.05 p.m.

We are talking about Education. What do you get? A recitation of what is in the Notes in the Estimates. It is better if the Minister had not spoken. However I have been looking at one or two aspects of the financial changes in relation to expenditures here under the various subheads in the Ministry of Education. I want to make one or two points. And it is a general point because I am going to come back later on various specific Heads. One point.

One would note (1) the levels of increases in the areas of education and the estimate forecast in previous years that they have been relatively well done. However from what I can see here I do not see anything new happening in terms of education in this country. I do not see for example anything to suggest that the Ministry of Education recognizes any major gaps in our educational system in terms of preparing students coming out of school for the work experience and to fit them into the kind of job situation s which this economy may be generating over the years.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES; It is not, wait until I get to capital. The point is this, you have made and you had an opportunity to make a policy statement and you have said nothing. You have said nothing that one would normally expect a Minister to address when he is addressing the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure. It is not for us to ask you to do that. Your introduction should be a policy introduction. You are either capable of doing it or you are incapable of doing it. And it would appear to me that there is a gap in the capacity to do so in any area from Members on that side. I would say that it is probably the weakest Cabinet that Barbados has ever had.

Aside.

Laughter.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Not since I gone. This is my view.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am going to ask Honourable Members to observe that a Member has the right to speak without interruption and that such Member should not indulge in following those asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I am not going to follow any asides because there are no worthwhile asides that would be coming from the other side.

I would say that it is a major disappointment, and it is a major disappointment. I have heard Estimates introduced in this House dealing with Education, and you could see the policy line emerging. It must be an embarrassment to thinking persons on the other side to hear the Minister get up for the first time that I can recall during these Estimates and present a position like that.

There are lots of areas inside here which if I refer to it would relate to the period when I was Minister of Finance for appropriate comparisons. But I believe this, that since as Minister of Finance I never brought anything to this Honourable House that was not approved by the Cabinet of Barbados, the way our Cabinet system works, I have never brought anything and could not bring anything to this House that was not approved by the Cabinet of Barbados, I will steer clear of all those areas as I have done ever since I ceased to be Minister of Finance that may be critical of my colleagues in decisions that I took collectively with them. As a matter of integrity, as a matter of constitutionality and as a matter of respect for the traditions of this House, I will steer clear of that. However if any allegations are made in matters where there has been collective responsibility and I have to defend myself, I will defend myself on the floor of this House. And make no mistake about it, at any time.

These Estimates as they stand before us here would have been approved by the Cabinet of Barbados, although they have been laid in the name of the Minister of Finance. They are the collective responsibility of each and every one of you over there as you all know. And any criticism levied at any Member whether it be the Minister of Finance or any other Member over there, it is a criticism of each and everyone. So that when you see Members of the Frontbench get up to defend a Minister even if they think that he is wrong in a particular area, then it is understood why they have to take that position or why they remain silent. Members of the Backbench do not have that obligation because they are not part of the Cabinet of Barbados.

I think that we have reached a dark day in the history of Barbados, a very dark day when anyone who was part of a Cabinet in a collective decision making situation can come to this House and seek to single out anybody for any particular decision. I would not do it although I am the official Leader of the Opposition, I would never, ever seek to criticise my former colleagues for any decision taken during my time when I sat over there with you all. I hope I have set my position clear. I hope that I will never ever find myself falling to a level of political nastiness which is something against which the NDP has turned its back. Let us get that clear.

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

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I would never do it, Sir.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. I have not interrupted the Honourable Member because I wanted him to make his statement. I now rise on a point of order for the future of the Debate of the Estimates in Committee, Sir. My understanding of the methodology which we are to use is that we are to discuss generally the specifics in this Committee about the policy matters relating to the sums of money to be voted. Without prejudice to the generality of the comment made by the Honourable Member who just sat down and without wishing to enjoin in a debate I would submit to Your Honour that only in that he is trying to educate this House could that be related to the Head we are discussing.

I accept however that it is a matter which he wanted to get on the record and so it is on the record. But, Sir, I do not wish that we should have the rest of the debate engaging in what is in essence a second reading speech or policy statement. Let us get on now with the details.

I am sure that there are a number of burning questions which Honourable Members in the Opposition and on the Backbench wish to ask the Minister about the education policy.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Yes, Sir. Mr. Chairman, I am thankful for the intervention of the Honourable Member. But I am sure that he would not seek to mislead you, Sir, in that since the entire Head is called. There is a subhead called General Administration, and under each Head in the Estimates once the total Head is called then there is a section dealing with the policy of the Ministry and you could speak to policy under that particular Head.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: If the Honourable Member would give way. His statement would have been appropriate under Cabinet, Sir.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Honourable Minister whether anything has been done to reduce the incidence of the trafficking in illicit drugs or in drug abuse in and around the schools of Barbados. What programmes he has put in place. Whether there has been any decrease or increase in that area of illicit activity over the past three years. And whether the stated policy of the Government when it was in Opposition eliminate the trafficking in illicit drugs in and around schools, whether anything has been done in that regard.

The second point I should like to ask is whether or not any of the schools had received chickens in the School Meals....

Asides. '

Laughter.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Chickens in the School Meals from any of the farms which have been under public scrutiny of late. And if so, how many incidents of gastro enteritis have taken place in the schools.....

Asides.

Laughter.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: of Barbados? It is a notifiable disease. How many have occurred? Whether any chickens were received with clotted blood in them? Because as you know chickens that are processed after death you will see the clotted blood in their veins. Whether any chickens arrived in that state...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The time...

Asides.

Laughter.

4.15 p.m.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: After death...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The time for this intervention has expired.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES:... or officially slaughtered after death.

Laughter.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am just informing the Honourable Member that the time for this intervention has expired.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: It is normal to give one minute notice, Mr. Chairman. What about the one minute notice?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Okay, one minute. Wind up.

Asides

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: One final question - and whether or not there have been complaints from operators in the School Meals Service about the quality of chickens which have been purchased?

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I think the Minister of Education was very proud that he has at long last after holding this portfolio for so long been given an opportunity to talk in this debate and like the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central I had looked forward to a discourse from him on the new direction in which he has led the Ministry of Education. However Sir, they had promised a fresh and enlightened approach to the administration of Education. That was No. 11 on Page 16 of the Democratic Labour Party Manifesto. Instead Sir, we

have seen no new thrusts really in Education and we should not at all be disappointed in a way at how the Minister had spoken because nothing new has really happened other than announcing an institute of democracy and that has not been spelled out and perhaps going on with the Associate Degree' and trying, to get a certification in this sphere at the Community College. I know of nothing new that has happened and some of the glaring problems in the educational system are still not being seriously addressed by this Government.

A recent study on literacy and numeracy in Barbados - and I hope a copy is available to the Minister has shown that there is a serious drop in the number of people who can read and count properly in this country and I believe the figure -1 have not got the exact figure - it is probably now only 3/4 if not less than what it has been before. That is a serious problem. The Minister has merely cursorily said in this debate that he has put some money in for remedial reading. But remedial reading remains a developing problem in Barbados that is going to prove of disastrous proportions within the system both the cultural, educational, and finally social and economic system of this country if it is not attended to rapidly. I hope that during the course of this debate the Minister will give us the figures and give to the House and to the Committee the knowledge which he knows now exist in his Ministry from this study. I think the country wishes to know what is the position quite clearly..

Another area that I am absolutely disappointed about, Sir, is the Minister's failure to address the problem of gearing people for jobs in the education job market. There is no doubt that the Samuel Jackman Polytechnic is now an overcrowded place. The Minister ought to know that only 25% of those persons who apply for places and who are qualified for places are not gaining admission because there is serious overcrowding. The Government has no programme for developing or expanding the Polytechnic in any way. You can look into the Capital Estimates. There is a need in Barbados for a similar institution either in the North or even in the South to cater to the large number of persons who must now come onto the job market and to cater for the increasing sophisticated job market which Barbados must face. Our needs are seriously in the area of services if we are to develop into a competitive centre in the economic field and the Government does not seem other than in a tertiary glance at computers and in this regard they were congratulated in the Committee as a whole. But the Right Honourable Member for St. Thomas before he died adverted to and saw the clear need for computer education becoming part of the overall curriculum of this country and the Labour Party was gearing itself towards this area. Within my own constituency I have the serious problem of the lack of adequate training for the job market and there are several of my own constituents who are denied access to the Polytechnic because of the lack of places.

Now Sir, the Minister when we get to the Capital Estimates will tell us of the plans for additional school places. The Government is proposing to follow through on the Labour Party programme to construct another secondary school at Wotton. The information which I have available to me is that when that school is constructed we would have answered almost adequately in this country the need for secondary school places taking into account the demographic figures and the projection of the demography of Barbados into the 21st century. One has to look at that and take it into account. We are having a falling birthrate. Our population is becoming significantly older and living longer and very soon we will have less need for physical school plant either at the primary or the secondary level. Indeed, part of the Labour Party policy which the Government is now following through in the construction of schools was the amalgamation of primary schools and uplifting the plant because we recognized by the year 2000 the school population of Barbados would have stabilized and would subsequently be decreasing. So that the Government must recognize these trends and follow through quickly with them and let me hear the Minister's plan in this field.

Instead you see, Sir, the Democratic Labour Party is so interested in sharing blows that it spends its time spreading the most vicious propaganda about the Barbados Labour Party's tenure in office in relation to the maintenance of buildings and in relation to the training of persons. They are saying it as often as possible on the assumption that if you repeat something a million times, after all that happened in Germany in the time of Goebbels and Hitler, people will come to believe it as though it is the truth and written as gospel in the Bible.

Now Sir, what are the facts? Let me congratulate the Government for voting in this Estimates in 1988/89 for the maintenance of primary schools I think somewhere like \$850 000 last year. Congratulate them for that. But what are the facts? We are going to do it with every Ministry when you all come in here with this misrepresentation. In 1986/87... our last year we voted \$968 043 as compared to \$850 000 which the Government voted last year, and we spent it too. In 1985/86 - look at the Estimates, we voted \$922 000 for the maintenance of primary schools and property. 4.25 p.m.

In 1983-84 our actual expenditure was \$1 million. That is in the records of the House, it is not coming out of my head. The Government this year is voting just over \$1 million under the Head. If you take in inflation, the figures which we voted in those years were as much as, and in two cases more than, the Government is voting now.

Aside

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: It was spent as well. They cut it in 1988-89. I will deal with training too, Sir. You see, Sir, the Government has not done the analysis within the various Departments to show what was spent. When I come to deal with the Ministry of the Attorney General I will show the same, because I know what I found.

Let us deal with the position, Sir. They said that we spent no money on training and you hear them continue to repeat what is tantamount to an untruth, and it must be exposed for that. In 1983-84 our actual expenditure on local and overseas training in the same Subhead 4 the Minister talks about was \$649 993. In 1985-86 it was \$785 500. In 1986-87 it was \$796 000. In 1987-88 it was \$800 000 - \$4,000 increase - and in 1989-90 it is \$910 000. Anybody who is being objective and who is being fair would look at how much was spent. The Ministry's files would show it.

Aside

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The Member says I have access to files. It is public information. I am entitled to write to any Head of Department, including the Minister, and ask for information. That is public knowledge, but this is published so I am using the Estimates that are published here.

The truth is that when you examine these general statements you will find they are not true, Sir. Let me show you Sir. Their own document, if you want to see it, page 63 of the Development Plan, Chapter 4 under Education and Culture. Looking at the Review of the 1983 to 1988 Sector Plan, published by the Barbados Labour Party, who started to implement it, this is what they said, Sir: "During the period, the Government" - the Barbados Labour Party Government - "sought to provide the education and training necessary for Barbadians to achieve self-realisation and participate fully in the economic and social life of the nation." And this is significant, Sir.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Mr. Chairman, I am looking at the same document, and I do not see any reference in here to the Barbados Labour Party Administration.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Sir, I am reading about 1983. The Honourable Member can read and he knows better than that. He is not making any point. It says that during the period 1983 to 1988, and we were part of the plan in 1983 to 1986, and you are implementing part of our plan. "There was a continuation of the programme aimed at rehabilitating and modernising the educational plant and improving the cost effectiveness and efficiency of the educational system. The activities of the National Training Board were expanded to provide and stimulate non-formal vocational training."

The point is, Sir, it is acknowledged without any doubt that the rehabilitation of the plant was taking place,

and if the Honourable Members would go through and look at what took place at various school buildings, they would find that there was a continuing process at several schools in Barbados. What are they saying? That the officials of the Ministry of Education took the money and put it in their pockets? Or gave it away? That nothing was done? Look at the programme and look at the money that was voted in the Committee. I have been in this House and have participated in debates in which I know that money was voted and know that money was spent, and I can go to physical plant in Barbados, including my own alma mater, the Water Street Boys' School, and show where money was spent, as well as the Girl's School. What are they trying to tell me, Sir? I know as well as the Honourable Members, but they believe that if they repeat it a million times the public of Barbados would believe that we were such an irresponsible people that there happens to be a retrograde process in looking after Education.

Now, Sir, I want to look at the future, because this Government has taken over and you will see that most of the vote on the Capital side, with which I agree, is for upgrading plant in the primary schools and for the continuation of programmes for the secondary schools. The only new building that this Government has suggested is the secondary school at St. Thomas, and they are not starting that this year. All of the programmes for the schools that are now under construction and that are planned for the future were negotiated, all of the funds were negotiated under the Barbados Labour Party, the sites selected and the plans made. That was part of retiring plant that had reached its physical life in order to upgrade the plant with a component of training, as the Minister knows.

There are now persons from the Community College and other Government institutions overseas on training, who have gone abroad because of that programme, because every time we negotiated with the World Bank or the IADB, you would have found that we had the training component.

One more minute, Sir. I will have to come back, but I want to deal with one point. The Hotel School, Sir, and training at the hotel. That is now under the Community College, but the physical plant for that remains at the Marine House. I understand that the Government is negotiating to purchase a hotel in my area for \$16 million. The Government can tell me whether it is true or not. That is my information. It may be incorrect. I am not relying on its accuracy.

Aside

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I heard it is the Asta Hotel, if you ask me. That is what I heard. Let me give the Government a suggestion though, Sir. I understand the proposals for Marine House now include the knocking down of one wing and the putting up of another office

wing. The Government can make a contribution to national conservation by preserving and restoring the Marine Hotel, upgrading it as a first-class school for the Hotel School, move the Government offices out so that it becomes a thing of beauty and preserved for ever, and at the same time the much needed places and the expansion for the Hotel Training School should take place. I will revert to this later, Sir.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Mr. Chairman, just two matters here. Sometimes when we are trying to score political points we can expose a certain amount of illogic. The person who just spoke, the Honourable Member for Christ Church West, made the point that he understands that after the building of the Wotton/Kingsland School the need for secondary school places will have been met. He made the point earlier that the Barbados Labour Party was following a policy position of consolidating existing schools, because there was already excess plant at the primary level, and he wants to make the point that the Democratic Labour Party is doing nothing in terms of schools.

You see, the kind of irrelevance you can get into, if you already have plant....

Asides.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: You are trying to give the impression that all we have been doing is working out your programme.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of elucidation, Sir, the Honourable Member is misrepresenting me. I said there is nothing new that they have brought other than the two areas I have mentioned.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: But how it could be two?

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The Honourable Member cannot inferentially come to his conclusion and put words in my mouth.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: You make your point. This whole fascination about coming with things new is nonsensical fascination. *What* is your new policy? What's the new this; if you are already saying that the needs have been met in these areas. What do you want us to come with something new for? New meaning what? You have a policy position here. If you are already working out a programme - this is the kind of foolishness you get in small countries - you have already met your needs in a particular programme, but you want us to come with something new. New but irrelevant? If you already have worked out a secondary school programme and a primary school programme, what new do you want in those areas? That is not a sensible criticism of a Government, and there is nothing wrong in

working out the programme left by the previous administration.
4.35 p.m.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of order, the Honourable Member was not listening, but he is now charging like a bull in a china shop. The Honourable Member heard me say that the area of need is the expansion of the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic and dealing with the other problems.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: I will deal with that too, but I will deal with your irrelvenancies and your lack of analysis in these matters for political purposes because you all know better. You are talking about a policy position coming from the Minister. This is your policy position, you can borrow it now you have gone over there. It is very very clear; there are eleven policy points in terms of education. You are talking about the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, what are the functions of that polytechnic? If you are following what is happening in terms of training in this country, you will know and if you read the paper on a daily basis you will see that there is an attempt to expand the whole programme of apprenticeship. I see daily ads coming out trying to inform people about apprenticeships. You might not be able to understand but I am trying to educate you if you will listen.

Part of a function of a polytechnic is to provide trained people in a community if 'there are different levels of training, but a Government has to decide at some point in time at what time and how many people will be brought into an in-house programme at the polytechnic for training purposes and how much training of a similar nature can be carried out in the work place by getting people apprenticed at the work place and getting the same kind of training that can sometimes come out of the polytechnic. A Government has to come up with that kind of mix. To give the impression that because the polytechnic places are not expanded and even when you come to this Honourable Chamber and say that people from your constituency cannot get into the Polytechnic, that could mean that they don't have the qualifications too. I don't know; I am saying that is one possible reason for that. There could be another explanation, that we cannot satisfy the amount of people who want to get in there.

Mr. Chairman, that would be true for the Community College, that would be true for the University and it would be true for a whole lot of institutions in this country. It shows that Barbadians are hungry for education, but if your answer to that is that we must go around multiplying polytechnics and at the same time you are saying that we are spending too much money and that expenditure levels are too high, again you get back to the same inconsistencies in arguments that I am getting in this Chamber all the time. You are spending too much money, but build more polytechnics, build more this and build the next; I am

saying that this is political because the people who are talking know better than that. They are not even talking about looking at the education system and rationalising it so that instead of building a whole lot of polytechnics you go in for other means of training, because one does not have to go ;j a polytechnic to become a skilled person. Skills training can satisfy certain levels and certain needs, and therefore one has to see an integrated programme of skills training programme, technical sections of schools, secondary schools, polytechnic, apprenticeship; all of these are going on in Barbados successfully and this present administration is having discussions on how to improve technical and vocational education. Experts from the World Bank, consultants, are down here on a constant basis discussing these matters, and to give the impression that there is no educational policy coming from the Democratic Labour Party must be extremely misleading.

Mr. Chairman, the Members of the Barbados Labour Party must know....

Asides.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: What I am saying to the Honourable Leader of the Opposition is that we have a policy position here in this manifesto. Every time we have the Estimates and the Minister has to introduce his Heads he does not have to get up and give a policy. You are all talking about new policies as though education is revolutionised from year to year and every year you come with this new policy in education. Education can't change with the whims and fancies of people; education policies do not come in year after year. Let us understand these things. I can show you some new developments and I will talk about them in here coming out of this same plan.

The Barbados Labour Party Administration has a very bad record on education in this country. Let them go now for all the records. You almost destroyed Erdiston Teachers College. You could not get leave to study under them. Let them debate these matters. What I am going to ask this Democratic Labour Party Administration to do is to look at Erdiston again, because I am convinced that there are too many institutions offering training in education, I believe that Erdiston is a good teaching institution and I would like to see that Erdiston certificate expanded and upgraded. After you do two years at Erdiston you should be able to graduate with a degree from Erdiston College. That is one of the things I would like to see, and I would like to see the programme of specialisation that is now carried out there expanded.

Let me tell you what is happening in this country. Teachers who come out of Erdiston after getting a two year certificate then turn around and study for the ACP and then the LCP so that they get paid as graduates in the educational system. That is a fact. After they do the two year Erdiston certificate they do the Associate of the

College of Preceptors and the LCP and they are paid as graduates. I am saying that that to me can be simplified by allowing the people at Erdiston to continue for another year's training so they don't have to repeat because the ACP is not any real development on the Erdiston certificate. I went to Erdiston and I keep in touch with Erdiston all the time. I know the ACP is no better than the Erdiston certificate and you have to repeat it on the rolls to get an ACP which is really not much better than the same Erdiston certificate either. I am saying that we are being short-changed. Our teachers have to go through too many institutions.

Sir, there is no reason why you should have to go to Erdiston and then go to University to end up with a degree in Education if what you want to be is an education specialist. I would like our administration to look down the line, because from the statistics that we got from the Honourable Minister of Education, I am happy to see that 62 per cent of teachers in our secondary schools are graduates even though I would like to see more of them as trained graduates. I believe fervently in improving our education system especially at the level of pre-primary and primary education. We need to put some money into Erdiston to do a lot of training in terms of early childhood education. I want to see the money going to Erdiston for that kind of training. I want to see funds going into things like the visual aids area because the kind of teaching that has to be done today is hands on teaching. You need your children at that early stage the ones in the very early stages of education, two, three and four, you want to see them with work books, you want to see teachers with a multiplicity of teaching aids; you want to make sure that every time the teacher goes to teach about number that they have a lot of work cards about numbers; language skills, that the teacher has a lot of work cards on language skills. That is where I want to see some money going, into the pre-primary, nursery, and primary levels of our education. I want to see Erdiston College fully equipped to deal with that kind of teaching, and I want to see people graduate out of Erdiston not just with a certificate but with a degree.

Mr. Chairman, let us understand that placing computers in a systematic way in schools in Barbados is the beginning of a significant development in our educational policy. I understand from the Honourable Member for Christ Church West that that was conceptualised by Mr. Adams who had a personal affinity to these things and that the Barbados Labour Party supported it. There is no problem with that. The Democratic Labour Party now is putting it into action, we are putting some money in it. This political foolishness has to finish away. I am not trying to steal the paternity of the idea from Mr. Adams or from the Barbados Labour Party or anybody else.

Asides.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: He was not even saying that. He was saying that he had an affinity for these things. This thing about stealing concepts, the point is that it is being introduced this year. Money is in the Estimates to deal with it to buy 95 computers and that could only be a start, because the corollary to putting 95 computers in the schools means we have to start a serious programme of training people in the use of computers which is going to be a vitally important component of our educational policy in the future, because you cannot introduce those computers without training people. You have now to train the trainers, train the teachers who would be introducing the whole technology of computers. For the Barbados Labour Party not to understand that this is a significant development in the educational system and to be asking for new policies! Do not be cheap politically. Acknowledge when you see these new developments as being significant, get up and say they are significant. Do not let us start all of this. 4.45 p.m.

Education is not something we should divide on politically. This whole country will stand or fall on our educational policies. It is % nothing to take cheap shots on who built schools, who did not build schools, who did this and who did not do that. In terms of the Caribbean we are moving ahead.

I understand that there is some recent study on literacy and numeracy. I have not seen it. I cannot speak to it but I know, I was teaching in that system long enough. I spent a lot of my years in that system. There are really a lot of myths about literacy and numeracy in Barbados. There have always been myths.

There are people in here who have a lot to do about Language Arts. I know teaching in secondary schools, I taught through the spectrum. I taught at Princess Margaret. I taught at Foundation. I taught at the Community College and I taught at the University and those who teach at the secondary schools do not know much about what is happening at the Newer Secondary schools.

I have had, sometimes, in Newer Secondary Schools when they give me a class to freeze the curriculum and to teach only two subjects, language and numeracy. I told the Headteacher I am not attempting to teach any Spanish or any science when these students do not understand English and arithmetic and I would freeze the curriculum for a year. I felt satisfied when I could deliver these children being able to speak English language, write English language, read it and handle basic arithmetic. That has been happening in Barbados and that is back in the sixties and seventies these things were happening.

Let us understand that there is a lot of mystification and a lot of myth-making about the education system in this country but that is not necessarily to put blame on any

Government or any governmental policy. We have always blindly followed steps taken by other countries.

In the 1970s when Erdiston College was saying they were not teaching anymore grammar and so on, it was going to functional teaching of these things, no longer all of the syntax, clause analysis, parsing and all the basics that we came up with. All of these were dispensed with and you are saying you are only going to be teaching these things functionally. I thought that that was a mistake.

When we moved away from teaching basic arithmetic and so on, and we moved to the new maths, we were following the United States of America that was moving into the computer age, the jet age, the nuclear age. Recognizing that there was no way that we were going to be following them in terms of their development, but our basic ability to understand numeracy we followed those directions. We were going in the wrong direction because the thing that we always do is to toss out the whole policy. You do not introduce and keep part intact. You toss out everything and try to bring in something new from the start and those things are haunting us now.

Who are the teachers going to be teaching the language we are talking about and the numeracy level of who themselves are bereft of that kind of education. Sometimes you have to get back to basics and you need that kind of thinking, no doubt about it. Sometimes you have to go back for the retired teachers to bring them back to the school to do certain things, so let us do that. If we need to use those human resources, even though they are retired, bring them back into the system if we believe that there are flaws.

Let us understand, also, that although those changes brought some problems, they also led to some good developments.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has one minute.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: I would like to end, Mr. Chairman, by saying the Democratic Labour Party has a progressive policy on education. It is vouchsafed in two ways, one is by our Manifesto and secondly by our daily practice. A policy to be a policy must be practiced and anybody who is anybody in Barbados knows what is happening to education in this country, new hope for teachers and the school system showing the benefits that there is a policy in place.

People are getting leave as never before. You can go to Erdiston as you could not go before. We are now introducing things like computers in schools, and things are happening and I am sure that as the debate goes on we will hear some more.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker, I ain going to be very brief but I think I need to respond to just one part of the speech made by the Honourable Member for Christ Church West. In his speech, Mr. Chairman, he mentioned the amount of money that was voted in the Estimates for refurbishment and for repair of schools, general maintenance of schools under the Barbados Labour Party Administration and what has been voted since this Administration took office.

I do not believe that that statement should be allowed to go just like that. What he has said about the amount of money voted might be true but what would have been better would be if the Honourable Member could have demonstrated to this House how many schools were maintained with that money. To say in here that because money is voted for a certain Head, therefore, it is used for that Head is not really true because in here the Barbados Labour Party...

Asides.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: We voted in here...

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Is the Minister saying - you see, we had something said in here today that raises serious problems. I will show you why. Is the Minister saying that under the present Cabinet money that is voted for a particular Head....

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Oh no, no. Let me explain.

Aside.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Chairman, let me continue and explain what I am saying. In 1984 we voted in this House \$984 000 for the flood victims in St. Peter. How many of those flood victims got that money? How many of the flood victims that money was spent on?

The National Housing Corporation has already spent \$420 000 putting up 16 houses for some of those flood victims who were never helped when you all used the money for other purposes.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would just like to caution the Member that we are dealing with the matter of Education.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Of course, and I am answering the point that he was mentioning that money was voted for maintenance of schools giving the impression that because they voted more money for maintenance of schools under the Barbados Labour Party, and they voted more than we did...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: A Member is on a point of order.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: On a point of order.

Mr. Chairman, there is a thing called an Auditor General's Report where funds voted by this Parliament have to be accounted for. If the Honourable Member for St. Philip South has any misgivings or difficulties regarding how funds voted by Parliament have been spent, he should go to those reports and verify but I think it is offensive to this parliament for the Minister of Housing in the absence of any data, to even remotely imply by insinuation that this House would vote funds for a purpose and that those funds were spent otherwise and I am asking him to produce the evidence if he wants to continue in this kind of debate.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Chairman, it is hurting. Let me tell you why they are so nervous.

In 1986, Mr. Chairman, money was voted for the National Assistance Board for one year, \$2.5 million. That money was used between April 1, 1986 and May, the whole \$2.5 million and very little of that money went to the old people or for the purpose for which it was voted. 4.55p.m.

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

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, you well remember that in this similar debate last year we had a full debate on the National Assistance Board Report which was described by the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works as an empty and shallow document which was unable to find any....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am asking the Honourable Member to realize that we are still dealing with the matter of Education, not the National Assistance Board or any other.

And I am going further to state....

Aside.

Laughter.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: that I am not going to allow those kinds of excursions while I am in the Chair. I would like it to remain as close as possible to the Head.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Philip South.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN:.... I am only trying to put what the Honourable Member for Christ Church West said

in its true perspective. He was mentioning that under the Barbados Labour Party they voted more money for the maintenance of school buildings than this Administration voted for the maintenance of school buildings.

I am saying, even if that were true, or even if we take that as being true it would be a better yardstick to use if you could come and say, we repaired this school, that school, and that school, and under the Democratic Labour Party you only repaired that school, that school and that school.

But to come and just use money when you know for a fact that we have voted money in here, and I gave them two instances where money was voted and the money did not find itself where the money was voted for and to the people for whom it was voted.

And I am going to say this, Mr. Chairman, Are we to believe that all of the schools we are forced to repair now and have been forced to repair since 1986 that all of them started going bad suddenly in 1986? The school buildings were going bad under you all but you never repaired them. You started to mention some schools and you mentioned two and could not get any further. Two! One was your alma mater as you said and one other. And you could not get any further.

We are now burdened, this Administration with repairing all the schools, all the police stations, all the polyclinics. Everything we have to repair now. So do not use figures. But you all like figures. But figures do not prove anything. Tell us how many schools you maintained, and that is better.

I thought I should make that point because you say that you are going to come with that same point with other Ministries.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Peter, I would wish to inform him that I am not going to tolerate that kind of behaviour.

Aside.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have ruled before that Members should be heard in silence. And I am going to make the point now that I am not going to tolerate any further interruptions of that sort.

Asides.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: We have been here for quite some time, Sir, and I think we deserve some break. I think, Sir, that twenty minutes should be fairly ample.

Aside.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Everybody seems to want half hour, Sir.

I beg to move, Sir, that you do now report progress to His Honour the Speaker and ask for leave to sit again. Hon. B. M. TATTT: I beg to second that, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress to His Honour the SPEAKER and asked for leave to sit again and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until 5.30 p.m. this afternoon.

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

The question was put and was resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly at 5.05 p.m. 5.05 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, today has been an enlightening experience in more than one respect and indeed fascinating. We are debating the Estimates of Expenditure which involve and which can pay also estimates of revenue and we have been given an insight into the methodology of the DLP Cabinet in dealing with Estimates of Revenue. If the Leader of the Opposition is accurate and is to be believed, Estimates of Revenue unlike in our time now reach Cabinet and are debated and sent up with their blessings through the Cabinet Secretary for laying in Parliament. I can only speak of the slender experience of a year that I had in Cabinet, Sir. But in that year the way we did it was that the Estimates of Expenditure came to Cabinet in a draft form appended to Cabinet Papers setting out the salient features. Cabinet discussed them and usually a week or two before the decision was taken that they would be laid. The Estimates of Expenditure as approved by Cabinet and the Estimates of Revenue were then printed and bound in a form similar to this and laid. So that before you received this document containing both Revenue and Expenditure you never had sight of revenue. But it would appear that in 1987 the DLP, if the Leader of the Opposition is correct, dealt with these matters differently.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I said it would appear from what he said - I said if he is correct. I am being very careful in the use of language. If he is correct, then the Estimates of Revenue went to Cabinet and certain instructions were given for their alteration by the Minister of Finance. Well, that is one point of departure in the methodology always assuming that that version of the facts is.....

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: So why should I not make that assumption? You mean the Leader of the Opposition will come in here and lie then? If he is lying then you all must say so and if anybody lies to Parliament they should resign. You know that as well as I do.

Asides

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: And he is a man of high integrity and morality according to all that has been published. That is one point of departure, Sir.

The second point of departure is that it appears that Members of the Democratic Labour Party when they were in Opposition prior to the change of Government in 1986 never paid any particular attention to the Auditor General's Report. But of course that may have been because the then Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Barrow, as Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee was not keen on holding meetings of the Public Accounts Committee and indeed held very few if any. So that we have the wild allegations being made by my friend the Member for St. Philip South of whom I thought better - my good friend from the days of St. Philip Boys School, Sir. You see I am dealing with education. We were both educated at St. Philip Boys School between 1948 and 1950. I think we had a fight one time too and I beat him.

Laughs.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: We had the spectacle of the Minister of Housing alleging that in 1984 following the flood in St. Peter there seem to have been discrepancies in the expenditure of public funds.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Of course, you would recall that I had asked the Honourable Member not to go down that road and I do not want you to go down that road now.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am using it as an argument to deal with the methodology that informs the Democratic Labour Party's preparation of the financial accounts reflected in the Estimates, the totality of them, Sir, not only Education and to make the simple point, Sir, you will just bear with me, that I believe that if there was misspending of \$900 000 approximately by any Government Department or

stealing of it, or whatever was being implied the Auditor General would have made an adverse comment in his report and we on this side, Sir, and these 3 have been through the Auditor General's Report for those years and there has been no sign of discrepancy. Similarly, when there was a whole inquiry set up by that Government or an assumption that something untoward had taken place, nothing of substance was found and the Jackman Report has been condemned to the dustbin of foolish documents.

Now the third area, Sir, is in relation to educational policy and whether there has been any divergence of policy as between the Democratic Labour Party and the Barbados Labour Party. One would get the impression listening to Members on the other side that the Barbados Labour Party in its 10 year period from 1976 to 1986 did nothing for the promotion of education, did nothing by way of maintenance and repair of the educational plant and indeed I am not going to be critical at all of the Minister of Education, Sir. He is a good follower and he is following almost to the letter the policies that had been left by the Barbados Labour Party.

I cannot be too hard on him. But I wish to place it in the records of this House first of all that I do not believe that there can be much scope for radical divergence of policy in educational matters in Barbados. I believe that the groundwork has been laid and the broad perimeters have been set within which political parties will have to develop and improve the educational structures and facilities in Barbados. But there is not going to be any radical departure.

In 1986 - Yes Sir, on the 5th of November, 1986 a former Minister of Education of the Democratic Labour Party, Senator Tudor

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: What is he in the Other Place? The gentleman in the Other Place had this to say on Page 93 of the debate. Speaking on a Resolution to approve the borrowing of an amount in various currencies equivalent to U.S.\$10 million from the IBRD, 42nd Education and Training Project, Sir James said these words, Sir:

Asides.

5.40 p.m.

"Now this Resolution represents what, for want of other words, I might describe as a tripartite effort on the part of the people of Barbados and two international lending agencies. And fortunately for us, a tremendous amount of work on this matter has been done by the Government which has just demitted office."

That is the Barbados Labour Party.

"As a matter of fact, one of the ex-Ministers now a Member of the Honourable Senate had to do a considerable amount of work, quite successfully, on the first World Bank Loan which started, I believe some time in 1978, the proceeds of which were applied to the educational system I believe from 1978 through 1985 and the other-Minister, from what I can see in the records has herself done a tremendous amount of work on the second project which is before us as a matter of discussion now.

In both their cases, I think from what I can see they met with commendable success, discharged their duties and obligations in these matters with a certain amount of ease, and have handed down to their successors something on which we might build.

Now when the Honourable Senator was in the Other Place laying these proposals before the Honourable House of which he was a Member, he made it quite clear that in respect of this World Bank Loan there were three objectives which the World Bank officials and the Ministry of Education sought to achieve and, as he describes it, the loan was first directed toward improving the quality and cost effectiveness of primary and secondary education services. Secondly, that it was intended to improve the quality, efficiency and industrial relevance of technical and vocational training, and thirdly, as I said, the loan was intended to improve the efficiency and to strengthen the capacity of the country to plan and maintain the educational and other training systems.

It is a matter of record."

And he goes on to say, dealing with what the first World Bank Loan accomplished,

"But I can briefly say that it constructed a number of new primary schools; it expanded a number of secondary schools; it provided furniture for the Trents Secondary School; it went a considerable way in providing additional teacher training facilities" -

a matter alluded to by the Honourable Member for Christ Church West when he spoke -

"furniture, equipment, library and resource center; and it upgraded facilities at BIMAP including purchasing of furniture and equipment and technical assistance for training.

The second project, therefore, for which negotiations started in 1984, was building on a very firm foundation. It appears that the then Government first presented the proposals to this project to the World Bank in that year, and sometime later in that year the project was reviewed by the Bank, with the Ministry

of Education and Culture, and was appraised by a mission from the Bank sometime last year, and that this appraisal was based on a comprehensive package which included primary, secondary, tertiary education as well as an administrative development relative to the whole future of the educational system in Barbados."

Mr. CHAIRMAN: From what page have you quoted?

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: 93 and 94 of 5th November, 1986. What a leading Member of the Democratic Labour Party's Cabinet was saying - indeed he calls himself the kingpin -

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I did not call him that. He wrote that about himself when he was writing about his last birthday in October 1988. Check back the *Nation*. What he * was saying, Sir, is that the Barbados Labour Party in 1978 and in 1984 with the two World Bank projects were setting the foundation in place for the development of primary, secondary and tertiary education, and all the ramifications and the attendant and ancillary features of that, including, for the Member for Christ Church East Central, training and teacher facilities.

So that, as I say, Sir, I do not think there can be any great argument between certainly the B's and the D's as to the educational platform that has been laid as a springboard for the teaching and training of youths in this country.

In these Estimates I know the Minister is moving to implement various aspects of the second World Bank project. He will have to tell me at some time when he is going to start the school at Farmers. I do not believe that in the life of this Parliament we will see the secondary school at St. Thomas. Has the Government paid the gentleman yet from whom they bought the land? I do not know if that has been settled.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: It has never been a deterrent, but the gentleman might be in penury as a result. He might end up in Giendairy. Pay!

, *Aside.*

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Oh, he got paid? You did not pay him for all. Anyhow, Sij, those are local domestic matters in St. Thomas and I will come back on this later on.

I wanted to start at the philosophical levels, because there are aspects of education in Barbados which concern me, and I share the concerns of the Member for Christ

Church East Central. I really am concerned about the trends in modern education. There was a group in here at one time, before you, Sir, called the Harrison College Mafia. Today we were hearing about the Barbados Scholars, the little group of four, in this room. I am not in that, I am proud to have been a product of Lodge School, when Lodge School was a school.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your time has expired.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Yes, I have to come back.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, the Government has indicated that it would very much welcome constructive comments on the specific provisions contained in the Estimates of this year, and in the process of his very scant introduction of his Ministry's Estimates the Minister of Education was kind enough to say that the line of departure being pursued by the Democratic Labour Party in relation to the execution of an education polic> was the line of departure to bring training into education.

The core of Government's concern for this particular measure, Sir, one would imagine, is set out at Subhead 17 where an amount is provided by way of a grant to the National Training Board. Indeed, Mr. Chairman, the note to the Subhead would suggest that an extraordinary high priority is attached to this particular Subhead, because this Subhead is supposed to allow the Board to ensure an adequate supply of trained manpower in occupations in all branches of economic activity in Barbados, to ensure the adequate supply of trained manpower in all occupations in all branches of industry in Barbados, to supervise the apprenticeship and training progiammes and to look after testing and certification. Laudable goals, Sir, with which we can all concur, as matters of Government priority.

We are this year, Mr. Chairman, being called upon to approve Estimates of Expenditure whereby Government's Current Expenditure is to rise by 22%. We are to believe that the line of departure on the part of the Democratic Labour Party is to bring training into education, and that to bring training into education we are going to have a training programme to train manpower in all branches of economic activity in this country.

I want the Minister of Education to explain to me, and to explain to this House, why in the context of an increase in public expenditure by 23% the articulation of a policy by the Democratic Labour Party, that its line of departure is to bring training into education, that the vote for training this year is now being cut by the Democratic Labour Party. 5.50p.m.)

It is being cut, Sir. The numbers are not large, but if we are to believe that this is a matter of national priority, if we are to believe that the Government is serious about training manpower for all branches of industry in this

country, by what process of logic, by what process of the settlement of priorities can a Government come to this House and justify a cut in the vote for occupational training.

I want to go further, Sir. I want to ask the Government how do you rationalise a situation where you are cutting expenditure on training that can be of service to all branches of industry in this country in the context of a situation where you are now raising \$10.8 million from the training levy; and the numbers, Sir, are very interesting. The Government is raising \$10.8 million from the training levy but spending only \$4.2 million on training, and it is a reduced amount. Indeed if we were to treat training not only as occupational training but to add up everything that Government is spending on training, we will come to a particular conclusion, that it is raising from the people of this country \$10.8 million from a training levy but spending \$4.3 million on occupational training; it is spending \$900 000 on local and overseas training, it is spending \$1.7 million on teacher training and it is spending \$100 on adult education which is itself a form of training; so in total the Government is spending no more than \$7 million on training in all its various aspects in the context of a situation in which it is raising almost \$11 million in the course of this financial year.

I want therefore to ask the Democratic Labour Party and this House if the Government is putting its money where its mouth is, and if indeed we are to believe that there is any line of departure in the Democratic Labour Party, why are we not seeing training being given the kind of financial support that the rest of the Government functions seems so obviously to attract. I say that in this matter as in so many other areas and spheres of operations of the Democratic Labour Party, there is a complete contrast between what they want us to believe and what the reality is. My leader, Sir, the Honourable Member for Christ Church West has already exposed the piece of public mischief, because it is no less than that, that the Democratic Labour Party would want to perpetrate to the effect that we in the Barbados Labour Party had left Barbados to decay. It is a piece of public mischief that in all areas of this country's infrastructure, in all the social services that the Barbados Labour Party has run down Barbados. It is a dirty, vitriolic piece of public mischief and it must be seen as such.

The Honourable Member for St. Philip wants to know what we spent the maintenance funds on, Sir? We spent some in Indian Ground; we spent some at All Saints Boys' School in my constituency to the point where the Minister of Education was in a position to go to All Saints Boys' School and take up a building that had been constructed by the Barbados Labour Party to accommodate the needs of the people of St. Peter. We spent as well on Boscobelle, and I am sure that if each and everybody on the Government side were to go through their own constituency in a systematic fashion, they would find that the expenditure on

maintenance by the Barbados Labour Party has been money that has been very well spent, and I want to publicly thank the former Ministers of Education for the assistance they rendered to the people of my own constituency, and I want to put a plea to the present Minister of Education that within the context of an increased budget for maintenance there is work yet to be done in- St. Peter on the All Saints Boys' School, and that if he can find it in his heart to paint the building, that it would be recompense to the people of All Saints for the discomfort that you have caused for removing part of the physical facilities from All Saints Boys' School to carry to St. George North.

Asides.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: I will not, Mr. Chairman, be provoked this afternoon by the rumbustious statements of the Honourable Member for St. Philip South. He complains that we in the Barbados Labour Party spent money on education badly. Perhaps, Sir, he is in a position to know and he might have been in a position to help us if he had completed his three year course not in six years but in the course of three.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Mr. Chairman, I want to make a contribution to the debate at this stage in relation to certain policy aspects of the education programme as outlined by the Democratic Labour Party. Now I think it is pretty accurate to say that education in Barbados has progressed with great strides over the years, and we have always been in a position from time to time to know in which direction we were heading in relation to education. I know that the Democratic Labour Party in its manifesto of 1986 had stated a position in relation to education where it highlighted at page 16 of that document which is now a document of the House the things it wanted to do in relation to education.

Now I want to just zero in or focus on one or two aspects of this policy and to make a comment in relation to those aspects that I select. Now contrary to what the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central said, I am at a loss to know what direction we are going in in these areas. Those areas that I want to look at concern the adult education programme which is mentioned as one of the areas of development in education by the Democratic Labour Party's manifesto, where they say that they intend to promote a comprehensive programme of continuing adult education.

Now I have not heard the Minister as yet outline what is the Ministry's intention or the Government's intention in this area. Now the Honourable Member for St. Peter said earlier on that they were taking \$10.8 million from the training levy and applying it to certain aspects of education, but what I would like to know at the outset, Mr. Chairman, is what proportion of this money will be used towards the promotion of the continuing adult education programme.

Now on page 87 of the Estimates, in the explanatory notes, I see under Head 16, Adult Education Programme, and under description it says this subhead represents a token amount. That token amount, Sir, is \$100. Now I do not know how far that is going to take us in so far as the promotion of the adult education programme is concerned and I would like the Minister to tell me, Sir, what is the Government's policy in this regard and how far \$100 can take us. 6.00p.m.

No policy up to now, as far as I know, has been enunciated in this regard and I would want to know what is the comprehensive programme that the Manifesto* addresses.

Now, it would seem to me, Sir, that given our unemployment profile in Barbados that persons need to be retrained to better their job prospect and this is even more so when we take into consideration the fact that we are now voting considerable sums of money to train our pupils to cope with the computer, to learn the computer, to prepare for that entry into the 21st Century in this world of high technology.

We have suffered significant job losses with the closure of Platex, Corcom, also Intel and many persons were displaced as a result of that. Because of the training received in those industries, some of the top level administrators were able to open their own businesses and they are able to employ themselves but there has been a significant job loss in that area and many persons are now stuck with the training they got from those industries without any place to work to apply those skills and it would seem to me that the adult education programme would have been a good starting point from which to retrain those persons to better their skills in so far as retraining and broadening themselves to go into other areas of employment in so far as those areas of employment are available.

The Ministry of Education has only been playing lip service to this area of education in Barbados. To take the argument a little further, we know that many persons have left school without any proper skills in reading, writing and soon there comes a point that those persons would need to retrain themselves because now they realize that with unemployment as it is, that there are no longer any jobs for maids or for workers of that kind and that the job market is calling for an increasing amount of skill and that only persons with that requisite degree of skills are getting employment. Not only is the job market calling for skills but the job market is also very competitive and people with low education achievement in certain areas need to be in a position....

Hon. C. V. WALKER: On a point of elucidation. There is a difference in terms of continuing education. In

my introduction I made the point that those of us who were a little older went through school and we used to go and take classes, not as training. There is a training component which was raised by other Members. Training is a component of continuing education.

Mr. R. P. BYER: The point I am making, Mr. Chairman, if I may respond to the Minister is that I conceive adult education to also include continuing education also training as well and for retraining of persons. That is my perception of it. I agree with the Minister in his classification but I am saying that in terms of my thinking about it that the two things could be considered at the same time.

Another aspect I would want to deal with is this. Now, what is the policy in relation to study leave for teachers? The Democratic Labour Party as part of its stated intention in education at page 16 of the 1986 Manifesto says that they will "restore the policy of study leave for teachers, as implemented by the Democratic Labour Party."

Now, Sir, I want that policy spelt out clearly. Let me be honest and say that recently in the media there was some difference of opinion that was expressed between the Ministry of Education and, also, the several bodies that represent teachers in Barbados and I am still not clear as to what the policy is in that regard.

I know that this policy was virtually discontinued under the Barbados Labour Party Administration but it was more or less resurrected when the Democratic Labour Party became...

Hon. C. V. WALKER: On a point of elucidation.

If the Honourable Member is going to refer to an article. It was not raised by any union or organisation, it was raised based on a comment made by one teacher at a school to which the Ministry responded to clarify the error which was published in the Press.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Sir, all the Minister has done is to tell me that the person who I said they had the difference of opinion with was a body different from the one I mentioned but the point is still there that there was a difference of opinion between the Ministry of Education and some other person to which the Minister has referred and I would want to know what are the parameters of that policy. I would like to know what that policy is when he is responding to the several questions that have been raised during the process of this debate. I would want to know the clear policy in relation to study leave so that nobody would have any doubts as to what that policy is. I certainly am not clear.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central said that the policy in relation to education, and I hope I get you correctly. I hope I catch his interpretation

correctly, Sir. What he said was that the policy in relation to education is stated in the Manifesto and it is also being acted out continually daily.

Now, that might be so, Sir, but it does not remove the fact that the Minister for the least perceptive among us, has not spelt out that policy clearly in terms of the Manifesto position as outlined by the Democratic Labour Party. That is what I am concerned about.

I may read in the newspaper, or I may read in other sections of the media where the Minister has made certain comments in relation to aspects of education and aspects of policy emanating in the Ministry of Education, but I would want to have a clear and coherent expression of that policy in relation to all the matters that are referred to in the Manifesto.

Now, I have other points to make. I would not raise them now, Sir, because two minutes is not enough. You indicated to me that I have another two minutes. I will come back again, Sir.

Mr. C. A. NEBLETT: Mr. Chairman, I would like to join the debate at this point relating to Government's policy in the maintenance of schools. 6.10p.m.

I heard the Honourable Member for St. Peter quoting rather cheerily from his experiences in St. Peter over the last few years of the Barbados Labour Party's Administration and he related to a number of schools in St. Peter that were repaired. On the other hand, we had a number of schools on the other side of the line namely in St. Andrew that have been neglected over a period of years. One such school was Chalky Mount and I am happy to say that the Ministry has done a major repair job on it. In fact to take a look at Chalky Mount today you would think that it is a reconstruction.

There is still a problem of one school at Turner's Hall and I support the Honourable Member for St. Thomas who is asking some questions as to when the new school will be built at Farmers in the sense that that school will be serving the Turner's Hall area as well.

I know that from our policies that we have been enunciating from time to time that our repair programme will be on stream. And I would suggest that the Member for St. Thomas have no fear, the situation will be taken care of.

One point I should like to deal with now is the question of subsidized transport, as I see it affecting principally the constituency that I have the honour to represent. We have a problem in terms of transport. The way places have been allocated you create a strange situation, strange in the sense that we have to bus children from St. Andrew to such schools as the Grantley Adams

Memorial School to Coleridge and Parry and even as far away as St. Lucy and St. James Secondary. We are also busing children from as far as Christ Church into St. Andrew to attend the Alleyne School.

I would hope that the Ministry is keeping a careful check on this situation as I am aware that whenever the subject of zoning is ever raised it creates a very 'emotional debate. But we must look at a situation where students of these schools who have to travel over a great distance miss a substantial part of school activity. One, the question of punctuality, they are usually late for school, and also they never get the chance to participate seriously in extra curricular activities. In fact in many cases they have had to give up actual study time to incorporate sporting activities which I hope the Minister will address in the fullness of time where we can get such schools as the Alleyne School again beginning to serve as the neighbourhood school and help to correct a situation where savings can be made in terms of the transportation cost and also the question of giving the children a chance to enjoy the best of their schooldays.

One point I should like to move on briefly to is just a situation I am throwing out. In our education system we have got the primary schools, we have got the secondary schools then we have the vocational, further education through the Community College, and the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic. We also have got the Skills Training, and it would seem as though especially at secondary level, these institutions are catering for people of varying abilities, but it would seem to me from time to time that some of these institutions are overlapping in terms of what courses they are offering.

I think therefore we need to take a serious look at say the Community College, the relationship between the Community College and the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic. The Community College it seems to me as though it is offering an extended secondary education more so than serving a vocational need. It would mean that what should be considered is that in some of the secondary schools that are equipped we might have to consider the introduction of sixth form education and relieve the Community College to pursue vocational training in the skills that are sadly lacking to gear quite a few of our young people for today's world of work.

Looking at the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic I feel that that institution could be brought up to the technical level of the Community College or there is some interplay rather than having a situation where you are training a set of people of one set of abilities as compared with the Community College that is at another level. We are dealing especially in the technical area and I think we need to concentrate our resources. If the Community College for instance would be concentrating in areas of health science, and business generally and we can have the Polytechnic

dealing in area such as engineering, you would not have an overlap whereby you get basic teaching at the Polytechnic and then you move on the Community College to continue in that way. It means that you could begin and end at the Polytechnic aiming at some sort of certification based on a skill that prepares you for work.

The question of Skills Training, I have always seen it as an emergency situation. It was introduced to deal with a specific problem at a particular point in time. But we would need to see a more formal situation emanating from the Skills Training tied very closely to an apprenticeship scheme that in the end would benefit all those who would need such training. In fact I would see the Skills Training as providing the basis for equipping the very students that would come out, the very technical students that would make them marketable in terms of their skills.

So just with that short intervention, Mr. Chairman, I should like to come back at a later stage to deal with another area.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: Mr. Chairman I should like to

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for the

Hon. C. V. WALKER: ...respond to some of the ...
6.20 p.m.

Asides.

Mr. P. J. M. MBLLER: Mr. Chairman, I am going to give the Minister an opportunity to speak shortly. I just want to make a short intervention at this point because I believe that we have been going on at this for a while and a lot of what needs to be said have been said and the Minister has a lot of questions to answer. But there are a few points that I wanted to look at and it is probably going on from the point left off by the last Member who just took his seat.

The first thing I want to say, Sir, is that I would hope that the Honourable Minister of Education does not see vocational training as any short term or emergency matter. I would like to think that a Government who says that they are serious about creating employment would understand that hand in hand with this job creation that they keep speaking of you would need to have people who are trained to take up these jobs that we are supposed to be seeing soon. So that vocational training must be seen as very important short, medium, and long term, not a short term or emergency plan.

What I think that needs to be done now beyond the so-called Skills Training Programme which I prefer to call a vocational training programme, which I would not say is a

bad idea - I give credit that it is a good idea - but there are things that need to be done with it to make it work and serve the true purpose it was intended to serve. The whole question of placing people in plants to have some on the job training is something that needs to be looked at. If it is being done in any way, it needs to be accelerated. It needs to be done in collaboration with the same private sector people who continue to get criticized by the Members on that side. For instance, you have a case where a young lady did, I think it was 13 weeks in a programme where she was supposed to have been trained in industrial sewing machines to get one of these jobs in these garment plants that we hear are growing in sales. So there is supposed to be some jobs out there, and she was supposed to get one of these jobs only to find that when she went to the plant she only in fact had nine (9) hours on the machine and really did not know how to use the machine. So it was either that the person who owned that plant who has to try and make a profit at the end of the day really subsidize that person who is not going to give him the kind of productivity that he needs if he is going to be profitable or let them go back to the programme to maybe do another 9 hours. I do not know.

The point I am making out of all of this, Sir, is that maybe what Government needs to look at is part of that time a person is spending there with a lot of theory, if there is such theory. They may want to place that person in the plant, in the environment that they will be working in and maybe the same stipend or whatever it is they give to people - give that to the employer as a form of subsidy and ask the employer to cooperate in the interest of the said worker by paying him a wage. In other words, you would end up employing that person at a subsidized wage so that they can get the kind of training that they are looking for.

Also, I may not want to agree completely with the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central when he expressed some fears about the type of tools we are using to teach with today. I agree with him to an extent that I am also concerned about the level at which we are talking about - primary maybe and even secondary level. But I think when we get beyond that, when we go into vocational training and even on the job training where persons are already employed and they probably want to move up. We need to be realistic and understand that the age we are living in and the kind of educational tools that one will need to use go beyond just books. We have right now and this is a concern that was expressed to me by more than one business person - we have a situation where, for instance, it may be just an oversight because it is too negligible in terms of Government's revenue to be a serious matter, where you can get books for say training in a plant or in a business place free of any duties. At the moment if you have to get any audio visual aids to assist in this same training it attracts various forms of charges and duties and this is maybe something that in the interest of this same type of vocational training that Government can look at as something they can write off. Because I do not believe that

it is a major part, as far as I am concerned, in terms of their revenue.

Let me get closer to home now, Sir. In the constituency that I have the honour to represent there are a number of primary schools and infant schools which are in a sad state of disrepair. I believe the word "deplorable" would even be too mild. The St. Mary's Infant School and the St. Mary's Primary School were 2 schools that if my memory serves me right the former Member of Parliament for the City said were going to be amalgamated and a new one was going to be constructed. When that Member was Minister of Education I believe that I am again correct in saying that everything was on stream. It was supposed to be a World Bank Project and that in fact the school will start maybe in the next financial year, that next financial year being 1986/87. We are now going into 1989/90. Nothing has been done to the school. The conditions get worse. I believe recently all of you must have seen, everyone in this Chamber, Sir, must have seen where children had to almost swim to school at the Infant School. I have spoken - if I can be honest, I have spoken to the Minister and the Honourable Minister has already assured me that in the next financial year which is the one we are in now something would have been done with the school. He has now assured me once more that in the next financial year which is the one we are going into now that the programme will start - 1989/90.

Asides.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: I would like the Minister to give, not me, Sir, not the NDP, the people of the City of Bridgetown the assurance that the project is going to be started. I would like the Minister to do that for me.

The Wesley Hall School, Sir, also I would like the Honourable Minister to let us know what is going to be done about the conditions at that school. That is in another deplorable state.

The other point I would like to make, Sir, is that one of the things that we have to recognize when we talk about maintenance is that there is something called preventative maintenance also. The Westbury School, as it stands now, the plant is in good condition. The last Administration saw to that and I believe that we could probably in the long term or even in the medium term save the taxpayers a lot of money if we do the proper preventative maintenance. I fear that I have seen signs at the Westbury School where proper preventative maintenance is not going on and if we continue on that path we are going to be coming in here 3 years from now saying that the school is in a deplorable state and it is going to be back and forth as to whose fault it is. I am signaling now that the Minister may want to look at that sort of thing for those schools that have already been repaired. I thank you, Sir.

Hon. C. V. Vv ALKER: Mr. Chairman, I just want to respond because the list is getting rather long. First of all, let me start off by saying, Mr. Chairman, that it is interesting that just all the contributions so far tend to state that we need to have A done, we need to have B done, we need to have C done, and we need to have all of these things done and also in a hurry and at the same time we are hearing that we are spending too much money except for the Honourable Member for St. Peter who question one area to which I will address. 6.30p.m.

First of all, Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Leader of the Opposition said there was nothing new in the Estimates in terms of policy. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition was a Member of the Democratic Labour Party at the time when we could go as far back as the Throne Speech in which policies were outlined. If the Honourable Member would look at the Development Plan he will see items which are established and made a document of this House already in terms of policy. On page 64, "provide an expanded programme for Pre-Primary/Nursery education for children three to five years old," which I mentioned when I made the presentation in terms of the improvement of nursery schools; "introduce specialisation of various subject areas at the primary level;" which I mentioned, "continue the development of secondary education programmes....", and we could go right down, "upgrade the status of Erdiston College; adopt a systematic approach to teacher evaluation;" all things that were mentioned in my presentation, "review the Education Act, 1981-25," which was mentioned in the presentation, "institute periodic consultations between the Government and the teachers' representatives," which was mentioned, which had to do with the whole question of the Education Act. It also had to do with the Memorandum of Understanding, it also had to do with the whole policy that we will bring here in terms of the Education Act.

I would also like to say to the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, the Leader of the Opposition, he said nothing was brought to the House.

Asides.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: He said we did not bring any items to the House. Most of these things that were mentioned were already introduced and brought to this House as a continuing effort relating, as I said earlier, as far back as the Throne Speech.

Now, he spoke about incidents of drug trafficking at schools and if I have any knowledge. I have nothing to do with drugs. If you heard so, all of us hear things about drugs. We have in the Ministry of Education a psychologist, and a drug officer and they work in collaboration with the Police Force. If he has any information, I would suggest,

Sir, that he goes to the police and give his information to the Police.

The other point in terms of schools receiving chickens, the contract was awarded to a company. I do not know who buys chickens from whom or whose firm. I do not get involved, because I do not know anything about chicken farms.

Aside.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: You will have to ask the Minister of Health.

The Leader of the other Opposition said nothing new has happened in the schools. We never said, and even if you read it I am sure the Honourable Member for St. Thomas made the point when the Development Plan was brought in, and he made it again today, that we said we would continue with the education plan....

Aside.

Hon. C. V. WALKER:.....Which was started by the Barbados Labour Party. You continued the school meals programme we started, you continued what the Democratic Labour Party started. Do you want me to stop building schools?

The whole question of, remedial teaching, I made the point in my presentation that we had introduced the RAK system. We have sent it to all the schools. There are trained teachers, and that has been going on, so do not say there has been no remedial reading.

Overcrowding. We know that there are more requests at the Polytechnic than we have places. We know there are more requests at the Community College than we have places, and indeed I will mention there are more request at the University than we have places.

Aside.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: There are more request in Parliament than we have places!

He raised the question of computer training. When I was introducing at that point the Current Estimates, mention was made as to what was in the Capital Estimates for the computers for the project in terms of the secondary schools. I can also state to this Honourable House that we are also in the position now that we are installing computers at Erdiston College, because you just cannot put computers in any institution and expect people to work on them. In Erdiston Training College there will be 15 computers and each teacher going through the system will be trained within the system, so that when he or she comes out into the schools he or she will work in conjunction with the planned

approach we are working with the secondary schools, and indeed in other primary schools, because PTA's are also getting involved. It is not a slipshod approach to it, it is a planned approach to the whole technical education in this country.

The whole question of W^Totton. Yes, Wotton is planned. Maybe the contracts are ready to be awarded for Wotton. That is no secret. The contracts should be awarded for Wotton within the next two or three weeks, hopefully. They are out to tender right now, so it is not a question of holding back on Wotton.

While I am on that I will say to the Honourable Member for the City, about all the problems he mentioned, because we are now moving from one financial year into another year, you have a lawyer to your right, you have two to your left, all the holdup in terms of your school has been to do with properties and acquisitions and finding the right owners. That is the way we have to go.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central, I am in total agreement with your points on Erdiston. I think some of the other things I have just mentioned about Erdiston can only solidify your comments.

The whole question of early childhood education. Again, that is part of the whole plan in terms of the Erdiston programme as well as the nursery programmes. Computers you raised, we have touched on that.

The Honourable Member for St. Thomas did not ask questions at all. He wanted to know about Farmers. The third quarter 1989. We should be ready for that this year, 1989. I will also tell you we plan to start the St. Thomas School this year, 1989, as well. It is in here.

The National Training Board, \$35,000 less. You must also remember that part of the funds that traditionally went through there in terms of the Training Fund are now paid from the Training Levy and we have funds going into the Barbados Workers' Union and the NUPW. Those people who normally would draw their funds would get them direct, so they do not have to go through the NTB any more.

The building moved from All Saints to St. George. The Honourable Member for St. Peter knows too well the circumstances involved.

I think I have now answered the whole question of the Honourable Member for St. George South on adult education, as I made the point in my intervention. The whole purpose of adult and continuing education as opposed to specific training in education, ...

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: On a point of order, Sir. I really do not want the Minister to mislead the House, but in

response to my direct question as regards the reasons for the cut in Government's allocation to the Training Board, he is arguing that the subventions that were ordinarily given to certain training institutions through the Training Board are now not given through the Training Board. The fact of the matter is that those subventions have always been given separately, and there is nothing new in these subventions being given separately. Therefore the Minister is misleading the House if he is to cause the House to believe that the factor which lies at the base of occupational training is the fact that subventions for certain institutions like the BWU are no longer being passed through the Training Board vote, but they have always been paid separately. 6.40 p.m.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: If I was not clear, I said it would come out of the training levy through the Training Board for the various organisations.

On the question of the transfer of children to secondary schools, it is a known fact that there is an on-going survey in terms of the transfer of students from secondary schools which encompasses the whole question of transportation and bussing, and indeed there are several replies on suggestions being submitted.

Mr. R. P. BYER: On a point of order, I am asking for a little latitude. I thought that the Honourable Member having responded to what the Honourable Member for St. Peter said, would have continued what he was saying in relation to the whole aspect of adult education that I had raised. I wonder if the Minister would state what the policy is in relation to adult education.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, the Head says continuing education, not adult education. There are many of us who would probably have gone to various schools and taken subjects on evenings which had nothing to do with specific training in a subject to enhance your area whether or not you wanted to be a specialist. I am saying that the transfer of students to secondary schools and the whole question of bussing we realise is a requirement and we will have to take into consideration all of the recommendations that are being submitted.

Now in terms of the school buildings and this relates to just about each Member on the other side who spoke in terms of maintenance on buildings. In this year's plans there are provisions for work on schools such as Society in St. John next door to the residence of the Honourable Member for Christ Church West; St. Matthews, St. Lawrence which is in his constituency, Wesley Hall Junior which was raised by the Honourable Member for the City, Buxton, St. Christopher by the Honourable Member for Christ Church East, Chalky Mount in the constituency of the Honourable Member for St. Joseph, St. Bartholomew Girls', Bay Primary School. These are just some of the schools in that.

Mr. C. A. NEBLETT: On a point of order, I just want to remind the Honourable Member that Chalky Mount is safely in the parish of St. Andrew.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: I would hope you would know the boundaries.

Mr. Chairman, on the whole question of skills training and the continuing of training, there is a link to the same Education Act. Education and training are tied to the Training Board, the skills training at Sayes Court and also training at the centre in St. Lucy which are again linked to the Polytechnic. That is all in the plan and those units will be in place shortly.

To be completed by September 1989, we have the primary schools at St. Augustine, Speightstown, and St. Matthias.

Selah should also be completed by October this year and Queens College will be completed June 1990, and the Community College to be completed by September of 1990. Package 2 which was asked by the Honourable Member for the City as it relates to St. Mary's. The Sayes Court skills training is in this same area and the Wotton School as I mentioned earlier to be completed in phase 2; also St. Mary's and Bayley's in St. Philip as well as Mount Tabor in the St. Joseph constituency.

Mr. Chairman, I will await any further questions.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Minister of Education continues to impress with the quality of his voice. When I made my last intervention, Sir, I was on the point of recalling the quality of education at Lodge School in the period 1950 to 1960 and incidentally lamenting, if one is to judge from a number of persons with whom one comes into contact who have been a product of the educational system since those days, the fall off in standards.

I am not in a position to give the reasons from my point of view for the perceived drop in standards, but I would like to know from the Minister if he accepts that certainly in the area of English language written and spoken one can see a difference in the quality of what is written and spoken by today's youth from our time. I am not talking about the problem of remedial reading, and if the Ministry has commissioned any study or is examining in any way the reasons for the fall off in those standards. It grates the ear to hear people who have been to secondary school and get their CXC's making the most simple grammatical and syntactical errors in speech, and it hurts to read particularly in the press some of what O. S. Coppin used to call the "cat wire" that is passed off as the English Language. The reason always is "because", the reason is never "that". Those simple points and errors you come across in what is written and spoken. There is a use of language which you

hear every day from people who should know better. "I heard him said that so and so". It grates. Sir, you are nodding approval. You hear it and are offended by it. In my profession I see statements taken by police officers of senior rank in a file, not a full stop, not a comma, two pages. You think I am making sport? They don't know anything about using a semi-colon; you are talking a Greek word. 6.50 p.m.

Semi-colon and colons are things of the past and all the time we do not teach dictation anymore where you have to listen and when the teacher pauses you know that a comma goes there, pause a little longer you know there is a semicolon and so on. But it hurts to think that some of the basics have been abandoned. I do not know on the alter of what but it certainly is not pleasant to the eye to pick up a newspaper and see so many obvious errors, not only in the body of articles but in the Headlines, green verbs, nouns and verbs in disagreement.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Not spelling. They cannot do that now. I see everybody agrees with me that there are these common errors. If we accept that is the position, then the Ministry of Education has the responsibility to investigate why this is so and what needs to be done with a view to correction of the problem.

Now, Sir, the Minister was quite right when I first spoke. I did not ask many questions. He may start writing now. I wish to hear from the Minister when he intends - Let me start in St. Thomas.

Let me compliment the Minister for responding to my parliamentary question about the state and condition of the Welches School and moving with expedition to do the remedial work. They still have to do the toilets. Do them in this quarter, not the third. He is from the Welches area so he is familiar with the problems and I am sure he will attend to them with the same expedition.

I wish to ask the Minister, first of all about the Lodge School. Is the former headmaster still squatting? If so, when do you intend to get him out? You all promised to get him out.

, *Aside.*

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: He is out? How did you all get him out? We have not heard.,

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am happy about that.

Now, I see under Subhead 9 in relation to the Sherbourne Project - I know it is capital but there is provision for supervision and invigilation of examinations.

I want to know from the Minister how many students take examinations in Barbados every year excluding those in the secondary schools - first point.

Secondly, is it proposed that the students in the secondary schools doing the CXC examinations and any overseas examinations will do them at Sherbourne? Will the Common Entrance Examinations be held in future after the construction of Sherbourne at Sherbourne?

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You are building an examination hall so I want to see how you are going to use it. Just look at page 85, LLM Programme in Legal Drafting.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I want to know how many students are presently taking the course...

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Do not answer for them. They must answer. I want to know the total number of students taking the LLM Drafting Course and how many of them are from Barbados? Now, I ask that because I think we all recognize on both sides of the House that there has been a loss to the Attorney General's Ministry of a number of senior draughtsmen or drafting persons, I had better say, as one was a lady and it is an area I would have thought of need. I do not know what the status of it is at the moment, so I am just asking the Minister to give me the information.

In respect of the Government Industrial Schools, what is the present number of students? You know, that is like home to me. I was there once, Sir, 12 years, 1948 - 1960 and I just want to put it in the records of this House that there were problems there in 1980, problems of violence, adolescence, and I chaired a Commission of Enquiry which reported and a number of recommendations were accepted and implemented. You have not heard a word since.

There has been no further trouble at Dodds since the Simmons Report but I want to know if all of the recommendations have been implemented as of now, Sir?

There is an amount of \$2.3 million being granted by way of subventions to cultural organisations. I wish to know, Sir, from the Minister, how much you are giving the Barbados Land Ship, how much the Arts Council, how much Bim Magazine, how much the Barbados Museum and Historical Society, how much the National Cultural

Foundation, how much the National Trust and the Film Censorship Board.

I asked about the NCF because, perhaps, the Minister would be good enough to tell the House why the consultant who was taken on at the NCF and has now since gone, was paid \$94 000 a year being the salary of Director and Deputy Director, two in one or two for one.

I wish to know from the Minister why there have been no audited statements for the National Cultural Foundation for the last two years. Indeed, the Minister could as well tell us what was the profit and loss account for the last Crop-Over Festival, the one in 1988.

Aside.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: One minute.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The Minister must also tell us why is it that the NCF has a tremendous amount of its own equipment and yet found it necessary to rent equipment from a private firm for \$80 000; You want to know the name of the firm? I will tell you the name of the private firm. I want to know why.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Do not tell me it happens every year. ESSO used to sponsor the festival every year. That has now been discontinued. 7.00 p.m.

Will the Minister please state why ESSO is no longer making a contribution by way of the ESSO week or whatever it used to be, Sir? That is all.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your time has expired.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Those are - Alright that is enough for you to reply to.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, as I anticipated the response by the Minister to the request from the Opposition for a statement on the broad policies being pursued in this year was dismissed by simply reading from a Development Plan a few headlines. The Minister does not seem to understand that he has a duty to this Parliament when the Estimates of Expenditure are being debated to set out the policy that will be guiding him in this particular year as part of the implementation of an overall policy in respect of education. There is little point seeking to respond by just reciting a list of headlines in a Development Plan. What it suggests to me is that the Minister does not understand what policy he is pursuing and therefore cannot articulate it. Deep guttural tones filling the air of Parliament does not replace content in what you should be telling Parliament.

What has come across quite clearly is that there is no clear sense of direction in which an educational policy is being developed by the Government of Barbados.

All that has been said amounts to nothing more than tinkering with existing programmes and all that would happen is that the same mounting problems as a result of the casualties of our educational process will continue to increase from year to year. Quite evidently there is a general consensus that probably fifty years ago the main thrust was to get a large number of our citizens to a level of probably seven standard education, thereafter secondary education, thereafter exposure to tertiary education.

What is happening in Barbados today is that you have a large number of people coming out of schools fully qualified, qualified in terms of certificates and yet cannot make the best use of the opportunities available to them if even when there are opportunities.

One would have liked to hear that we wanted to take a quantum leap forward this year in terms of further facilities for the education of our people. For example for self employment, for setting up training to get involved in small businesses. People being trained and given the opportunities to take advantage of any financial arrangement that may be made so that you can start developing this cadre of small businessmen in Barbados. I see and I hear nothing of any kind of vision in terms of education for the present or for the future in Barbados.

I have heard a lot of silly arguments about this is our programme and that was the Barbados Labour Party's programme and that kind of thing. There is no point if you become a Government at some point in time and you inherit a programme and you have to continue with that programme then boldly come out and say it is the programme of the previous Administration started by the previous Administration. There is nothing wrong with that. As far as I know the only capital programme that the Barbados Labour Party has is in Roebuck Street. The only capital programme that the Democratic Labour Party has is in George Street. The NDP has no capital programme yet, as a Party. The programmes are the programmes of the Government of Barbados and that represents a continuum. And those programmes when they are properly constructed as has been the case in the past and not only linked to brick and mortar and cement they have a linkage to the financing for example of Government deficits, they have a linkage to how you would finance a capital programme, they have a linkage to the human resources that you would put to work so that they could benefit as a consequence of those buildings. Nothing of that kind has been heard. You just heard a series of things. These things do not happen by chance. And it is the duty and the responsibility of the political directorate through its Minister when it comes to Parliament to demonstrate that some cortical activity is taking place in respect of policy and direction. So that you

know when we spend money either on current or on capital account, we can see how this is being used for the overall benefit of Barbados.

What is the point coming in here and saying you are going to do this school here, and do that, and do that. Is that the only level of debate in which one can participate in this Honourable House?

The whole point is that there is an economic and social direction which accompanies educational policy and it is extremely important that that be addressed. Otherwise at the end of five years, you would still be tinkering and you would have moved no further forward than where you were five years ago. That is the whole point behind the Manifesto that you were presented with. How do you change your educational system into the functional areas of the economy, the functional areas of our life? How do you relate our cultural expenditure to uplifting our education to a further level? All this kind of thing you want to hear from a Minister of Education. Nothing uplifting, nothing enlightening, just the same kind of cold pone recitation of a series of tinkering with things that were found when he was in office.

I asked him a question about drugs in relation to schools and surrounding schools. Now when I was in the Opposition as a Member of the Democratic Labour Party, for several years we castigated and harassed successive Ministers of Education in this country because we perceived that there was a problem caused by unscrupulous people often in the vicinity of schools, often as part of the transportation system of this country who were either involved in selling drugs to the school children or in the alternate finding all sort of ways in getting school children hooked on drugs.

There was a case in St. Peter which was raised by one of my colleagues at the time where apparently the drugs were put in dunks so as to conceal the taste of the drug. Elsewhere it was alleged by one of my colleagues again that it was put in certain drinks by people selling things outside the school.

Now these were statements made by us because we genuinely felt that it was a problem. Three years later, I asked the Minister of Education as Leader of the Opposition in this Honourable House and what he tells me? If I have information take it to the Police that he has a school psychologist. That is the response. I will leave it at that.

The whole point is, is it still a problem? If it is a problem, is there any programme for the protection of the children certainly when they are out of the custody of their parents and in the custody of the schools? 7.10p.m.

That is the level of response one would expect from a Minister to say (1) either the problem no longer exist which would be fair enough or (2) if there is a problem, what the Ministry of Education has done to help to get rid of the problem or alternative to try to protect the children. Nothing of that kind.

In relation, Sir, to the question of all these wonderful things that have been done for the teachers of Barbados. The teachers of Barbados must be the most ungrateful people in Barbados if they received all these benefits that the Government is supposed to have conferred on them and yet constitute one of the most dissatisfied groups in this country, not only dissatisfied with the terms and conditions of their work but also dissatisfied with the general atmosphere surrounding their professional activities.

When you see teachers marching, they do not march just for money. They march because there are other problems associated with it and as far as I am aware there has never been in my experience any major anti-Democratic Labour Party element in the teaching profession in Barbados and there must be a series of circumstances that must have provoked them into that situation, far and beyond anything to do with just salaries and wages. Have the conditions that we complained about when in Opposition in relation to the teachers been improved? What is this better deal that you have given the teachers and, nevertheless, they are even more dissatisfied with the present Administration today, as far as I can see, as they manifest their dissatisfaction than in the past? What is the problem?

We are told that they have access to training now which they did not have before. We have been told - well, we have not been told that they had better conditions, but quite clearly in my experience the teachers in this country tend to follow a very strict professional line when they are dealing with Governments and perhaps it is the one group of workers that cannot be manipulated easily by the political process. That is my judgment of the teachers. As a matter of fact, it would seem to me that the body of the teachers themselves would not even in many instances any longer listen to the leadership because they are fed up with what is going on and they are seeing no improvement in their conditions of work.

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Well, you can say it is all teachers everywhere in the world and all teachers under every Government. But I understood that our commitment was when I was on the other side to alleviate these problems and to try and deal with these problems. Well, you have heard absolutely nothing in terms of a policy in relation to the teachers in Barbados, or you would not suspect that the teachers in Barbados had any problems judging from the kind of presentation which we heard here today.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has 2 minutes.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: As far as the Sherbourne project is concerned, I will deal with that tomorrow in more detail. But that is perhaps one of the most inappropriate investments that has been made in Barbados over the past 3 to 4 years, not only in terms of its overall financing but also in terms of the fact that if you are going to commit that level of expenditure in the Barbados of today then you should be looking probably for a centre that can assist in meeting the needs of the tourist industry whilst at the same time contributing somewhat to the domestic requirements for space for examinations and so on. However, that is a matter that will have to be dealt with in greater detail as we examine the Capital Estimates tomorrow. But I want to make it clear tonight that that kind of expenditure is an indication of what has been happening in Barbados or is happening in Barbados and that is why you see expenditure in Barbados escalating at this unacceptable rate. So when you get the kind of inane responses when you talk about restraint in growth and expenditure - as a matter of fact, once there was a Barbados Labour Party Minister who always used to respond in the same terms, Mr. Lionel Craig. But at least he was sensible enough to know that he was just playing politics, that if you restrain the growth of expenditure you have to cut jobs, you have to do this and do that. He understood that he was playing politics. But I got the impression, I got the firm impression that there are persons on that side who equate restraint in the growth of expenditure with cutting expenditure and sending home people. I remember that Mr. Craig use to say that and then go behind the Chair and laugh. He said that for the Press.

But the people over there, 6 and 7 over there got up and put that forward as a serious argument...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member must conclude now.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: in this Honourable House today. Anyhow, I will continue tomorrow, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: There are a few matters that I wish to deal with some of which are parochial matters. But Sir, I should like to begin by saying that I believe that some of the criticisms which have been placed at the feet of the Democratic Labour Party with respect to its policy on Education and what the Minister has said are unreasonable. The very base line of them are unreasonable, Sir. This document here I did not write. It has been said that meetings took place. I was not privy to them when this document was written. People have said they wrote this document.

Now the Minister has said that these are his policies and this Government said that these are its policies. The NDP said that they want a broad policy statement on

Education. But these are the policies. The problem is that these are their policies and these are our policies. So at the end of the day the kind of argument that we are having in here is only wasting time. What I am trying to say to you essentially, Sir, is that if he says that we have no policy, it means he has no policy either. It can only mean that. As I said, I did not write this. I was in Trinidad studying when the 1986 election took place. I was involved in a 30th Anniversary Booklet some years ago and I know which section I was involved in dealing with.

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I will deal with that in due course. But I did not say he wrote this. If you walk around and say they wrote this document, this document is guiding this Government but yet this Government has no philosophy and no policies. It is bankrupt. That kind of argument is unreasonable and I am going to say that I have sat in this Chamber not as a Member of Parliament but in the public gallery and I will find the reference, and I have heard the Honourable Member who just got up and said that cut backs in expenditure do not necessarily mean cut backs in jobs and so on. I have heard that same Honourable Member say in here that cut backs in expenditure in certain areas mean that the Labour Party was going to lay off people, send home people, and dismiss people. I have a good memory and I am referring to the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central. Now I expect better. I expect better.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order.
7.20 p.m.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I would just like as a matter of education to point out to the Honourable Member once again that there is a difference between restraint in the growth of expenditure in accordance with given guidelines and a cutback in Expenditure. For example, you can have a 10% growth in expenditure in actual dollar bills in a particular year that represents no real increase in expenditure.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member is now making a speech.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Somebody should take the Honourable Member aside some time and explain to him the difference between restraint in the growth of expenditure and the cutback in expenditure. You have never heard me use the term "cutback in expenditure".

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Any time by implication that the Democratic Labour Party as a whole is attacked and there is any implication that I am going to bear some responsibility, I have a duty to speak, and I am only going to say that the Honourable Member's ability in economics has grown over time, but he started out raw like everybody

else who starts in economics, and you were not making that refined point then. If you have now come to make that point, that is one thing, but do not tell this House that you have never said it, because I will find the reference for it and I will bring it in here and you would not have made the point in the manner in which you made it just now.

Let us not have this kind of thing. Do not make it appear all of a sudden that all the residue of knowledge, integrity, morality and everything resides over there. I am not going to allow that to pass into the folklore of politics in Barbados as long as I am in here. So if you want to do something about it, you will have to get me out of in here and you can come up in St. John with all the integrity, the morality and everything else, and at the end of the day you will see who is boss.

Any time there is an implication about things like integrity and blanket statements are made, or broad sweeping statements are made about seven Members over here -1 was one who said it and I stand by it. It is a simple economic principle and there is no amount of hiding and playing around with statistics that will not at the end of the day reveal that cutbacks in expenditure where there are fixed levels, for example, of wages and that kind of thing must at the end of the day either mean that people will have to take less wages or some will have to go home. It is as simple as that. That is a base line point. It cannot be over emphasised, and I will not be a party, as I have said, representing a working class, constituency, where they will be the first people to suffer, not the people in the Heights and the Gardens. I do not have one Heights or one Gardens. It will be my people who will suffer, and I believe in the very basic democratic socialist principles, and when you depart from them and say you are not that or you are not this, and we do not know what you are, I have to challenge you, because you have a duty to tell the public what you are.

I have heard a lot of talk in here as though parochial issues are not important. They are critical. I have a school in St. John, Society Mixed School. There is a human element to these things, I cannot just see it in terms of figures. I could take this and throw it in the stuff bin when I am coming to speak on behalf of my constituents, because there are human considerations that in my view are paramount. That school rests on the edge of a cliff, practically. The Honourable Member for Christ Church West lives right behind, the children play on his garden, and I will again praise him. This is the second time in my time in here. He allows them to use his lawn.

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: It is not a garden, a lawn. These young children are 50 feet above the road. When they come out of school they step straight into the road in a curve. One of these days a truck is going to come around

coming up the hill and somebody is going to apply brakes and go ploughing into some young children. I took the Minister of Education there, I do not remember the date, I wrote to him and proposed a site visit. Within two days I got a response, he came, met the Headmaster and immediately thereafter they fixed the windows that were giving problems, they fixed the toilets and they made the remedial repairs that were necessary. It is a large school, it is a school, as I understand, which is involved in the nursery programme, it is involved, in some other programme with teachers, the multi-disciplinary teachers.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Well, anyway, I am nothing to do with that, I am talking about St. John now. He did what was to be done in terms of remedial work and we came to a decision there and then that the school has to be resited. These are issues, because at the end of the day when that car ploughs into ten children from St. John, I will feel ultimately responsible for those young children, and the Honourable Member for Christ Church West who lives among them will feel ultimately responsible.

These are the human questions that arise and they must be important. We cannot divorce them by carrying on as though you can sit down dispassionately one night in your home after you receive these Estimates and build a speech around figures. The Government has responsibilities and duties. Every back bencher is not satisfied. I have heard a lot of complaints. There are times when I am not satisfied. There are many people in here who can say, in the Democratic Labour Party, out of it and privately, that I have expressed whatever reservations I have, and those I expressed privately I also make sure they form part of the record, because it is my duty to my party to tell them when I think they are wrong or when they are right, and as I said, not to jump ship. That is just my view.

These, in my view, are important issues. The parochial matters I can deal with, some of them tomorrow, but I just want to deal with that bottom line concern because I do not think we can continue a debate like this where two parties are saying that they have the same Manifesto, and at the end of the day somebody who had a more intimate relation with it than me or anybody else is criticising the very policy, the bedrock of the actions of this Government. It cannot be fair. It is confusing people. What messages are being sent to young people?

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I move that this sitting be now suspended until tomorrow, 15th March, 1989 at 10 o'clock in the morning. The Ides of March.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, I rise to second that and warn them to beware the Ides of March.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Sir, I wonder whether the Honourable Member for St. Michael West has any plans for assassination on the Ides of March.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Mr. Speaker, I would issue a similar warning to the Member for St. Michael West. Beware the Ides of March.

The question that this sitting be now suspended until Wednesday, 15th March, 1989 at 10.00 a.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly. 7.30 p.m.

ON RESUMPTION

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, before we resume consideration I should like Your Honour to return to the point where we may give notice. I crave your indulgence to give notice of a Resolution.

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is now resumed and if there are no objections on the matter raised by the Acting Leader of the House, that Item shall now be recommitted.

PAPERS LAID

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the Leave Passages (Amendment) Order, 1989.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to approve the Leave Passages (Amendment) Order, 1989.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is the end of that Item. When the suspension was taken the House was in Committee of Supply and to that it shall now revert.

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

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

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, yesterday when I spoke for the allotted time on this Head I sought to refute the allegation that during the Barbados Labour Party period

in office nothing was done in relation to the maintenance of school buildings at either the primary or secondary level, and I cited from the Estimates for the period, in proof of my contention that considerable sums of money had been spent and well spent. I think I was challenged by the Honourable Member for St. Philip South who said that the money may have been voted and not spent, or spent otherwise, and the Honourable Member for St. Peter responded by pointing out that the Auditor General's Report would have made quite clear the spending of those sums.

But I wish to be more detailed, Sir, because it appears we will have to do this for every Ministry, if the Government is really to be fair and honest in its criticisms of what was done during our period. I wish to go through, for the purpose of the House, the record of the Labour Party in maintenance in relation to schools only, and the document is a document still within the confines of the Ministry.

During the period April 1981 to March 1982 minor structural repairs were carried out at 96 primary schools at a cost of \$370 449. Plumbing repairs were effected at 107 schools at a cost of \$80 083, electrical repairs and maintenance at 65 schools at a cost of \$50 293, termite treatment at 67 schools at a cost of \$37 185, maintenance of grounds at 28 schools at a cost of \$19 707, furniture repairs at a cost of \$19 707. Major structural repairs to the following schools:

St. Clement's Infants	St. Philip's Girls	St. Peter's	\$83631
Girls' Selah Primary			115000
Removal and resiting 1 Pre-fab Unit from Edghill			72250
Memorial to Wilkie Cumberbatch Primary			80000
Preparing site at Wotton for Christ Church Boys' School - you will remember there was a problem there, Sir -			9368

a total of \$5⁷3 624. The overall expenditure at the primary school level was \$944 073.

The Government Industrial School, expenditure on repairs to the extent of \$ 119 254.

Secondary Schools: several Capital Projects were undertaken. There was redecoration of 14 classrooms at Ellerslie at a cost of \$38,632, redecorating exterior and effecting minor repairs at Ellerslie \$15 000, alterations to basement and erection of partitions at the St. Michael

School \$20 500, removal, resiling and repairing unit from Coleridge and Parry to Alexandra \$11 000, general repairs to West St. Joseph - I am sure the Honourable Member for St. Joseph will be pleased to hear this - \$84 400, furniture, we spent \$106 860 supplying additional furniture, a total cost of \$273 392 and an overall sub total of \$1 339 719.

During the period April 1982 to March 1983, minor structural repairs at 80 schools at a cost of \$703 095, plumbing at 102 schools at a cost of \$103 599, electrical repairs at 57 schools \$37 047, termite control treatment to 75 schools \$71 921, maintenance of grounds at 14 schools \$9 315, furniture repairs \$2 962, major repairs and redecoration at Wilkie Cumberbatch Primary, changing room facilities \$10 800, Christ Church Boys' electrical installation \$14 098, plumbing \$21 651, Wesley Hall Junior, repairs and redecoration \$143 260, Christ Church Boys' (Wotton) temporary classrooms \$83 350, Christ Church Girls' repairs and redecoration \$70 000, Christ Church Boys' Construction and extension of a two-storey block and one toilet block \$658 000, Clifton " Hill/Southborough Mixed, repairs and redecoration \$70 615, Good Shepherd Mixed, remedial work to roof \$31 614, St. Christopher Girls', repairs and redecoration \$59 269, St. Christopher Boys', workshop facilities \$9 500, St. Saviour's Mixed \$25 000, a total of \$2 125 009.

The secondary schools, Harrison College, upgrading canteen \$21 500, Queen's College, redecorating and repairs to toilet and changing rooms \$13 700, St. George Secondary, repairs and redecoration \$174 800, St. Leonard's Extension - external works \$113 495, Princess Margaret Extension \$1 155 299, the St. Michael School two-storey block extension \$242 424, furniture supplied \$91 693, former Samuel Jackman Prescod renovations \$83 137. We even helped the Caribbean Examination Council's repairs, \$117 535, Ministry of Education, renovations and improvement to Headquarters - the pedagogic centre is coming under this vote later - \$103 927, minor repairs to 11 schools \$177 695, plumbing 13 schools \$57 379, electrical repairs to 14 schools \$117 443, termite treatment 5 schools \$12 745, grounds \$4 106, furniture \$28 696, and the sub total is \$4 669 366.

During the period April 1983 to March 1984, primary schools, minor structural repairs \$597 789, plumbing \$92 421, electrical repairs and maintenance \$78 696, termite control \$56 196, upkeep of grounds \$21 205, furniture repairs \$1 320, new furniture \$38 404. Repairs and redecoration to Grace Hill Primary \$16 600, former Roebuck Primary \$22 500, St. Philip's Boys' School \$75 582, St. Simon's/St. Saviour's New School \$317 791, a total of \$1 318 504. 10.10a.m.

I have to do it this way because I wish the Government to check every record and we would not hear these broad and baseless allegations, and we are going to do

it in every Ministry until you all come in here and be fair in the way in which you talk about the history of the Barbados Labour Party.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Major structural repairs Ellerslie Secondary		
Omnia System floors	\$61 912	St.
Leonard's Boys' Redecoration of interior of		
Main building	24 689	St. Lucy
Secondary repairs to workshop and		
hall Ministry of Education, Minor	93500	
repairs Plumbing Electricity		
Termites Grounds	29522	
Furniture and Stationery Sub	3316	225 877
Total	4463	1544381
	1690	

PRIMARY SCHOOLS -1984-1985

Minor Structural Repairs to 66	463	
schools	\$493 043	
Plumbing 100 schools	35 047	
Electrical repairs 48 schools	59 158	
Termite control treatment 70		
schools	68 752	
Maintenance of grounds	19 195	
Furniture repairs	21 374	
New furniture —		

St. Simon's/St. Saviour's		
and St. John Mixed	18539	
Composite and Senior Schools	13 039	

General Repairs and Redecorations

Boscobel Girls'	14000	
St. Silas' Mixed	78725	
St. Silas' Infants	79 157	
St. Giles' Boys'	185 850	
Boscobel Girls' - Roadways		
resurfaced	21 272	
Workman's Primary „ „	22410	
Installation of Solar Water Heaters		
in 15 Primary Schools	59 900	
Provision of temporary classrooms at -		
St. Augustine's Girls Society	19200	
Mixed Bay ley's Primary Christ	17310	
Church Girls' St. Philip's	18200	
Primary St. Ambrose Primary	13800	
General repairs to Montgomery	11500	
Building	11000	

Major Structural Repairs	75000	1530571
St. Lucy Secondary - Workshop		
extension	93 500	

Queens College - resiling of six prefab units Phase I	197220	
Harrison College - General repairs and redecoration	345 787	636 507
Other Works Carried Out		
Ministry of Education -	66585	
Maintenance Audio Visual Aids	6984	
Alterations at School Meals		
Warehouse Sub Total	119897	193 466^
		2 360 544

PRIMARY SCHOOLS - APRIL

1985 TO MARCH 1986

During the period under review projects undertaken by the Building Section included:

Minor Structural Repairs	
which cost	363254.21
Plumbing	86208.76
Electrical Repairs	72 216.95
Termite Treatment	50 545.75
Upkeep of Grounds	32 342.00
Furniture	18061.00

Schools which received General repairs and Maintenance were as follows:

Vauxhall Composite - Repairs to roof and ceiling	19495.00
Erdiston Primary - Repairs to roof	23 655.48
St. Margaret's Composite - Repairs to floor	12 875.00
St. Martin's Four Roads Primary - Minor repairs to building	33 090.00
St. Bartholomew's Girls - Minor repairs	13 275.00
St. Lawrence Composite - Rewiring	7 082.65
St. Thomas Primary - Minor repairs	7 824.89
St. Philip's Senior - Renovations to toilet block	23000.00
St. Bartholomew's Boys' - Repairs to building	10181.80
South District Primary - Repairs and redecorating	22 412.68
Wesley Hall Infants' - Repairs to roof and Buildings	34 455.64
Deacon's Senior - Repairs and redecoration	35 367.50
Holy Trinity - Repairs to building	8 380.00
St. John Baptist Composite - Replacing Floor, building platform and partition	12 275.00

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

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Sir, I am going to make it a document of this House when I return. But the sub-total that was spent during those periods was \$14 793 000.

Now the Government has this information; not in ten years, Sir. The Honourable Member must compare it with their period. One of the things we are going to make sure we do during this time is to correct the misrepresentation of history that is persistent, because whether they do it now and whenever we get on television and it becomes necessary we will read the document. We are going through every record of all published positions on every Ministry and this continual misrepresentation must stop once and for all. It is not true and the Government feels that by repeating it a million times they will make the Barbados Labour Party look as though it was a callous party. We have consistently made sure - and I will do it to the Ministry of the Attorney General too, Sir, when it becomes necessary - that repairs were done and carried out, and if the Government wants to know what is the problem on schools, we will have to go back a long way, part of which is the nature of the church buildings which were taken over, and the problem is that there was always an intention after the secondary schools had been rehabilitated and rebuilt to start on primary. The Government must know that.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Chairman, I will not be long, just a minute or two, but I have looked at the figures that the Honourable Member has bored us with this morning, and I have seen here that in 1981-82 the sum of \$370 000 was spent on 96 primary schools for minor repair work. Now if you divide that \$370 000 by 96, you get about \$4 000 per school. Further down he said he spent \$428 000 on 66 schools, which is \$7 000 per school on the average. There is no wonder that we are faced with the problem of fixing all the schools in Barbados.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of order, the Honourable Member has the ability to read and to understand and I credit the Honourable Member with being fair and honest, and if the Honourable Member would only read on to major structural repairs, then he would not give this Committee of the House a misunderstanding of what has happened. However, Sir, I am going to give way because the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East had indicated before I rose on a point of order that he wanted to speak, and in fairness to the Committee I had spoken already.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I have sat for the last two days in this Chamber and have listened very attentively to what has been going on. The Honourable Member for St. John who is now not in his place made some pretty valuable points with respect to what is happening in this country, and I think that under this Head of Education it is important that we make some observations especially with respect to what he said.

He made the point that what is happening in this country today has caused a lot of confusion among young people in this country, but I go beyond that and say it has caused a lot of confusion among adults as well in this country. I have sat and I have heard those on the other side talk about what new concepts there are introduced in Education by our party and our Government, and the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central made a very fundamental point. He spoke of the introduction of computers in a systematic way in the school system, where as the Minister of Education has said, computers will be installed at Erdiston Training College so that teachers themselves will be trained in computers and that training will be translated into the schools where the computers are installed as a fundamental change in Barbados. 10.20 a.m.

The world today is a world of technology and it is not good enough to just go and install a computer in a school as a token so that one or two children could experiment with what a computer is all about. Computers are new concepts in thinking and if we do not understand the age of technology, then we will not understand what computers mean to the world.

Those of us who watch CNN would recognize the importance of computers to the whole development, and the devastation, of the world where youngsters have been able to steal secrets from banks and almost destroy the base of the world's economy in the United States. So we are dealing with an instrument that if not properly introduced can be a detriment to the society.

I would make this point that if you take a cricket bat and ball and put it in a school in the United States in New York it would probably be destroyed within a short time because the kids there would not understand the significance of a cricket bat and ball. If you put a bat and ball in the West Indies, the child who has a model to follow, would understand what the bat and ball is and with proper coaching, would probably become a cricketer of substance where he will earn his living as a cricket professional. So the environment in which something is introduced is very important so when we talk about new concepts we have to understand the fundamentals of what we are talking about.

Now, Mr. Chairman, all education and the concept of learning is very important given the environment, the ambience in which it is introduced. I wonder how many of us sitting through these sittings for the last couple of days have asked ourselves the fundamental question as to who are the educators in our society. I wonder if we ever looked around at each other and recognized that we too are the educators and, as a matter of fact, most of the teachers, most of the educators in this country take signals from the political leaders in this country and a lot of what happens at the political level is translated into what happens in our schools.

I hear the Members of the Barbados Labour Party Opposition taking objection to the fact that during their time education was seen as an area in which the people of this country were disappointed.

If we go back to the year 1986, we would recognize the social commentary in calypso where the Minister of Education and the educational system was constantly under attack and if we cannot understand what is happening in our society what those social comments mean, then we are not good educators.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I for the last few weeks have been hearing words like, morality, words like integrity being thrown around in this Honourable Chamber as though they are some new discovery and I wonder, those of us who have now discovered those words, if they understand that we in this Honourable Chamber, we who are the representatives of the people of this country, are also judged by these same concepts that we are talking about and that we are being judged not only by the adults but by the younger folks of this country against these same yardsticks. I must mention again that we have to be honest to ourselves, we have to be true to ourselves, we have to analyse ourselves and we have to understand the important role that we play

I must again say that on January 1 this year I listened to a programme on national radio where I heard Members say that they were committed to a particular political party and that they would not leave that political party unless they were kicked out and then one month later, lo and behold, without a kicking out they belong to another political party. This has to do with morality and the kind of images that we send to the people in this country but I want to go on to another sphere.

A lot of what is happening

Aside.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am not going to allow that kind of cross-talking during debate.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: I make a point which is a point that is known to everybody in this country. I do not need to belabour the point. I make the point to say that we have got to understand that as leaders of this country we owe it to the country not only to examine the faults in the country but to examine the faults in ourselves and that we ourselves must send the right signals.

It is not good enough to talk about the headmaster of a particular school or the headmistress of a particular school. We need too to understand that we have a role to play and we must take that role seriously. That is the point I am making.

But I want to go on to the concept of motivation etc. within the school system. It is difficult in the Barbadian context to introduce minor changes within the system without accepting the system. For example, the Honourable Prime Minister when he was Minister of Education, brought in a concept of trying to keep Barbados scholars within their educational system within the Caribbean primarily, the University of the West Indies, if the training that was provided at the University of the West Indies was available for the students who wanted to take that course and only if the courses were not provided in the Caribbean then they should be able to go overseas.

There was a lot of dissension against that because a lot of us felt that unless you go at this time to Canada or the United States, you cannot be educated. But there was a time and I can be a testimony of this when I returned to Barbados in 1970 having trained in Medicine at a university in the United States, I was told by senior civil servants that the education there was inferior and that they did not think that I would be able to compete within the Barbadian system.

The point that that brought out was this, that some of the people making the decisions in education in Barbados themselves were not exposed to education at a highly sophisticated level to determine what a good education was and what it was not. Some 18 years later now I find that....

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, on a point of elucidation, Sir. I do not think it would be fair for us to allow the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East to be so critical of the Prime Minister because the Prime Minister's children have been educated and are being educated outside of the Caribbean and I do not think that it would be fair for him to say that the Prime Minister accepted one policy and now is appearing not to be following the policy that he set. It is not fair to the Prime Minister and he should not do it, Sir.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I heard the Member for St. Peter state that my children were educated outside of the Caribbean. I think if we wish in this Honourable Chamber to speak the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, we should not speak half-truths. My children were educated in Barbados and out of Barbados as the children of other Members, so let us speak the record quite clearly. 10.30 a.m.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, the point that I made was that the Prime Minister, when he was Minister of Education, tried to make the point that Barbados scholars, scholarship winners whose tuition was paid by the Government of Barbados had nothing to do with a private arrangement. If you are paying your child's education you can send your child to school any place. That is the point I make.

If the Honourable Member for St. Peter cannot follow logical argument then it has nothing to do with me - but do not misrepresent what I said. I am talking about, I mentioned specifically, Barbados Scholars.

I waqt to move on.

Aside.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: And this gets back to another thing I want to say about a foolish point. There are people in this country who feel that, because they have had a certain level of education, and I hear it in this Honourable Chamber, that because they have had a certain level of education, because they hold a BA or MA or maybe a Doctorate that the ideas coming from other people are always stupid. I constantly hear Members in this Chamber pooh-poohing ideas from people coming from what they consider to be an inferior brain. I want to get to this concept about an inferior brain.

Any person who has been exposed to education knows that one of the things that is very, very important is listening and learning because you can learn the most significant points from what you consider to be the most unlearned brain. Those of us who feel that we alone have got the full store of knowledge and can learn nothing from anybody are surely the ones who will never learn anything.

But I want to move on to something else. I just want in the few minutes remaining to say something about what is happening in the constituency which I have the honour to represent

Aside.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: and what is going on and what I think is important. We too have problems with schools within our area. I have said in this Honourable Chamber before that at the primary schools which exist within our area, that is the Wilkie Cumberbatch and the Luther Thorne School, we had problems because under the last Administration the Luther Thorne School which is adjacent to the Pine and Wildey area was so zoned as to exclude people's children from the Pine and Wildey area from going to that school.

I muct compliment the present Minister and the Ministry for partially correcting that situation because the complaints are not as bad as they used to be. But occasionally we have one or two situations where it is still happening. At the Parkinson Secondary School, the youngsters in the area at the Pinelands Creative Workshop have on their own for years - this has nothing to do with me as an individual, it is a programme that has been going on for years - have introduced drama in the schools using primarily the Parkinson Secondary School. And there are some educators in this country who apparently feel that the

school is their own property, that the community should not lie involved in the usage of school premises as part of their educational process.

I think that, in the Pine, the Pinelands Creative Workshop has demonstrated beyond all shadow of doubt that schools can be and should be used as an area of adult and extra-curricular activity an activity involving the community from within the area.

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

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: Thank you, Sir. I am hopeful that many more schools within the area will be used in this way. I know that the Members of the Pinelands Creative Workshop have got a plan to try to use the school hall on a more regular basis to involve more of the youngsters from within the area in getting involved in the performing arts. I know that we will have the full support of the Ministry and the Minister of Education on this score.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. R. P. BYER: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East, the Member who just took his seat, made a remark about integrity and how an unnamed Member earlier on this year, the 1st January, made some comment about a commitment to the Democratic Labour Party and so on which is something, Sir, that I said. It was an indirect reference to something that I said on radio this year. I have no difficulty, Sir, with what I said. I would merely say to the Honourable Member that if he has problems with what I said, it is a matter for him. When I make a statement it is a statement that I meant. But if he wants to behave like a jilted lover now, that is a matter for him. That is not my problem. He does not want me around him. And now I leave him, he is vexed. You deal with that, not me. That is your business.

You see there are certain remarks coming across from the other side like a remark that the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central made yesterday, I chose to let it pass by, a remark pertaining to how the only reasons why the Members of the NDP left the Democratic Labour Party were personal reasons. I heard that one already. But I cannot let all ride. As the Member for St. Thomas would tell you, you have to let some pass outside the off stump. But not the one just now.

Aside.

Mr. R. P. BYER: No. As you pitch on the pads you go through mid wicket. You understand? Right. I would allow the one from the Member for Christ Church East Central to

pass. I joked about that yesterday in the corridor with him and that is the end of that. But not the one just now.

Now I want to return to something I said yesterday, Mr. Chairman, about a policy plank of the Democratic Labour Party in relation to education. Yesterday, in response to what I said, the Honourable Minister, rightly so, drew a distinction between a continuing education and an adult education programme. But if we look at page 16 of the Democratic Labour Party's Manifesto, you will see where it says that:

"it is the intention of the Democratic Labour Party to promote

and I want to read it very carefully, because on a first reading one can become confused and one might see that there is a fusion of the two concepts where it says:

"..... a comprehensive programme of continuing education for adults."

Now I made reference to the fact that there was only a token vote for the Adult Education Programme in the Estimates of \$100. And I made the point that I would want to know from the Minister what was Government's policy in relation to adult education as distinct from continuing education for adults which seems to be what is coming out from the policy position as stated in the Manifesto.

The Minister did not in his reply to me spell out what the Government's programme was in relation to adult education. Neither did he tell me, spell it out to me in relation to a continuing education programme. He merely confined himself to drawing a distinction between the two expressions and between the two concepts.

I would still want to know from the Minister what is Government's policy position in relation to those two areas?

A point I made yesterday was also underscored by the Leader of the Opposition in relation to the Government's overall policy in education. I made the point that successive Administrations have contributed significantly to the development of a sound educational policy in Barbados but that with the coming into administration of the Democratic Labour Party that that policy was spelt out, part of it was spelt out in the Manifesto, also in utterances from time to time by the Minister of Education. As the Member for Christ Church East Central said, it was also the action, the continuing action of education daily, which also embraced or rather that the policy itself was acted out daily. 10.40 a.m.

Now I said that to my mind that was not enough. That it would seem to me that the Manifesto position in relation to policy is just the broad heading of policy and that the meat still has to be put onto that body. In other words, the foundation of the policies is laid out in the Manifesto but

the way in which these things are to be acted, the way that they are to be structured and so on, we still must know. I refer to 2 specific areas - one relating to study leave and also the one I drew to the Minister's attention in my presentation this morning, and there are others. There are 11 Heads of policy, if I may so put it, in the package on Education and I am merely seeking information as to what, for example, can bring a fresh and enlightened approach to the administration of Education. How is that to be done? How is it to be approached? Is Government seeking to bring this enlightened approach in terms of reorganizing the Ministry of Education? Is that the intention of Government? These are the things that I want to find out and, contrary to what the Member for St. John said, - I am sorry he is not in his seat - I would still want to know what the meat, as it were, of the policy as far as the broad heading of Education is concerned. It is certainly an interest of the National Democratic Party to find out what the broad policy in relation to Education is concerned about - sorry, not the broad policy but the meat of this policy. That is what I, Sir, am concerned about.

I would want the Minister to spend some time in dealing with that when he replies this morning.

Now let me get to some parochial matters, Sir. I would want to know about the St. George Secondary School. I said parochial and not constituency, Sir - parochial. I would want to know about the St. George Secondary School. I know that some work was being done at that school in terms of electrical wiring and so on. The way the school is located, where the school is located, it is exposed to elements and wear and tear on the school is very great. I would want to know.....

Asides.

Mr. R. P. BYER: St. George North - It falls in the constituency of St. George North, but it concerns me because students from St. George South also go there. The Minister of Education, of course, is the MP for that area, Sir. So I would hope that he can give me a very comprehensive reply in relation to St. George Secondary School and what his intentions are. But as the Member for St. Andrew would say, it is safely within St. George North and I would want to know something about what is happening there in terms of the physical improvement of the school.

I also would like to know about Cherry Grove Secondary School which, although in the parish of St. John, is within the constituency of St. George South. I do not know if it is still Government's intention - I believe something was said about that recently in relation to some plan and I stand under correction, Sir, - to amalgamate the Cherry Grove Secondary School and Mount Tabor Secondary School. I want to know if that is still Government's intention or whether it is still the intention,

given the relative distances of the 2 schools and the way that they are separated, whether Government intends to keep the 2 schools separate and apart and, if so, what are the plans in relation to the improvement of the conditions at the Cherry Grove Primary School. I know for a fact because from time (p time I keep branch meetings there and the school is in a very deplorable .state. We have instances where on mornings there is rat mess all over the place and other unsavoury sights are very evident when the students turn up for school on mornings and also when the teachers turn up for school. Efforts have been made to correct some of these problems, but it is all the more important that the physical conditions of these schools be improved in a material particular, especially when you have evidence of rats and other vermin very evident in the place. This is nothing to suck one's teeth about. It is a fact. I know it. I am not trying in any way to put pressure on the Minister of Education.

I am just bringing to the notice of this House a fact that obtains in my constituency and if the constituents in that part of my constituency bring this to my attention, it is my duty to come to this House and say what the condition is. I am certain that the Minister of Education is aware of it and if they perceive that nothing is happening about it then the next best choice is that I should be aware of it and lay bare the facts in this House. I see nothing wrong with that. Everybody does it. I see nothing wrong with that. I am certain, Sir, that if something was the matter at St. Matthews School you would do that as well. I can see nothing wrong with that. I am not trying to criticize the Minister. So he can get up and make a suitable response. If I am misinforming the House, he has a duty to say so and I will have no difficulty with that either, Sir. So I do not understand what is with all this "sucking teeth" is about. It is just bad manners.

(Asides: Dr. R. C. HAYNES: That is right.)

Asides.

Mr. R. P. BYER: What child what? I am talking about

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Do not allow us to digress. Let us press on.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Also, I had made some remark about - I laid a question in the House, Sir, about the St. Luke's Primary School relating to improvements at the school. But there were some other matters that were brought to the attention of the Minister by way of letter and I would want him to give me some idea of what the general position is in relation to improvement of the conditions at the St. Luke's Primary School. That is what I would want to know. I know that the conditions at the Ellerton Primary are in a relatively good shape, Sir, but it is only in relation to those schools

that I mentioned that I would want some response from the Minister.

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

His Hon. J. J. PAYNE: Mr. Chairman, I want to make a very brief contribution to this Head and I would like to touch on an aspect of our children's development that comes under Education but is not very often dealt with in much detail when we come to deal with our Estimates and that has to do, Mr. Chairman, with the need to create more competition for our school children in their school career.

Now every year at most schools - most secondary and primary - there are a number of games of sport whether it is football, cricket, athletics and so on which engage the attention of our students but it is something which I would like to see develop a lot more, and particularly I would like to touch on the whole question of athletics because this is an area I believe that is very important for our sports.

Asides.

His Hon. J. J. PAYNE: No, I was not only listening to Sam Wilkinson but I was a national athlete myself. Mr. Chairman, I was a national athlete myself and some of the Members in this Chamber.....

Asides.

His Hon. J. J. PAYNE: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I was a national athlete myself and there may be many Members in this Chamber who were not fortunate or capable of taking part in those games. I believe the Prime Minister had some competence in athletics. 10.50 a.m.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Minister of Sport hit me with a beamer as a school boy in 1957 and broke my shoulder, but the Honourable Prime Minister has an honourable record in cricket, Sir. He has made 10 million runs in one season, 103 versus Pickwick and the next seven innings were 0,0,0,0,0,0.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order. Let us proceed. Let the Honourable Member for St. James North proceed.

His Hon. J. J. PAYNE: Mr. Chairman, I was making the point that this is an aspect of our schooling career which I believe we should pay more attention to, because I believe it is important for our children's development.

On this side and on that side we have had people who can boast that their maturity in life has come to a large

extent because of their exposure to competitive sport. I believe that sport is something that develops a person not only physically, but it prepares that individual for life. As we go through life, Mr. Chairman, we will have to compete in many areas. We will compete for love, we will compete for votes, we will compete for everything in life. We compete for jobs and I believe that putting our children into the area of competition can only do something to help prepare them for life after they depart from school.

I was very pleased to recognise only today that the secondary schools in this country are engaging in the inter school sports competition, something for which I believe they should be praised, because I know that in the past they were having some difficulty in getting inter-school sports together. But what is so significant is that when our children are able to come together in this competitive atmosphere, it is most thrilling to see how they compete and react among each other. This is something which I feel in the future perhaps should be given some more serious consideration, because as I said, from the time I was a youth I was able to establish certain marks in the field of athletics. In fact, I established a national record in this island some 15 years ago. I believe the reason why that record still stands on the books is because many of our youth are not getting the kind of competition which I was exposed to in those days to keep that kind of sport on the move, and I would like to give some encouragement in that respect.

Mr. Chairman, many of our previous speakers dealt with areas concerning schools in their area and I believe that before I sit I should also touch on this matter, because I think it is part of the policy of this Government to see that the whole aspect of education is developed not only in this organised fashion but we are trying to formulate a programme where the country as a whole can benefit from the projects that we are putting forward.

I would like if perhaps the Minister can tell us a little more as to how the Second World Bank Project is proceeding. I know that they are going to be building a school at St. Boniface. This is a school which is going to be of primary importance to the people of that area of Sion Hill, Westmoreland and Rock Dundo. This is an area of the country which is fast developing and the people of that area are eagerly looking forward to having this school. I know that the present school is now not able to service the demands of the people of that area. In fact I visited that school about three months ago to give an address, and the school is in such close proximity to the road that teachers have difficulty in their voice levels in getting children to hear what they are saying.

I believe that that project was due to start in August of this year. Perhaps we can get some information as to whether that project is on schedule, whether the tenders for the school are already out and whether the land has already

been acquired. Information of that kind would help in settling some of the concerns of the people of that area, particularly concerning the St. Boniface School.

Also, Mr. Chairman, what I want to mention in respect of education, and this is something I believe has been mentioned in some way before, is the whole question of preparing our students in a broad way for facing life after they leave school. I think one of the things we will have to pay some more attention to in the coming years is the curriculum which is presently existing at the schools^.

I believe there are many people in Barbados who feel that the present CXC and O Level system does not adequately prepare many of our students to face the working environment after leaving school. This is something which I believe over a period of time we will have to sit down and examine and re-examine, because I feel that we are spending such a large slice of our money on education that we should seek to make sure that the country is making its maximum benefit from the money which we spend in this particular area.

With those brief remarks, Mr. Chairman, I will pause and probably come back a little later.

Thank you very much.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I think you are aware of the fact, unlike some Members on the other side, that the educational policy of this country is not developed in a vacuum, but that a lot of components are used to arrive at a policy. In the Ministry of Employment, Labour Relations and Community Development we are in close contact with the Ministry of Education, feeding them information so that the educational policy can be developed properly.

In this respect I want to refer to the work of the Manpower Research and Statistics Unit within the Ministry. The major role of the Manpower Research and Statistics Unit is gathering, analysing and disseminating labour market information. Of course the Unit is also responsible for the task of collection of occupational information for job analysis and the development of the standard occupational classification for Barbados.

If I may say what the standard occupational classification for Barbados is, I would like to indicate that throughout the world there is an attempt to have this standardisation of occupations, and only last year one of our staff went to England to examine their classification there, and we are now in the process of developing a classification for Barbados. 11.00a.m.

This will provide us with an occupational classification which reflects the occupational structure in

Barbados and should assist in the standardisation of the procedures for the reporting of occupational information by various agencies. In other words, whatever we do here we will have a name for occupations similar to that in England and throughout the world. So in giving job titles the teachers themselves will know exactly how to proceed. Over and above that

Asides.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: Where ignorance is bliss it is folly to be wise. The Honourable Member for St. Thomas said that once in here, and that is true.

We are also developing a careers guidance book as well and this is being compiled in conjunction with guidance counsellors and persons who work in the various occupations. Now that would indicate that there is close collaboration between the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Employment, Labour Relations and Community Development so that the curriculum for the schools, especially the trade training schools so to speak, would be developed to suit the needs of the country.

I am shocked sometimes when I hear some of the mou'ihings from persons in this House. I think it was the Leader of the Opposition, not the people's Opposition, who wanted to know what was the policy for this year as though you jump up one morning and you make a policy for a year, you dismiss it after that year goes, forget what happened before, never think about the future and then you make a policy for this year. I would ask the Minister of Education what is the policy for today if you carry it to that ridiculous end. What is the policy for today? He wants to know the policy for the year as though nothing happened before. All the experts in the Ministry of Education have been asleep for the last fifteen years and they will go to sleep after this year and forget about that. That is the sort of mumbo-jumbo you get from the Leader of the Opposition which is expected anyhow. Of course he believes that he is the fountain of all knowledge, information and commonsense, but I am not surprised. He is bent on misleading this whole community. The philosophy of the third party is confusion because he confuses everybody. He is trying to confuse even in here on educational matters. When he was a Member of this party the Barbados Labour Party was bankrupt of ideas. He is a Member of another party and this one is bankrupt of ideas. It is only when he moves that there are ideas. What ideas ever emanate from anybody unless he is there? When he left the hospital the hospital was to fall apart too, but it is still going on and will continue to go on. I will get back to him, but I just want to touch briefly on something which the Leader of the people's Opposition mentioned on the question of the examination centre.

I believe I am quoting him correctly in saying that he said it was a waste of money, or it may have been the representative for St. Peter; it is the same voice only a

different colour. When the Democratic Labour Party introduced into this country free secondary education, the Barbados Labour Party scoffed at it; it was the worst thing that would ever happen to Barbados.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of order, the Honourable Member again must not in debate misrepresent the position of the Barbados Labour Party. From as early as the forties in the party's manifesto and so in historical records that now are part of the archives of Barbados, the Barbados Labour Party set out to move to full free and secondary education in Barbados. I am going to bring it here and make it a document of the House. We also made it quite clear that we had to get to the position where there were enough school places and we set out to build secondary schools in St. Philip, the one at St. Leonards and various places. It is in our manifesto and it is a performance. We reduced the fees that were being paid, and we also increased the number of scholarships and bursaries. It cost the Government less than \$300 000 to carry out the programme in 1961. Do not re-write history.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member is now making a speech.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I attended meetings at which the Barbados Labour Party criticised the introduction of free secondary education. I was at meetings which were held by them. If they have a difference of opinion they must sort it out among themselves, not in here. I was at meetings where they criticised

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, I understand this thing about morality, integrity and social contract and why people have to leave and so on. I went to England in 1961, free secondary education was introduced in 1962 when he was firmly a private in the British Army taking the orders from the white people. He could not hear any meetings.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN ordered that certain remarks made by the Honourable Member for St. Thomas be expunged from the record.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, I do not think the technique works. Your ruling might not have been heard by the Reporters because the Honourable Member chose to speak while you were ruling. I think you should rule. And while I am on my feet, I feel that Honourable Members should deal with the Chair fairly. The Honourable Member for Christ Church West on a point of order attempted to make a speech. The Honourable Member using a well known technique waited until your point

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I am acting Leader of the House and I can draw an order to His Honour's attention. You should know that; you were Chairman of Committees.

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: It is not a speech; it is an order which I am drawing to the Chairman and you as a former Chairman of Committees should know better.

I am saying, Sir, that the Honourable Members should be fair to the Chair especially Honourable Members on the other side and in particular the Honourable Member for St. George South who was a Chairman of Committees.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: As I was saying, Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for St. Thomas is an eminent lawyer in this country and he knows you have to get your evidence. I did not say when. I did not say that I heard it in 1961 or 1945. I know what I am going to say, and I will continue. I have heard them criticise the introduction of school meals into schools in this country.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, he was pointing at me and saying that he heard me criticise it. I want the Honourable Member to make it very clear if he has ever heard the Honourable Member for St. Thomas criticise free secondary education in this country.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: He did not say the Honourable Member for St. Thomas. The Honourable Member for St. James South may proceed.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: We never discussed that in England and we were very close. We took exams together and still work together.

As I was saying, Mr. Chairman, the Barbados Labour Party criticised the Honourable Prime Minister on setting up the Community College. My point here is that in everything to move forward the average person in Barbados educationally, they lacked vision and when you lack vision the people will perish. The Democratic Labour Party has no interest in that. So I am not surprised that the Honourable Member for Christ Church West, the Leader of the people's Opposition in here, the Leader of the Barbados Labour Party Opposition, cannot understand why we are having an examination centre.....
11.10a.m.

But I have come downstairs out of my office and I have seen youngsters taking examination in the dance hall of Marine House.

There are schools in this country that must close when examinations are being taken. Parkinson is one. Some of us have children who go to fortunate schools. The conditions are not so bad so some of us do not care about the others. If

they take their examination under a tree it does not matter to us but people must have equal opportunities in this country and the conditions of taking examinations is very important.

You must be comfortable. The conditions must be such that when you go in there you can appreciate it and you go into the Marine House Ball Room and there is traffic passing through, around you, and through the examination hall. That is what we are trying to stop but then, again, education is only to be for a few people so you can lull over them and we understand that.

My friend, the Honourable Member for St. Thomas spoke about the headmaster of the Lodge School but you should have told the House or reminded the House of the fact that under the Barbados Labour Party the morale of the teachers of this country were at its lowest ebb. There were headteachers who resigned because they could not stand the foolishness under the Barbados Labour Party.

Teachers were taken to Court for the first time in the history of Barbados by a Government. Of course, they won. Headteachers were standing up for their rights. They were taken to Court. Teachers did not know if they were coming or going. You should have mentioned that at Lodge School the Headmaster's situation did not start with the Democratic Labour Party. We are trying to have it resolved now.

Aside.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: Yes. Everything has been settled. It is only the mechanics now of getting the cheque written out so that I want you to understand that as far as teaching is concerned, we have an impeccable record on this side.

Erdiston College was closed under the Barbados Labour Party. They had stopped training at Erdiston College.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Sir, on a point of order.

It is untrue that the Barbados Labour Party closed Erdiston College. He reads into the record that Erdiston College was closed under the Barbados Labour Party. If the Minister does not know what he is talking about, he has to ask for assistance.

He is Minister of Labour and has to ask for assistance of the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central for what is the motto of the Barbados Workers' Union. He did not even know the complete motto.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your point is made.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order. I believe, Sir, that this section about the Barbados Workers' Union should

be struck from the record because the point of order is invalid if that is left in.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: It cannot be. I am talking to him not to you.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: I can understand their concern because I am hitting at the nerve centre.

Training had been stopped at Erdiston College. The College was not closed. That is a fact. We restarted it.

Aside.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: I said training had stopped. I did not say it was closed.

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

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: That is a point, Mr. Chairman, so that they have no cause to attack us on a question of education. You should hang your head in shame when it comes to education in this country. The teachers were at their lowest ebb.

I will come back because I have to deal with policy as it relates to the National Democratic Party, the New Democratic? They do not know the name so I do not know it either. I will come back.

Mr. E. BOURNE: Mr. Chairman, I just want to say a few words on education. Now, in October, 1986 I had asked a question in this Honourable Chamber about the repairs to certain schools in Christ Church East and the answer I got was that they would be repaired when funds became available. Now, it is almost three years since I was told by the Minister of Education that repairs would be carried out to these schools. Now, I hope that this is not just hot air again and I would like to know that the Minister of Education has joined the ranks of working Ministers this time.

Here in Barbados in this day and age we still waste most of our time in what I would call paper education. This is a technological age and we should be spending a lot of time and money in technology.

I think that it is high time that we go very deeply into technical education and I would like to see a real programme in teaching navigation so that the fishermen could really go where I would like them to go. They can only do this with equipment like the satellite navigator, colour video product. These things call for a little bread, a little money, which I would expect the Ministry of

Education in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, to see that such a programme gets going.

Now, I have noticed on a few occasions advertised in the newspaper training for fishermen in navigation and servicing of engines. I think it is high time that we go much further than that because servicing of an engine only entails removing a filter and any novice can learn that in less than half an hour. You show him what to do. You take this off and you put that on.

Now, if we had any real system of training these people, I do not think that the boat which went adrift the other day for all these weeks would have gone adrift because the guys would be more thoughtful before leaving port with a boat in such a condition. So I think that it is high time that these two Ministries get together and really do something about real education because this is a real technological world. It is not a world of paper. The age of paper is long gone and the only thing we end up doing is burying ourselves under paper.

We need to have proper diesel and automotive engineers. Now that we want to improve the fishing industry, I think we should be thinking of training naval architects. We need them. The Minister of Agriculture and I had a discussion one day and I was talking about a boat of a particular size and he was telling me that we should get a naval architect to do that. 11.20a.m.

I hope that he would prevail on the Minister of Education that this should be in his programme. We need people like these. We need proper ship carpenters. In fact we need proper carpenters today because it is difficult to find a good carpenter in Barbados. This, too, is education. But I find that here the only thing they call education is somebody going to write a CXC and Latin and French and something which really does not value much in today's world.

Aside.

Mr. E. BOURNE: Only the old fellows like Island Scholars and an old cat like me who was at the Foundation around that kind of time would remember a few Latin words, you know.

Aside.

Mr. E. BOURNE: I know that. I know you are a brilliant Foundation guy.

This is what I really would like to see regarding education. I remember many years ago a programme of navigational education was carried to the various fishing districts in Barbados by the late Captain George Fergusson. I think that this programme should be reinstituted. It is

pointless to tell fishermen to register for some little stupid course at the office of the Fisheries Officer. It would make more sense to carry the courses to these people. Captain Fergusson, as far as he was saying, was not a man of this high learning. But he knew that it made better sense to take these things to the people and take it at night.

But in today's age these people are too high up and mighty to look at these things. They would want the fishermen to refuse to go and make a living and sit down and listen to foolishness. Because after having discussions with two of them who attended the course, they told me, skipper, I think that I am wasting a lot of time because most of the things we do not understand and they really do not have the equipment I keep hearing you talk about.

So I should like the Minister of Agriculture to really make a good check and if he needs some assistance, I am willing to give him the assistance.

Aside.

Mr. E. BOURNE: I am always willing to help out.

Asides.

Mr. E. BOURNE: No. Not in writing this time. You would get personal assistance.

Laughter.

Mr. E. BOURNE: Now as regards the speech made by the Honourable Member for St. James North, I am in full agreement with him because, for my short stay back in Barbados, I was always complaining that there is no competition at schools. Without competition we are lost. This world has always been a competitive world. If you research the Bible carefully you will see that it started after Adam and Eve with competition. One brother killed another because it was competition. The world is a competitive world.

His Hon. J. J. PAYNE: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I was not talking about that kind of competition.

Laughter.

Aside.

Mr. E. BOURNE: Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to point out what competition is all about. Nations compete and they compete in warfare. Nations compete in technology. Nations compete in sport. All is competition. Some competition might be hard. But that is what it is. And unless we get that competitive spirit in this country again, the coming generations will be lost.

I would expect that the Minister of Education will see to it that we not only bring back the inter-school sports and more competitive sports, but it would be a good idea to see the schools again competing in first class cricket. Many people wonder why it is that our cricket is falling. It is because of lack of competition.

In the days when we had the schools competing in first class cricket in Barbados we could take on any country in the world. Today we find it very, very difficult to find at least five or six guys.

So with those words, Mr. Chairman, I will sit and come back another time.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. Joseph.

Mrs. M. BARKER-WELCH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, my intervention is going to be relatively short because quite a few of my colleagues have said some of the things which I intended to and I do not believe in talking just for the sake of talking.

Now the Democratic Labour Party has a track record in education of which it can be justly proud. I know it is sometimes thought that you are going back too much when you talk about things that happened long ago. But in reviewing what happened in the field of education, a lot of persons forget that, by having the free education in 1961, not only the young people benefitted but several older teachers who could not have ever seen the doors of the university benefitted from that. They are the ones who headed the various secondary schools that were springing up around the place.

I remember distinctly because I was down at the old site on the Harbour when the University of the West Indies began its campus in Barbados. And from that time on training has been a continuous objective of the Democratic Labour Party Government. I am sure no one on this side would ever say there was no training under the other side. We would not say that. But it is true it was a policy to curtail training in certain areas.

Aside.

Mrs. M. BARKER-WELCH: That is a fact. That is an undisputable fact. And now that we are back at the reins of Government I am sure that Barbadians are going to see what we mean when we talk about training. This training not only relates to the exact job you are doing. It is a wide based training of the sort that we in our Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations are doing. Because we have discovered that a lot of persons who are employed in certain areas in this community service areas needed training. And we have had to go back and institute training in the National Conservation, in the Home Help, all over

because people were just put there with a lack of adequate training.

Mr. Chairman, I am very happy also to see that adult education is mentioned. Sometimes when adult education is mentioned people think mostly about certificates and added A Levels and things of that sort. But to my mind adult education is much deeper than that. And that is why I have been encouraging that sort of education in the constituency which I have the honour to represent. Because we have persons who just need to know how to write letters, how to fill out forms and things of that sort which we do not really need academic qualifications for. But you certainly do need the continuous training that they missed in the years when they ought to have been doing it at school.

I am also heartened to hear about the reading programmes which are going on because I have been concerned for some time about the literacy of our people. I think that many of us run off with the idea that we have this 98% literacy which I for one know was never really a fact. What that really meant only was that people could read and could write their names and sign things. But that is not to say that I think that we are alright, that we are not very far behind. We are far behind that former standard which we reached.

But it is going to have to be not only education. Everybody is going to have to be motivated into encouraging their children to do more reading, encouraging them to just watch the pictures on television which will help them and also to encourage conversation. Because I find nowadays that the art of conversation is dying and people are not able now to write as fluently as they did many years ago when we did not have the added advantage of having so many radios and televisions and all of those things. 11.30a.m.

I am very pleased to see the various emphases that Government is giving to certain areas of Education like Nursery Education and the Adult Education Programme and so on. As I said before, I do hope that the Adult Education Programme will kind of mushroom all over the country. Whilst I am speaking about that, I would like to say that I think that we are very fortunate in that we have so many school buildings because we do not need to set up new structures to have this Adult Education Programme going. I have found it very useful and I found the Education Department very cooperative when I have asked and received permission to carry on classes after the school has closed for 3 o'clock. We have the plant. All we need to have now is the political will and to motivate our people into the continuing education that can only spell progress for this beautiful island of Barbados. I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Minister of Education and Culture.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, 17 months of responsibility for this portfolio has confirmed what is clearly understood that all people in Barbados are experts in Education. If there was any doubt about that, indeed, the discourse in the last 2 days here has verified that. Those of us who have spent some years in teaching know that we always experience that from the parents and indeed from some of the students. But I would like to reply, Mr. Chairman, to some of the questions that were asked because we seem to be going on.

First, the Honourable Member for St. Thomas - his question on the Lodge School and the Headmaster. The action is being taken on that matter and a settlement will be with the Attorney General and should be forthcoming. Settlement has been reached.

The question of how many students are taking exams outside of secondary schools. There are approximately 1000. You asked if CXC will be taken at Sherbourne - yes, but only by private students. You asked a question if there will be a Common Entrance at Sherbourne. The answer to that is "no". How many students are taking LLM? There are now 35 registered, 34 in the LLM and 1 in the Ph.D. The number from Barbados - there are 10 from Barbados and 1 Ph.D. The other question was on the number of students at the Government Industrial School. There are now 37 boys and 20 girls.

You also asked in terms of the donation as related to Head 25. For the Landship \$2,000, Barbados Arts Council \$8,000, Bim \$1500, Barbados Museum \$350, The NCF \$1.8 million, National Trust \$100,000, Film Censorship Board \$60,000, Barbados Dance Theatre \$12,000 and others \$28,500.

Your next question had to do with the payment, as you put it, to a consultant of \$94,000 - let me first state that there was an interim Director at the corporation who also performed a consultancy role and you mentioned that \$94,000 was more than a Permanent Secretary.

Asides: Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I never said that.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Sir, I never said that. I would not get in that kind of thing at all. I just asked how was it - if it were true that this gentleman was paid the salary of the Director and Deputy Director amounting to \$94,000 a year. That is all I asked. Permanent Secretary - no man.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: Check your words. Anyhow it was an interim Director and also there was a consultancy involved, a continuing consultancy following that programme and also there was gratuity pay. The records are there.

Asides.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: Do you want the amount?

Asides.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: The question on the rental of equipment from the National Cultural Foundation, the equipment at the Cultural Foundation is there since CARIFESTA, small equipment, and when you are having a large function - yes, equipment has always been rented for large functions, because the small equipment from CARIFESTA cannot handle the large audiences.

Asides.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: Your question on ESSO - ESSO had a signed contract. Theieafter it was not a written agreement. It was just a verbal agreement. It was a signed contract for a period of time and that came to an end.

Your question on the CIS since your tenure as Chairman of that Committee at Dodds - well, there were 31 recommendations made by your Committee. Twelve were done. All could not be done by the Ministry as you know or by the schools or indeed by the GIS Unit itself. Four are long term modernization projects, as you know, such as the creation of a statutory board, and the Creation of expanded social work etcetera and the Remand Centre is with the draughtsmen at MTW for recommendations. The regulations as recommended are now with the Chief Parliamentary Counsel. The expanded Social Work Unit - 5 people were already trained and there are now an additional 3 in training, and others are ongoing.

The question on Sherbourne, the Exam Centre to seat 1000, the auditorium to seat 2000 and a Conference Centre which will have 400 seated at desks and 800 who will be seated at auditorium style. They can be construed, although one unit, to be 3 separate units.

The question by the Member for Christ Church West or the point made - I would only state that you have read beautiful statistics. They are there in the record. But, however, all I will say is, reading statistics whether done by your side or my side does not change the condition of the schools. 11.40a.m.

The question by the Honourable Member for St. George South, the whole idea of the continuing education is a plan to be developed and to be run in four secondary schools as a first pilot project. It is costed, and it is continuing education whereby teachers and pupils from the particular area will be in those schools, and it will be self-sufficient, if you will, it will not be a cost to the Government. It is continuing education where they select courses, we are not into another secondary school education

programme. They will select X number of people and register them for a particular course. If you want to have that course you pay a nominal fee, enough to pay the expenses for the running of the course, not for the rent of the building, just for the teachers. These will be decided*by the community. That is why it is called community.

St. George Secondary School. It is interesting that you have found yourself in my constituency. I know you like to be there, you and the Leader of the Opposition. The Member for the City lives there too.

Aside.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: Right. So you will have an interest, I hope, in the school. There is electrical work going on, there are repairs and painting going on. If you passed there within the last two weeks you will have noticed the difference in the structure.

Cherry Grove. I know that you have campaigned on the question of the condition at Cherry Grove, but we have stated in here many times of the whole plan when we discussed the Second Education World Bank Loan in terms of Mount Tabor. It was stated then, and I repeat, that we will continue with Mount Tabor and we will allow Cherry Grove to be phased out in due course, but however minor repairs were done.

St. Lukes. I was not sure exactly which St. Lukes, because as I recall you did ask a question in here to which I gave you a reply, which then was that the work had been completed. In fact, the work had been completed before I gave the reply to the question.

Athletics, St. James North. The Minister of Tourism and Sports and myself met with all of the games teachers last year in order to get sports going. As you know, there were no sports for a couple of years before. As someone said, you might have been listening to a report this morning. The problem is still going to be, when they had ten so called secondary schools it was very easy for the students of all ten schools to get to Kensington. You ran your three-legged, your bag race, etc., but it is a little difficult now to get 22,000 students and to be able to control them. Remember that in 1986 there was an incident at the Stadium where some children were hurt, and they were not all there, so I appreciate your input but the Minister of Sports and I have been having meetings with the teachers and we are looking at any method whereby we can improve the situation.

Bakers/St. Boniface. Again, as I have repeated in here several times, that is part of package 3, and that should start some time around April 1990 or so, to be completed as a plan in 1991.

CXC/UWI, your query on curriculum development. It is an ongoing situation with CXC, University of the West Indies, and indeed not only with the Ministry of Education in Barbados, but all the Ministries of Education to improve the curriculum within the schools.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church East. I would only say I agree with you in terms of techfiology, but at the same time we cannot deal with technology and ignore the basics and then believe that we should only have robots, because there is a tendency to overplay the technology and then you just have your robots, so we have to have the proper mix, if you will. I do not think we should just have a direct thrust only in technological education, it has to be properly mixed whereby you can utilise the same technology to enhance the teaching of the other subjects.

The comment about cricket, I think it is generally known that more children in Barbados play cricket now than ever before. Indeed, I understand there are now two school teams going into the Barbados Cricket Association's First Division.

Mr. Chairman, I think I have answered most of the questions so far. Thank you, I am much obliged.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, it would appear that the commitment of the National Democratic Party to bring new dimensions of morality, integrity and probity to the public life of Barbados has been an irritant to some people. Let me say this. It will be a matter for the people to judge whether they have experienced the level of integrity and morality in public life which they would hope for, and whether or not the positions taken by the NDP will be consistent with their wishes. What I know for sure is that the young people of Barbados, all the women of Barbados are interested in seeing a new dimension in integrity and morality in the public life of this country.

I also know that the men as well want to see a new dimension, and it is entirely up to the people to judge whether integrity and morality in public life is an issue with which they wish to make contact or not, so that those who believe that by trying to indicate that that is a non-issue, that is their problem. We do not arrogate to ourselves the sole ownership or any proprietary rights to integrity and morality, what we say is that this shall transcend and permeate al¹ aspects of NDP policy. That is a public stated position and who do not like it, that is their problem.

This, Sir, brings me to the question of the NDP's position in relation to training. You will note very carefully that during this Estimates debate the NDP policy is already being seen. If you note very carefully, we are not getting involved in any cut and thrust here as to who did this and who did that, we are not in that. We are interested in presenting a position to the people of Barbados, and that is why you see the Honourable Member for St. George South

has addressed in detail the question of adult education and continuing education, and that is why you see the Honourable Member for Christ Church East has set about very carefully to try to impress on the Government that the time has come when, there should be a more secure and precise and definite linkage between the educational process and current and projected economic activity in Barbados. 11.50a.m.

We feel that the school meals programme when it was introduced in Barbados addressed a social need, a social need that not only found expression in terms of the physical needs of students at the time, but also augmented substantially, I believe, their capacity to learn and also had an important factor in terms of nutrition and such things as growth rates, reduction in various diseases and so on. That is why, Sir, you find that the current generation is probably taller than the generation thirty years ago and so on, because the milk and various things that you get in the school meals programme was a great help. That is why I asked some questions that remain unanswered about the school meals programme. However, there is one point I would like to raise. I note that personal emoluments next year in the school meals service will go up by \$1.65 million, and that seems to me to be an increase somewhere in the region of 20 per cent. This is "Other Personal Emoluments". I wonder what that indicates. It certainly would be higher than the wages settlement. It does not indicate whether there would be more staff in the school meals service apart from the increases in emoluments. If this is so, I wonder if any of the increase in staff will come from St. Michael South Central. The Honourable Member for St. Michael West whose family has family in my constituency has just told me that none will come from St. Michael South Central.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, I was trying to help the Honourable Member because he will recall that when he was over here none came from his constituency or mine because they were appointed by the Barbados Labour Party and there has been no change. Nobody retires from the school meals. You or I have not been able to get anybody in school meals, so I was only trying to remind you.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: We are continuing victims of the same process. I understand what you are saying and I take the point. We are long suffering continuing victims, discriminated against in this area.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The Barbados Labour Party used to discriminate against the two of us. There is no question about that.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Anyhow, as I said, at the same time I have noticed that under supplies and materials that the vote is being decreased by \$260 000. Sir, we are having

a significant increase in the number of persons employed whilst at the same time we are having a reduction in the area of supplies and materials. I see that this item includes funds for the purchase of groceries and other provisions necessary for the continuing of the school meals feeding programme. It may very well be that the Honourable Minister anticipates that there will be a fall in the price of food over the next year or so. Perhaps he can explain to us why you will get an increase in other personal emoluments and a decrease in the cost of supplies and materials which include food.

I want to go a little further along the line on which the Honourable Member for Christ Church East started. He spoke specifically in the area of fishing. I believe that we need to do a lot more in our schools in relation to education and training at some point in the life of a pupil in relation to training for agriculture starting off with attitudinal problems and also getting our people prepared for the new technological age in respect of agriculture in Barbados.

I believe internationally it has been demonstrated that the security of the economy of even the largest countries in the world rests very much with agricultural production. Whereas in the pre-industrial revolution an overwhelming majority of people in those countries were employed in agriculture, in the industrial revolution and beyond many of them flocked to the cities, but the agricultural capacity of those countries continued to expand. Whereas for example in the United States probably only 4 per cent of the total population is involved in agriculture, nevertheless it is capable of producing volumes of produce today far in excess of the number of people directly involved, and that is because those involved in agriculture are regarded as being in an honourable profession because they are highly trained in the use of those tools which are necessary to augment the capacity of an individual to generate a level of output far beyond what he could do with his bare hands.

I think that this is important, that whilst we talk in general about the need to relate our educational thrust at this point in time in particular having solved many of the basic problems of literacy with one or two areas needing attention as has been pointed out in the House, in this new thrust I would like to see training in agriculture in the forefront.

I recall, Sir, when I was at elementary school that there were garden beds where I had to learn how to grow tomatoes, onions, potatoes - and one used to grow white potatoes, Irish potatoes or English potatoes, call them what you like. We used to be taught to grow them. We used to grow carrots, beans and all sorts of things in a small patch just to the north of George Park playing field in the Glebe. Anyone leaving that school was able to make a living in agriculture because he knew the basics. We were taught at that time that if you could produce a better beet than the group working next door, that was something to feel proud

and honourable about. The Honourable Minister of Education was part of that process.

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: You could not get in those days, at least before special grafting, a grafted mango tree bearing before you left school. There are the dwarf trees nowadays that you get mangoes from early, if my recollection is right. I see another Honourable Member from another constituency seems to recognise the point I am making.

It seems to me, Sir, that it is essential that we begin to relate our educational thrust as I said in this area where our training leads smoothly into the area of getting our people organised to fit into the economic life of the country, otherwise what will happen is that you will be generating a strange form of unemployment in Barbados where you have many people with basic qualification and yet they do not have the skills for jobs that might become available. Very often the kind of crash courses that you get after you leave school, and I think the Honourable Member for Christ Church East adverted to that too, the short two-week crash courses can be no replacement to have as part of an integral part of your educational system, a focus and a direction of preparation for the world of work.

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

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: There is one final point I want to make.

I believe that I would like to see and the NDP would like to see cultural activity, cultural appreciation given a higher priority in our educational system, because I believe it is through that linkage with culture, or with culture generating that linkage people will more readily appreciate that a well skilled gardener who does a good job in growing bougainvillea plant, in cutting a hedge, in trimming a tree, or a farmer who becomes an expert in the growing of a particular crop and doing well in that, is in fact performing a job that is equal to that of the traditional professions in Barbados whether it be doctor, lawyer, or whatever you like. 12.00 noon.

That is the kind of thing that the National Democratic Party will be projecting over the years and that is the kind of area of education that we will be getting involved in and this is why we are avoiding negative, sterile, political dialogue and all our interventions will be underlined and underscored by a position that would make a little more progress in Barbados, particularly for the youth and particularly for the women of Barbados because we know that the women and the youth are already on the side of the NDP. I said that I know that the women and the youth will

be on the side of the NDP. Mr. Chairman, I did say that the women and the youth are on the side of the NDP.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I wish only to make a short intervention on this matter. The Leader of the Opposition seemed to have had some difficulty to land just now and repeated about six times the women and the youth being on the side of the NDP. Obviously,.....

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

The Honourable Member is misleading the House. He repeated it three times.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Obviously, he was trying to convince himself because he was not convincing any person over here.

Let me just make this point, Sir, that on this question of education, it has to be said that the Democratic Labour Party has a record which must be the envy of the Barbados Labour Party and must be the envy of the National Democratic Party. As a matter of fact,.....

Mr. R. P. BYER: On a point of order. Let me make my position clear. The record of the Democratic Labour Party I could not be envious of that record because I was a beneficiary of the policies of the Democratic Labour Party in relation to education so I could not be envious of that. Let me make that very very clear in here.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: The Honourable Member must admit that the policy was a policy for which not only he himself benefitted but thousands of people in Barbados have benefitted. After all, they were part of the whole change which came about.

I would want to say that I also benefitted from it, in spite of my age because I was able to have free university education, thanks to the Democratic Labour Party.

Now, talking about that, let me say on the question of benefitting, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central won a Barbados Scholarship but when the Democratic Labour Party recognized that there were only a limited number of Barbados scholarships available, what did we do? In order to answer the need which we saw in this country, we created the National Development Scholarship where deserving, or, indeed, people who were qualified would be able to get these scholarships, go overseas, and pursue an area of training which would be beneficial to the development of this country and, as a matter of fact, those scholarships are, in my view, more lucrative than the Barbados Scholarship but they are scholarships that could be guided in the direction...

Aside.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: They are more financially lucrative for the winners of the National Development Scholarships. That is a fact. I know what I am talking about. I do not talk off the top of my head as some Honourable Members do.

What I am saying is that the Democratic Labour Party has a proud record in the field of education.

Now, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central got up and tried to make a point, a point which has been recognized by the Democratic Labour Party and which is being implemented in terms of related training to economic activity.

Sir, there are a lot of training programmes going on in Barbados and most of these programmes have been initiated by the Democratic Labour Party. Take, for example, the polytechnic which came out of the Technical Institute. It was the concept of the Democratic Labour Party that that particular training programme should be widened in terms of its scope and, also widened in terms of the people who could have access to the training in that area.

The Skills Training Programme - We have, also, the Barbados Community College which was established by the Democratic Labour Party against tremendous opposition by the Barbados Labour Party so that what one is seeing and what we have done in terms of being able to create institutions and the environment to answer this particular need is one which the record has to show it very clearly.

Now, it is a fact that the whole question of education and training would change because we are living in a dynamic situation.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central yesterday made reference to the changes which were introduced in, let us say, our grammar schools in terms of the whole question of language and this kind of thing which we are reaping some of the problems from that. But it is a fact that what we are doing in our education system is moving a bit more towards the technological area and, of course, trying to develop skills of our people to answer the needs which exist in this society.

When one looks through the Estimates here what one would find is that to further enhance this, we have included a token vote for adult education. There is also a statement made that there is money included for extending the Skills Training Programme to the north of Barbados and to the south of Barbados at Harrison's Point and also at Sayers Court.

Now, let me make the point that this is a direct answer to the needs and I would want to say that, obviously, this programme has to be stepped up and will be stepped up under the competent guidance of the Honourable Minister

of Education, the Member for St. George North. I think that it is important that this is recognized.

But even at another level, we have another training institution, the Barbados Institute of Management and Productivity, another creation of the Democratic Labour Party. I think the Honourable Member for St. Michael West this was one of his

Aside.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: There were a lot of them but this was one of them. He did not have the opportunity, I daresay, after we lost the elections in 1976 to function in that area. 12.10p.m.

But nevertheless we have always been supportive of that institution. And the fact of the matter is that we have to and this is what is happening the whole question of giving greater emphasis to management training, greater emphasis to training in vocational education and in technological education, all of these are the directions in which the Democratic Labour Party Administration is tending. I think it has to be said. Because what we are saying is that one is trying to give the impression that the Ministry of Education has no policy when you could see quite clearly by the way in which the institutions that we support, the way in which we try to extend even, to build on the institutions which exist

Asides.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: There is a clear indication that the Democratic Labour Party is tending in the right direction. One mentions, for example, about the purchase of computers. Everybody is talking about computer education. And we are also moving in that direction. I think it is important that one recognizes this and does not try to belittle the efforts of the Democratic Labour Party or belittle the efforts of the Minister of Education in this particular regard. Because I am saying that the efforts are of extreme.....

Aside.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES:..... importance.

Aside.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: But, Mr. Chairman, how did the St. Lucy constituency office get into this particular matter?

Aside.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: As a matter of fact, of course, we do some training programmes down there.

Aside.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Sir, there is a lot of training going on in Barbados. What is very clear is that all of this must be properly channelled and it has to be put in a position where we are able to get the best out of it. I am sure that the Ministry of Education is working in that particular direction. Because it is a fact that the Government of Barbados spends a lot of money in education and in training. A lot of money.

Sir, one cannot say that we are doing nothing in this particular area.

Now I know that one of the problems which we have in this whole question of training, I think the Member for St. Michael East referred to it this morning

Aside.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: I think it is the question of - probably yesterday then.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: St. Michael South.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: The Member for St. Michael South - the question of motivation, motivation of people for whom these programmes are designed. You know because you can have the most beautiful programmes worked out, you can spend all the money. If people are not motivated to participate then you have a difficulty. I am saying that motivation is something which, not the Government - I always make the point that the Government creates the environment it can only create the environment - it is the people for whom these programmes are designed who have to have the self motivation to participate in these things.

Sir, there are a lot of people in Barbados who want to get positions who may want to have skills but do not want to have to make the sacrifice which is necessary in this particular area. It is very important. People have to understand they must make sacrifices if they want to get anywhere in this country. This is very important.

I recall in my days as I was recalling yesterday to some of the Honourable Members in the dining room when I registered as a student at Cave Hill, Cave Hill was down at the Harbour. My last lecture used to finish at 9.00 o'clock on nights and the last bus going to Spightstown used to leave at 9.00 o'clock. Very often when a lecture finished at 9.15 I was left stranded, myself and two other guys and we had to begin walking from down at the Harbour. I had to walk to Pie Corner, well begin the walk, I never really had to finish it. But the point is, if I had not

been a person who was a self starter, a self motivator I would have turned back.

The point is a lot of people want to reach the top, and, as the General Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union always say, they want to work like grave diggers, starting at the top. Nobody wants to start, from the bottom and work their way up. I think it is very important. This point cannot be stressed too often and it is very important that we do not lose sight of that.

So what I am saying is that the linkage between economic activity and training is one which is recognized by the Democratic Labour Party. It is one which is being put into action. Even the fact that we have made provision for adult education to get started again is an indication of the Government's intention in this particular area. But what are you hearing? Honourable Members are getting up and they are speaking about the runaway expenditure. And yet each and every one of them is getting up and asking about things they want done in their particular constituencies. So on the one hand they want the Government to control expenditure and on the other, hand everything which has to be done in their constituencies must be done. How do you expect the Government to control expenditure?

What I am saying is when we put a programme together we put a programme based on what we consider that we can manage at this particular time and we must face it. No matter what Government is in office you would never be able to get everything done in a constituency at any one time. One has to understand that very clearly. A Government has a limitation to the amount of things which it can do and the amount of money which it has.

Let me finally say, Sir, that the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central looked at the Estimates and said that he noticed there has been an increase in the expenditure in personal emoluments under School Meals. Now - You mean to tell me you did not say that?

Aside.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: He said one point something million dollars increase in personal emoluments. There is a very simple answer to that, Sir, a very simple answer to that. And as I understand it the Democratic Labour Party Government was responding to the needs of the union which was representing those workers to turn them into full-time employees. So that the part-time employees are now full-time employees, therefore when a particular employee becomes a full-time employee, it means he or she is working more hours, getting more money and on top of that there is an increase which we had to negotiate and give. Therefore, the personal emoluments must increase. It is as simple as that, Sir.

Aside.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: So that I really do not understand what the fuss is all about. On the one hand everybody wants to get a good salary. Nobody is envying people that. On the other hand you want the Government to control expenditure. On the other hand you want everything done in the constituency and yet we are not controlling expenditure.

The fact of the matter is, Sir, that the Democratic Labour Party will continue to manage this economy in the way which will be of benefit to the people of this country and we know the people will recognize the good work which we are doing in this particular area of education.

Thank you, Sir.

Aside.

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

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Mr. Chairman, just a few comments. The Leader of the Opposition mentions occasionally the question about integrity, morality et cetera. I have never thought I should inflict upon myself listening to Eric Sealy and that band that roams this country. I have never listened to one of their meetings. I was told however last night that when Eric Sealy and Gordon Price and his group went into Parish Land in the Honourable Member for Christ Church East's constituency and the second time in recent occasions, that they announced that they were speaking on behalf of the NDP. I expect of course the Leader of the NDP and the other NDP Members to deny that. I would expect them to deny that. And, of course, as usual I understand that the discussion was character assassination et cetera.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: On a point of order, Sir. The Mr. Sealy in question was speaking on behalf of the NDP like he did on behalf of the Democratic Labour Party.

Aside.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: You are the person taking this high ground about new morality and everything else.

Aside.

• Mr. R. L. MORRIS: You listen to what I have to say. Listen to what I have to say. Do not clash with me on these things hear.

Aside.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: I understand that Mr. Sealy went into Parish Land and said he was speaking on behalf of the NDP.

Aside.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: You are the person talking about the new morality. And if those are your messengers who are walking about his country

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have allowed enough of that.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: abusing people

Mr. CHAIRMAN: It must stop.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: in the worst possible way, I would expect you to distance yourself from them. But that is your business.

Aside.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: I am talking on the question of morality.

Aside.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Your asides do not bother anybody. And I agree with the Leader of the Opposition, the people of Barbados can judge morality. They understand it. And that is why I am proud of this educational system. We have an educational system that will train people to distinguish between what is said and what they understand the truth to be. That is why I have no fear when you have Marxists walking about talking in Barbados because the people are trained to distinguish, to understand, to listen and to distinguish what they understand to be good for themselves from what is just general talk. It is the quality of the educational system that the Democratic Labour Party has built up. 12.20p.m.

Now a lot of people talk about the various areas of Education. They talk about the cognitive domain. They talk about the area of skills. Many people do not get into the affectual domain, attitudes - how people perceive things, how do we handle this in our schools? It is vitally important. I know it is being done because here you are talking not so much about subject matter as much as you are talking about techniques of teaching, how you introduce your subjects, and how you deal with them in the classroom and I am confident that our teachers can handle the affectual domain.

It is vitally important that we, as public persons, set certain attitudes and certain perceptions. I read the Bible a long time ago. I studied it at school - did well in it. I know how Pharisees behaved. I know Pharisaical behaviour. I know that. We all understand it. We are all people who went to school and who went to church in Barbados. We know holier than thou attitudes. We know how the Pharisees used to behave and they behave the same way

now. The type does not change. So the affectual domain is vitally important. We have to teach attitudes and choose those subjects that will bring across attitudes. I am happy with a call in Barbados for teaching about Black History and Black Studies in our country right through the educational system. It is vitally important that the affectual domain of our education be emphasized. I disagree completely with the Honourable Member for St. Thomas who earlier in this Session talked about people wanting to deify Errol Barrow. I thought that was cheap politically. Errol Barrow has to be talked about in our schools, Grantley Adams, Marcus Garvey - all of them. It has nothing to do with their deification. It has nothing whatsoever to do with their deification. It is a matter of establishing who are our significant persons, creating role models for us to follow, and teaching our children about them - not only politicians. You can select a whole round of people. Educators - you do not have to wait until they die. When they are alive and they are good educators, write about them.

Asides.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Frank Walcott is a giant. He stands tall in this country - no doubt about that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Who is Frank Walcott?

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: The Honourable .President of the Senate. There are others too. Some young people and some old who will go on to achieve greatness in this country and when the time comes they will be acknowledged because greatness is a very complex quality.

You see that is why I want people to teach things like psychology in our schools and sociology especially in the Adult Teaching Programme. When you study things like psychology you come across people like Asasenk and you know about Asasenk's quadrants of personality behaviour. You know the axis on which he analyzes personalities when he talks about stable and unstable .personalities, extroverts and introverts, and the characteristics that they display. You are able to analyse personalities from their behaviour and you are not surprised when they behave a certain way. You cannot be surprised when they behave in a certain way because you can analyse personalities. Psychology is a very important subject and those of us who have been exposed to it do not get surprised easily about human behaviour, and I believe that affectual domain has to be built up in our teaching component. This concentration on knowledge and skills will not push us where we have to go. Attitudes are vitally important and we have always to be preparing our young people in the right direction to take us forward. They should see themselves as whole persons. They should have a strong sense of identity. They should know where they came from and where they have to go. These are important things. They are not to be skirted and they would not learn that just by being exposed to technology. Technology has

to be introduced but on the top of that kind of fundamental education. If they are to become the entrepreneurs and the business people of tomorrow to take over the boardrooms, we have to make them feel that they are competent and that they have a place there. If you give them all the education ' in the world and you make them feel that they are second class or third class citizens, .they are afraid of their blackness, they are afraid of their poverty and they do not know where they have to go, then they will not be able to achieve those things no matter how much knowledge or skills you pump into them. We have to establish values and self-confidence in this country. It is vitally important. If people are trained that they are winners, they will be winners and I believe that always in our educational programme we have to look at those matters.

The second matter that I want to advert to, Mr. Chairman, relates to the very positive things that are happening at another stratum of our educational system. Where you have a good infrastructure, super structures will develop and I am pleased the way how Parent-Teachers Associations are functioning in this country where you have a National PTA Association. That shows where you are. You are a mature country - first class education and development - and you have a national PTA and PTA's remain I am pleased when I go to the Christ Church Boys School to know that the PTA is functioning excellently. Christ Church Girls School, a few yards away, the same thing is happening. St. Patrick's School - PTA's are alive and doing well and that says a lot for a democratic country and it says a lot for your educational system. I think that is a first class thing, that we need to recognize that the educational system in our country is second to none - fantastic, that is a tribute to all Barbadians when you have PTA's working and when you have Old Scholars Associations working and not only working. Some of the Old Scholars Associations have branches in the metropolitan countries. That says a lot about our educational system - a fantastic deal about our educational system, something that you should be proud about. The networks that are created between parents, children, and teachers - that web that is vitally important, that is existing in our country and parents through the PTA, can make inputs into the system. It seems to me that there has been dialogue between the Ministry of Education, continuing systematic dialogue on important issues between the Government and these institutions. That tells you a lot about the quality of the Government also. It is democracy in action. It is going pass the primary basis of education, the primary structures, into secondary and tertiary structures of our educational system.

Asides.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: And let me go on to another area that I think is vitally important. I understand that the Leader of the Opposition talked about the importance of teaching about the world in schools - vitally important throughout

the educational system I think. As I understand it, this Administration is making provision for a chair in Industrial Relations at the University of the West Indies. As far as I understand, planning is advanced.

Asides.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Pardon me. Oh, that too. We have mentioned that too. That is a completely different thing. The Institute of Democracy is to do what?

Asides.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: That is a contradiction. I hope you understand what you are talking about. The Institute of Democracy is who?

Asides.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Man, I like to take them because^ to answer them they will get a little education. So I won't deprive them. Right. A chair in Industrial Relations is vitally important. It shows that Barbados is way ahead of several countries in this world and in the Caribbean.

Asides.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Mr. Chairman, save me from my friends on the other side. Thank you.

I am saying that the response of this particular Administration, the Democratic Labour Party Administration to the demands from the workers organizations to establish a chair in Industrial Relations put this Administration way above other Administrations in Barbados and the Caribbean. The Barbados Labour Party had a record of cutting the subvention that we were getting, a subvention of \$25,000 against a Budget of \$350,000. They cut it down to \$15,000, I think. 12.30 p.m.

Aside.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: The Democratic Labour Party restored the subvention, has decided to increase it further, and they are going to establish a chair in industrial relations. I do not have to tell you how important industrial relations is within the context of a country like ours where most of our people are workers and where we are thinking in* terms of further industrial expansion.

Aside.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Most of our people are workers, yes.

Aside.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: It is different from the United States of America where a lot of people are small businessmen and so on.

Aside

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: I know you are a worker too, a self employed worker, but a worker nonetheless. I know you are a trade unionist too, but I am saying that this shows an enlightened administration. I notice the National Democratic Party did not put labour in their title at all. I am glad. It might confuse issues a little more. It is national, it is democratic without putting in labour too. I mean you cannot put on five characteristics and so on, so if you are national and you are democratic I guess we will be satisfied with that, but you will be saying that you are labour too but you could not include it, it would make it a little too long.

So in fact you have two labour parties. One started as a labour party and carries the label because it is still convenient, and you have then a real labour party, the Democratic Labour Party, but we do not call it the RDLP, the R is understood. The Democratic Labour Party is the real labour party. The Barbados Labour Party was a labour party. I am not distorting history. It was a labour party. I am not rewriting history. It was a labour party. The NDP now has apparently Mr. Goddard under its wing, from what I understand. They understand the need to have a mass based organisation, so they stole Goddard. I do not think they have his Union, but they have Goddard.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. It pains me, in the light of such truth, to draw this Standing Order to Your Honour, but since the Honourable Member is going down the road to even name names, Sir, I draw your attention to Standing Order 66(7) which reads as follows:

"On the motion That the sum of \$.. for Head stand part,' the debate shall be confined to the policy of the service for which the money is to be provided and not deal with the details of expenditure, but may refer to the details of revenue or funds for which that service is responsible."

I draw it to Your Honour's attention, Sir, because it is clear to me that if we do not enforce this rule, that this Head is going to be discussed in terms that have nothing whatsoever to do with education.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order. I rise to support the Honourable Minister of Health who is in fact saying that the speech of the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central is totally irrelevant and should be curtailed by the Chair.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, I would ask that those remarks be struck. I merely drew the Order to Your Honour's attention.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The point made by the Honourable Member for St. Michael West is well taken. It is the position that I have been asking Members to observe for some time.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central can conclude in two minutes.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Thank you very much, Sir. The Chairman rules in this Chamber and he allowed me to speak. It could not be irrelevant.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I shall have no more interruptions of that nature.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: I remember the ruling of the Honourable Member for St. George South that if the point was introduced, then you had the right to respond to the point, so I could not be irrelevant, not in that context.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Can I ask the Honourable Members for St. George South and the City of Bridgetown to observe the rules of this Chamber?

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: As I was saying, Mr. Chairman, I believe that the money that is to be spent in relation to labour education is money that is being well spent and that it is part of the Democratic Labour Party's policy to make sure that the educational programme in this country is varied so that all domains of education are dealt with.

My concluding point, Mr. Chairman. I would like the Minister to speak to the issue of the money that is placed in the Estimates to relate to the erection of statues. In relation to an estimate that comes under Current, there is going to be provision for a national orchestra, but the relation I want to make is this. It is fine to have a national orchestra. I feel it is very important. Why I am asking about the statue relates not only to the actual physical structure, but as to whether or not we are satisfied that in terms of development of the arts in Barbados that we can easily, for instance, call on a Barbadian sculptor. Are there Barbadian sculptors who can design, draw and plan these statues? Because we can vote money for the erection of statues, but we might not have the local expertise, and that is why to me it is vitally important that we can go for a level of expertise in all areas.

We want to get a national orchestra. That is true. We also need to be sure that we have not just world class calypsonians - and we have quite a number of those - but we need also world class sculptors, and therefore I was just suggesting that anything that can be done in the area of ensuring that the Fine Arts Section at Community College is given the resources to develop skills at not just the normal graduating levels, but that we can turn out a number of sculptors in Barbados so that when we have these things

to be done we do not have to import sculptors to create structures for Barbados. That really was my concern, about whether we were finding difficulties, if there had been an attempt to find a sculptor but there were difficulties in getting sculptors to do what we have to do.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: At last I caught your eye Sir. Mr. Chairman, I am not going to respond to 'anything that the last speaker said as to whether the Barbados Labour Party was or is a labour party. That was the greatest party, it was very cohesive. It was the party that in 1986 never found it offensive that Mr. Eric Sealy was supporting it, and Members on that side echoed a number of the things Mr. Sealy was saying. All of a sudden, today you hear that Mr. Sealy was supporting the NDP and he is the worst thing in the world. I am not getting into that area.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I wish you would not.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The public will judge, let me just put it in the record. What I thought at one stage we were concerned about in this debate, at least as prompted by the Leader of the Opposition, was that there was concern that though the Minister has dealt with the numbers..... 12.40 p.m.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: On a point of order, I just want to correct something that the Honourable Member for St. Thomas said. I did not say that Mr. Sealy and others are speaking on behalf of the NDP. I said that a spokesman of that group said so. I did not speak of the quality of Mr. Sealy either. I have not made any qualitative comment about Mr. Sealy as a person.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let us proceed through with the rest of this debate without mention of that. It is nothing to do with the matter under consideration.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, what I understand to be the concern of Members most particularly articulated by the Leader of the Opposition was that in relation to education the debate...

Can you control them, Sir, and let me get on?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will in a very short while if it continues.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I appeal to the Chair who has responsibility for it. Sir, I think we were concerned that in the Minister's presentation he tended to deal only with the bare numbers and that the House expected something as it were more philosophical, or putting it another way, the House expected an inter-relationship between the actual numbers and the kind of broad policy or philosophical position that informed these numbers, and we have been sadly treated to a response to questions and I compliment the Minister for that. He has been very thorough in

responding to questions, but on the other hand, sadly, we have been left bereft of any kind of policy formulation that would tell us what was the vision, if there is one, for educational development in Barbados. It may be, as I said yesterday, that certainly as between the "Bs" and the "Ds" the formulation of policy and the gradual development of educational objectives have been so closely linked between the two parties that there is not a lot of scope for radical divergence. That may be so, but I am not shadowing Education and that is how it appears to me.

I understand the concerns of Honourable Members that this manifesto of the Democratic Labour Party seems to have set out a number of policy objectives albeit in very terse form, albeit platitudinous sometimes to the point of being empty. As an example I never like to speak without example. The last one: bring a fresh and enlightened approach to the administration of education. Question: what does that mean? Question: what does it imply? Question: what are the specifics of that broad and enlightened approach, and if it is being done would the Minister then give us some examples of this broad and enlightened approach? It is a lot of words; using words as words.

Let us look at culture because I think we have had little debate on culture so far. The Democratic Labour Party promised on page 25 of the manifesto:

"In spite of the recent upsurge in the performing arts the DLP is still not satisfied that enough is being done to maintain the momentum. Struggling musicians, actors, dancers and other artists are not getting the training necessary to perfect their skills and talents. The Party will therefore:

(1) Establish a school of Music.

Now that is a specific.

(2) Establish a school of Theatre Arts.

(3) Establish a school of Dance."

I would want to hear from the Minister if these three have been done. If they have not been done, what is the time frame for the implementation of these three schools, and where are you going to site them? Have you done any planning at all or am I stepping too fast? Later on you go on:

"It is imperative for the country that the artistic talents of the youth should be exposed -to and incorporated in the entire tourist package. Therefore our cultural activity should be used as a showcase for Barbados. The Party will strive to establish:

1) A National Dance Theatre Company

2) A National Theatre

3) A National Orchestra"

All right. \$60 000 is voted this year for the National Orchestra in Capital, but we are dealing with current and there is no money being shown in Current to make this thing function. So they are going to buy the instruments, \$60 000 of them and put them there, and musical instruments, I know about them, if you don't play them, the valves will seize up. I know the Minister is trying to do his incompetent best, I understand that clearly, but I want him to explain

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, I think there was a slight misrepresentation in his language as it came out. He said he knows the Minister is doing his.....and he intended to say best but he said another word. I think that it should be struck from the record. I am not repeating it; I do not think it should be in the record. He is playing a word game. I think the word should be struck from the record. .

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The Deputy Prime Minister has been out of here all morning, he comes in here now, I had left the appellation Rambo for someone else, and he has come in and assumed that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Can we have better behaviour? An Honourable Member is on his feet.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You have a vote for \$60 000 and you have nothing on the Current side to show what you are doing. He is so empty.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, so far this morning we have enjoyed very high standards of behaviour in this House until the arrival of the Deputy Prime Minister and I want to draw it to your attention that you have the authority to send him out if he continues with that kind of behaviour.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I hope that is not intended to be a reflection on the Chair.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, you were in here the year before and in respect of the Glebe Polyclinic a similar error occurred, and we explained to Government at the time that it was an obvious error, oversight or whatever and Government corrected it. I am trying to draw that to the attention of the Minister of Education. The Deputy Prime Minister says it is ignorance, but it was not ignorance two years ago. Why doesn't he keep quiet and stop displaying his own ignorance? 12.50p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let us proceed, please.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I wish to know, Sir, where does the Ministry propose to have this national orchestra? How many members will constitute the orchestra? How will they be drawn from schools? You go and pick the two best from various schools where music is being played*or whatever? What are they proposing to do? We want some information about it.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The Minister must know. Do not tell me the Minister does not know. He must know because we are doing it in here.

I am grateful to the Minister in an aside, Sir. He said I saw the national orchestra performed already. I do not know where that was but if that is so, if it has been performing already.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Thomas has he concluded his address?

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You hear me conclude my speech?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No. Please continue.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: How can I conclude when four on that side are talking and three over here are talking and you are sitting there and allowing it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I did ask you to continue.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Invoke the Standing Orders that says that a member must be heard in silence. We do not mind asides. We do it all the time but that was outrageous, four and three and I am standing here in the middle.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: But, Sir, the note in respect of the National Orchestra provides for the development of the National Orchestra. The Minister said I have seen it already so it means that it is ongoing and this is for additional instruments or something? I do not know of its existence so I am grateful if the Minister would remind me later on when he replies, Sir.

I wish to ask him, Sir, since they promise to establish a School of Music, a School of Theatre Arts, and a School of Dance, it then went on to say that these would all be included in the curriculum as divisions of the Barbados Community College.

The Minister can probably tell us whether, in fact, these have been included in the curriculum as divisions in the Barbados Community College, if not, when is it intended for them to be included?

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Well, all right. I am entitled to that five years but I am entitled to test Government as to whether it is planning and whether it is sticking to its' Manifesto Bearing in mind that a few weeks ago the Prime Minister of this country said they had almost implemented 80% of the Manifesto so I just want to hear if this is in the 20 that has not been done yet.

In the Development Plan at page 209 the development of the National Orchestra is shown. The planned expenditure, capital expenditure was \$200 000 for 1988 or 1989. None of the other matters to which I alluded when they talk of five years and five years not finished, none of the other matters to which I alluded, school of music, theatre arts, school of dance, national theatre, national dance theatre Co. not one of them is in the Ministry of Education and Culture's capital projects as shown in the Development Plan for the period 1988 to 1993. I am left to conclude that they do not intend in the next five years, the next 18 months that they have as a Government to do what is promised on page 25 of this Manifesto.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

On motion of Hon. B. M. TAITT seconded by Hon. M. A. KING, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress to His Honour The Speaker and asked for leave to sit again and Mr. SPEAKER resumed, the Chair and reported accordingly.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House be now suspended until 2 o'clock.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: I beg to second that.

The question that the House be suspended until 2.00 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the House accordingly. 1.00p.m.

ON RESUMPTION

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

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House reverted to Committee of Supply, Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE in the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee of Supply. The Honourable Member for the ^ity.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I really only rise for a very short intervention because, like many Honourable Members, I should like us to move on to some other Heads also.

When the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East spoke on this Head, I was very heartened to hear him say that when one is looking at education, one may need to look at it in a much broader sense and recognize the fact that the Honourable Members in this Chamber must also see themselves in a sense as educators. I took that to mean, and I hope I am right, that we should be leading by example. I would think that that is part of what the Honourable Member might have intended when he said that we should also be educators.

When the Honourable Member went on to what I could call go a bit off track and started talking about things like us having some difficulty with morality and integrity, the Honourable Member should understand that when the NDP talks about morality and integrity, none of us has ever stated that we have a monopoly on it. And when we say that, we must not take it to mean that we do not believe that there are any other Honourable Members who can also possess morality and integrity. A person being bang-on with ideas does not mean that they are immoral or have no integrity. A disabled person can have integrity too.

Aside.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Well, if you are discredited, it depends on what you are discredited for.

Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central mentioned and asked the Honourable Minister of Education what, if anything, was being done about a programme regarding the abuse of drugs at the school level. I believe the Honourable Minister said that there is a psychologist or a psychiatrist and the police are looking into it, I think those were his words, and it was just passed over as far as I am concerned.

When the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East got up to speak I honestly thought that he was going to repeat the call of the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central and to bring us into some debate regarding the whole question of drug abuse particularly as it relates to the schools. Because, Sir, I remember clearly when I was with the Democratic Labour Party that same Honourable Member was the one who spent a lot of time trying to enlighten us and to educate us on something that I believe all Honourable Members appreciate is a very serious problem as it relates to the socio-economic development of this country.

But, Sir, we have to understand that we cannot on the one hand say that it is a serious problem and even accept that it is a serious problem and then when we come to a

point like this in this Debate we do not get a satisfactory answer as to what is the programme. Is there a rehabilitation programme for those unfortunate children who may already be hooked? That is the kind of question we want to hear answered by the Honourable Minister of Education.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: On a point of elucidation, Sir. I do not think a rehabilitation centre is part of education.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I believe the Honourable Minister was not listening. I never spoke of a rehabilitation centre. I asked if there is any rehabilitation programme connected with schools? If we are to believe what the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East has said on more than one occasion in the campaign in 1986 that there were people selling confectionery and certain indigenous fruit. I heard an Honourable Member yesterday say, what dunks what? I do not know what the indigenous fruit were. But dunks is one of the indigenous fruit of Barbados. And some are using that as a vehicle to get young children involved in the feeling or whatever happens when you are involved in drugs. I do not know the feeling. I do not know what happens because I have never been involved.

But the question is a very serious one. And the Honourable Minister must tell us more than just the part that the Police are dealing with it and that there is a psychologist. If he is going to tell us that then he should also tell us that he came and found that there already. He should also tell us that that may have been a programme that was there from the last administration. So therefore it is nothing new. And the way the drug culture is spreading, it is a dynamic thing. There is something new happening every day. We have to keep pace with it.

Aside.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: When we talk about morality and integrity these are the kinds of things you are talking about. You cannot say one thing then and say something else now! You have to be consistent. You cannot go around the country educating the people that we have this serious problem and that a Democratic Labour Party Administration will come with the answers to this problem. And now that you are the Administration, tell me that the only answers are the ones you found there already. There is something wrong with that. That is inconsistent.

So if the Honourable Minister wants to know what I am talking about, this is what I am talking about.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael South East was talking about us being educators. And I heard the Honourable Prime Minister say you have to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. If you are going to follow that line of thinking, then you have to behave in a

way that makes people understand - the example that you have to set must make people understand that you are still telling the truth. 2.10p.m.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael South East has told me often enough that he and I used to share the same philosophy. As long as he has not left the moorings, we still share the same philosophy because I have not moved. I believe he was right then and he will be right now if he gets up and asks the Honourable Minister what is happening with that programme, and we do not want an answer as simple as that. There is a psychologist here and the police are looking into it.

Asides.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: The Honourable Member for St. Michael South East as a professional person knows that once you get a certain way down the line with mind altering drugs there is almost no return. I am not a medical doctor. I am asking. He may be able to tell me. It is not a matter of trying to set anybody up.

Asides.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Oh, you are not talking to me. Oh, because my point is clear. People saw the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East as the person

Asides.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: ...Well, it will never be clear to you. It will never be clear to you. Nothing is clear to you. Not you, Mr. Chairman. The Honourable Member for St. Michael South East was seen by all and sundry. You are talking about Education. He was seen by all and sundry across Barbados, on call-in programmes, on political platforms, whenever he had the opportunity as one of those people who was going to go in there once the Democratic Labour Party was brought to Government and make sure that meaningful things were done to start, tackling this drug problem. I am not trying to say that it is a small problem. It is not a little problem. But if we do not start tackling it in a meaningful way, it only becomes a bigger problem because it continues to grow everyday. I know and I am sure, Mr. Chairman, that the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East will not disagree with that.

There were some serious things said in the Manifesto regarding the whole matter of drugs...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Under the Head of Education?

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Under the Head of Education in the Manifesto? Mr. Chairman, I am talking about drugs as it affects education, as it affects schools.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Well, I would like us to relate to that

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I am responding to what the Member for St. Michael South East said. He said that we ourselves in here must serve as educators. We must educate the people and I said, Sir, that I interpreted that to mean that we should lead by example. I do not think that any of us in here are school teachers, so he cannot mean it in that sense. I do not see anybody in here in a classroom setting, so he had to mean it in a broader sense and I am sure that is what he meant. If the Honourable Member for St. James South does not understand what he meant or what I am responding to, he can probably ask him. I am not here to enlighten him. I am not here to teach him.

(Asides: Dr. R. C. HAYNES: You cannot enlighten him. He is ineducable.)

Asides.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: There is nothing wrong...

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the Honourable Member of the City continue?

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Well Sir, I am trying to but the Member for St. James South seems to want to speak from his seat.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Well, I am listening to you.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: You do not see anybody over there. We do not see anybody over here.

I believe that the whole question of educating people - normally after lunch the blood goes to the digestive system and it makes you sleepy. It has nothing to do with boring. If this is boring then we have got a serious problem. The whole question of drugs, you should start teaching it from the primary school level. We have seen reports and those of us who have constituencies like the Honourable Attorney General, where there is a serious drug problem on the streets - he knows what I am speaking of - we have seen where young children are being used as watchmen. I think that was one report.

Asides.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: You know, Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for St. James South, whenever we have to deal with things of a serious nature, the same poor people that he talks about defending, he always likes to make fun of. The only thing he seems to want to talk seriously about is planting flowers on the Spring Garden.

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

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Two minutes, Sir. Okay, well let me make one other quick point.

Asides.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: There was a question that was raised during the Democratic Labour Party's campaign in 1986. Yes, I raised that question too when I was with the Democratic Labour Party. We had heard that there was a bad plan at the School Meals Department where the last administration was supposed to be giving the children more than 50% of what I call "bread meals" - sandwiches and there was a lot of concern expressed among us then as to the nutrition of the children. What I would like the Minister to tell us now is if that has changed and to what extent it has changed in terms of the School Meals Department. We still are waiting for an answer as to where the chickens for the School Meals Department are coming from. I thank you, Sir.

Asides.

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for the City has raised a number of problems in relation to the drug problem in Barbados and he has perhaps launched a bit of an unwarranted attack on the Minister of Education.

Asides.

Hon. M. A. KING: Well, the Minister will probably tell you the details in due course. But the point, I think, was being made in a debate on Education dealing with a substantive matter which does not fall under the Ministry of Education - the drug problem does not really fall under the Ministry of Education. Yes, it is a topic which I will deal fully with in the process of time as well if we get there. But the point was being made that we had made a statement about dealing with the drug problem in the Manifesto and that we were doing absolutely nothing about it. That is not true, Mr. Chairman. Everybody knows that. The fact is, Mr. Chairman...

Asides.

Hon. M. A. KING: You see that, Mr. Chairman. You see that. That is integrity, Sir.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am going to...

Hon. M. A. KING: There are lots of persons.,

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the Honourable Member just hold on a minute? I am going to make this statement I think for the last time today at least, that I am not going to accommodate any loud asides from either side of this Chamber. It is disrupting the debate and I think that we can get on much faster if we are without it. The Honourable Member may proceed.

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, there are distortions and there are distortions and there are a number of us in this Chamber and the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central knows very well who are capable of doing a lot of intellectual gymnastics. I have been trained, I believe, in the use of language and I know how to use language, I know how to understand language, and I know how to make the distinction between what is said and what is not said, and what is meant by what is said.

I want to get back to the problem of drugs first before I divert to deal with the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, or to respond to him. This Government, Mr. Chairman, - I do not know how I got in this debate on Education though - but we have set up a national co-ordinating committee under my chairmanship to deal with the drug problem in Barbados and that committee is designed to co-ordinate the efforts of law enforcement which falls directly under my control, the Police, Customs which falls under the Ministry of Finance, the efforts of the Ministry of Health in relation to the health and rehabilitation aspects of the problem, and the Ministry of Education which will deal with the education and the public information aspects of the problem. Now what it means essentially is that each of these separate sub-sectors is required to have plans in their own Departments to deal with the problem from the perspective of their own Departments. The Health Programme has to be considered as being a full programme. It is being worked on at the moment in the Ministry of Education to deal with the problems of public information and highlighting the problems to the schools and to bring all the necessary information to the schools and to the children who need to be informed about the nature of the problem, about the dangers which result from use of illegal drugs. So that the Ministries in their various subsectors are working their programmes out, and I think Honourable Members over there know it. 2.20 p.m.

The programme has not yet been finalised, of course, but there is a whole lot of research being done into the most effective way of dealing with the problem and we are getting the benefit of the experience of some of the more developed countries in this regard, countries around us in the region, and that total experience is being analysed and assessed with a view to determining what is the best approach to dealing effectively with the problem in Barbados. But I do not want to spend a lot of time on that because I indicated, and the Minister could let you know,

the vast amount of work which has been done in the Ministry of Education in relation to this problem. You will recall that some time ago the Prime Minister had appointed a Special Assignments Officer in the Ministry of Education to deal with that problem.

But that is only one aspect of the problem, the educational aspect, and that is what the Special Assignments Officer had been appointed to do and had done a considerable amount of work in relation to the educational subsector of the programme. I do not want to spend any more time on that, Mr. Chairman.

A couple of other responses before I look at this issue of distortion. The Honourable Member for St. Thomas had raised a question, I think it was yesterday, in relation to the legal drafting course and what the position was in relation to that. I believe the Minister either yesterday or today had said that there were ten persons on the drafting course. There are ten persons on the course, but from Barbados there is only one person and that is the number which is available to Barbados.

There was some question about the course being discontinued at the Cave Hill Campus. You will note that that course has been organised by the CFTC, the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation. They are the persons who fund the course and who meet the expenses of the students who are involved in the course. There is a number of students from the African and South Pacific countries who participate in that course and there has been the feeling by the administrators of the programme that because so many of the students come from Africa and the South Pacific region, that the course should perhaps more appropriately be centred in one of the countries of Africa. I have been in dialogue with the organisers of the course with a view to trying to get them to continue with the course in the Caribbean, and they have responded to me, but it really does not matter too much, because even if the course is transferred to Africa the fact is that the CFTC meets the cost of the students, but it would just mean that the students from Barbados and the other islands of the Caribbean would have to go to Africa instead, but we will try all that we can with the help of the people at the Cave Hill Campus to try and persuade the CFTC administrators to permit the course to remain in Barbados.

In relation to the Lodge School, some question was raised about whether the problem with the former Headmaster had been sorted out. I have met with the lawyers of the former Headmaster and we have reached an agreement on settlement. The details are more or less agreed, but they relate to aspects of calculation of salary and the actual money details are to be worked out, but that is no major problem. All it needs is for the people to come together and work the actual details out. But you will recall that that is a problem which was created not out of our

making. The whole point was that the Headmaster of the Lodge School...

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Sir. That is not correct. The Barbados Labour Party never appointed that gentleman to the post of Headmaster of the Lodge School. It is the appointor who has created the problem.

Hon. M. A. KING: I am sorry, Mr. Chairman. I do not understand the nature of the intervention. I never said anything about who appointed the Headmaster.

Asides.

Hon. M. A. KING: But you rose on a point of order. The Honourable Member, Mr. Chairman, rose on a point of order, and as one speaker did say, it is no more than a point of disorder or point of interruption really, because it bore no relevance at all to anything which I was saying.

I was making the point, Mr. Chairman, that the dismissal, not the appointment, of the former Headmaster of the Lodge School was done otherwise than in accordance with the procedures which had been laid down for his dismissal. It was not a proper and effective dismissal and it created all sorts of problems. It created problems which eventually up to a point ended up in the courts. The substantive case is still in the courts, but we have settled and we will avoid all the problems which could possibly arise from litigation. So that that matter in the next few weeks should be relegated to the realms of history and should be effectively disposed of.

Before I conclude, Mr. Chairman, let me just now say a word about this talk about integrity and morality and all that which we are hearing about. The Honourable Members over there, our erstwhile colleagues, accuse us of lacking in integrity.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, the NDP...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On what have you risen?
2.30 p.m.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, the Honourable Member has said that we accused them of lacking in morality and integrity. We have made no such statement about any political party. What we have said is what is our position in relation to integrity and morality and we invite you to join us.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The point is made

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, do I understand the Honourable Leader of the Opposition to be saying now that he has not been accusing Honourable Members of this Cabinet of lacking in integrity and morality?

, Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is what I understand.

Hon. M. A. KING: That is the impression which I got. I am being generous. I am not talking about any position. I am talking about what the Honourable Members of the National Democratic Party and the Leader of the Opposition have accused the members of this Cabinet of. I do not have a problem. You are accusing us of lacking in integrity and morality, and I am saying that for my own self, Mr. Chairman, and I am sure for my colleagues we resent that kind of accusation, and I will say to the Honourable Leader of the Opposition that he should not pursue that line too far because we will have to respond in the appropriate manner with the facts. The point is, if the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central has a fight with someone and wishes to quarrel with someone or wishes to curse someone, he should do so. But the Honourable Member, Mr. Chairman, accused us in this Cabinet of forcing him to alter the Estimates and perhaps to falsify the figures, the Cabinet under the chairmanship of the late Rt. Honourable Member for St. John, and to suggest that we misrepresent the financial position of the country to the public of Barbados and to this House. Now what could be more destructive than that kind of statement? If you are saying that we as a Cabinet did that in which you participated that is a serious indictment on all of us and on you, and who would believe...

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, the Honourable Member is seeking to mislead this Honourable House in this regard. If there is a difference between a Ministry and the general feeling in the Cabinet on the revenue Estimates, one may be right, one may be wrong particularly when you are in a grey area at a particular time. That is no reflection on your colleagues. What I think is a reflection is when someone seeks to dissociate himself from that and then pin responsibility on someone else. I don't think that you are going down the correct line in this matter.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Point made!

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, those of us who have served in Cabinets know how Estimates come to Cabinet; we know how Estimates come, and we know how Budgets are dealt with. The Minister of Finance has almost total responsibility in these areas. Revenue Estimates which come in these documents are nothing that any Cabinet Member can make any pronouncement on. They are brought to Cabinet as a draft. The book of Estimates, that is what you see, is all printed and concluded and completed.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, the matter that I referred to was brought long before, weeks before the Estimates were actually printed, because the question arose whether one would not need further general support in order to cut the expenditure side of the Estimates, and that was brought there before the Estimates were printed, and you know that too. You may have forgotten.

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, if the Honourable Member's quarrel is with the Chairman of the Cabinet, let him tell the House and the public that; don't drag us in other problems. If you had a problem with the Chairman of a Cabinet, it is not convenient for you to admit that you quarrelled with the Chairman of the Cabinet over this issue. If you had a problem with the Chairman of the Cabinet, say so, and if the problem was so intense that you had a moral objection against it, if in principle you could not accept it, resign. In principle you could not agree with the Prime Minister when he made appointments to the Central Bank and the Director of Finance and Planning, and you said in principle you resigned. So I am saying if you are sticking to principle, if you rely so heavily on principle and integrity, follow the same procedure.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, the Honourable Member I think, needs to have his memory jolted because the matter that I referred to was not a matter of any major dispute. The matter I am talking about is not a matter of major dispute; it was a matter of a judgment for assistance in a judgment in relation to revenue levels as opposed to expenditure cuts, and there was no quarrel over that particular matter. I think you are confusing bringing the finished Estimates to a particular place and you have forgotten the prior document for which advice was sought; so I do not think you should mislead the public in that matter by suggesting that there was some dispute over the matter. It is not true. There was no dispute over that particular matter that you are referring to.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Point made!

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, I am not going to dwell too much more on this, but if the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central is saying that there was no dispute over the matter, what I don't understand is the way in which it was introduced yesterday suggesting that this Cabinet was wicked and did some wicked thing about that.

Aside.

Hon. M. A. KING: If it was a grey area and ? matter of judgment, then the matter should not be an issue. It was being raised and dealt with yesterday as if it was something criminal the Cabinet was doing.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: If the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central wishes to address the Chair, he should do so by rising to his feet.

Hon. M. A. KING: I really do not want to dwell on this, Mr. Chairman. I hope that the matter is cleared up now.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I am not speaking on the Head of Cabinet now. Maybe we will reach

that Head and the serious constitutional implications of the revelations of the last two days will be talked about at that time in the manner in which it ought to be talked about.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, as a Member of the Cabinet I will not have the former Leader of the Opposition and a leader of a political party getting up and talking about serious revelations. The Honourable Attorney General has just spoken. He heard the exchange and he heard that the matter is rested. Don't let there be any cloud.

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: You can do what you like on Sunday night, but in here let the record show that there was no serious revelation. That is the kind of mystery that will enshroud this issue. Let the facts come out. If you want to quarrel with the Leader of the Opposition, quarrel with the Leader of the Opposition. What revelations? 2.40 p.m.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I began by saying that I am not discussing any matter under the Cabinet now but when we get to the Head of Cabinet, if we get there in this Chamber in the Committee of Supply. In my view, the serious implications of the revelations made on the Floor of the House by both sides of the House will be dealt with and explained to the country in the way it ought to be explained to the country.

Now, Sir, I wish to speak on some aspects of this Head on which no notice has been focussed up to now and, Sir, my principle concern for speaking is the information of a couple of days ago that Presentation College, one of the outstanding private schools in Barbados was closing its doors.

I am concerned about the future of the private schools in Barbados because although it has been part of the educational policy of the country that private schools should be encouraged and that the important contribution which they were making to education should be recognized, it seems to me that with the continual expansion of physical places within the school system that private schools will more and more come under pressure.

From 1981, certainly, under the Barbados Labour Party, we increased our financial assistance to these schools and gave them assistance particularly in three main areas with the payment of the salaries of teachers. We increased it on two occasions. It was the continuation of the policy of the former Government.

We also raised the subvention, I believe, it was from \$2 500 to \$4 000 in respect of each subject offered on the school curriculum in specialists subjects like Science,

Commercial Studies and Home Economics and there was an expansion of the Ministry's Bursary Programme.

There were also some other areas in which assistance was given including waiver of Customs duties on various aids which were used in the schools but what has happened through the years, Sir, is that the schools are finding it difficult from a fee structure and fee system to maintain the type of institution that one would hope could be maintained at the secondary school level.

Even in the primary area the St. Patricks School, for instance, in Bay Street, that school has now launched an appeal because the school fee system which it has had to introduce is not, by any stretch of the imagination, catering to the full cost of their students.

I wish to know from the Minister what ongoing discussions, if any, there are with the proprietors of private schools to try to discuss the serious problems confronting them. Very few of them really have the resources to look after their capital need.

Codrington High School which is next door to my residence has been under severe strain. It has a good Chairman on its Board of Governors, either present or only recently retired, I am not sure if he is yet retired, a Permanent Secretary, and the Honourable Member for St. John and myself, are supposed to be enlisted in trying to bring to the Floor of this House a Bill in order to increase the powers of the school to borrow money but the school is typical of some other schools.

The plant there is dilapidated and decrepit and run down in many respects. The prospects of using public funds for assisting them are very limited and it seems to me that wherever possible we should be able to listen to some joint venture arrangement in relation to these schools if we are to maintain them as part of our educational structure and my concern continues to be deep because I understand that a few other of these secondary schools are under similar financial pressure.

Sir, the other point to which I wish to advert concerns the Council of Legal Education. I am sorry that the Honourable Member for West Central has spoken before he had heard me on this point but let me right away declare an interest.

My interest in the matter has been there because I am a lawyer and at one stage I had some governmental responsibility for the subject of Legal Education but my immediate interest is spurred on by the fact that I have a son who will shortly enter into private practice in a couple of months within the Caribbean and my research reveals that the recent changes in the agreement between the participating territories has created all sorts of anomalies.

Because my son has dual nationality of St. Vincent and Barbados, he is entitled, for instance, to go without any further attachment in Trinidad and practice in St. Vincent. Peculiarly enough, because of Trinidad's own internal laws, he can also obtain the right to practice in St. Vincent having qualified with a degree in Law and, hopefully, he will qualify at the Utter Bar of the Middle Temple which is a professional qualification. But, the legislation of Barbados prevents him from so doing whereas the legislation of St. Vincent and St. Kitts, for instance, some of the other territories, to do so.

It seems to me that this system cannot continue because if he comes out at the same time, and I am using him as an example although I do not want to bring my family into any debate, Sir, as another Vincentian who does not have dual nationality, that Vincentian can be admitted in St. Vincent and by reciprocity have the right to practice in Barbados and elsewhere and it seems to me pointless to continue these types of anomalies in the educational system.

Anyhow, Sir, when I see graduates from our University of the West Indies in the legal field I am always pleased to comment on the very high standard which they have attained in their LLB. Degree. It seems to me that they are getting a very good grounding in Law and that, frankly, the two year programme, particularly, the two year programme, at the Hugh Wooding Law School is a waste of human and financial resources and we should now be big enough to understand that we have to revise that programme in the light of the real needs of the legal profession and in the light of the experience which we have gained in the past few years since we have implemented a faculty of law..

It is a little better at the Norman Manley Law School but all of the students have been complaining about the programme and legal education, I think, now demands that we really do something to improve the curriculum and to shorten, perhaps, the five year programme which we have been running for some time particularly since we have been maintaining the students and I think with justification that they obtain more benefit from their in-service training programmes than they have been obtaining from just studying and repeating in Trinidad what they have studied here in Barbados. 2.50 p.m.

The other Head to which I should like to refer, Mr. Chairman, Sir, is the Head of Special Education. I note that there is, within the coming Estimates, provision for a subvention for two of the institutions, again private institutions which cater to this special need of these very special children. The Minister in his introductory remarks said that it is intended to expand, I believe, these programmes in the primary schools. There are I believe

two, if not three primary schools that have some programme for special children.

But it seems to me that we have to go the next stage and the sad need of the children now is for sheltered workshop conditions, a form of vocational training for them because after the special child reaches a certain age, he or she can no longer really take in any more formal learning. And they need, however, an environment, a sheltered workshop environment within which to continue to exercise the skills that they have. Research has shown that many of these children in some fields perform much better than even the brightest normal child.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You have one minute.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Therefore, we should pay some regard to our continuing responsibility, particularly having regard to the provisions of the Education Act, our continuing responsibility to assist these very special children.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, we have had a long debate on this Head. No doubt the reason for the long debate has to do with interest displayed not only by the Members in this Chamber but, indeed, by members throughout the community and maybe indeed throughout the world.

Before I make a summary, because I am sure you want to get on to some other Heads, I should like to make a few replies on the last few points raised. The question of the personal emoluments raised by the Leader of the Opposition was addressed. We have placed the people in full-time employment rather than part-time. We have put on the servers. So, therefore, that must be increased. That was dealt with.

The question and the whole question of the School of Dance and the Theatre Arts, that whole programme is being intertwined with the Community College* as was raised rightfully by the representatives.

The other area, Super Poultry is the producer and the supplier of chicken. The meals were extended, the other question by the Honourable Member for the City, meals were extended not only to the current schools but to the Challenor School as well as the Roman Catholic School.

The question raised by the Member for Christ Church West, the fifteen assisted secondary schools. Yes, we know of the situation with Presentation. Indeed, because of the ongoing dialogue with the Ministry we were alerted and we were asked specifically by the Presentation not to alarm either parents or, indeed, the public because they first, according to the Education Act, had to approach the Ministry, to get the approval and before they could go to the public, either to the parents or the students or indeed to

anyone, they came back, having done that, with their decision. It is unfortunate that the decision is what has been recorded.

Now it was mentioned, there is the pressure in terms of places and there is the pressure in terms of dollars. The pressure in terms of places is linked directly to the dollars. In these private secondary schools, as the Government and private industry increases the salaries of teachers or other workers, it is obvious that the teachers at these institutions then ask for an increase as well. Now when they ask for an increase, we know the next logical step. That increase is just then passed on to or requested of the students attending the school.

Currently we provide an upper range of 2 900 bursaries. They fluctuate. We provide the bursaries and we also provide salaries for some teachers at each of the secondary schools. We also provide funds in selected subject areas. There has been discussion not only with Presentation, there has been discussion, as was mentioned by the Honourable Member for Christ Church West, with Codrington High. Indeed he is correct when he mentioned his association with the Honourable Member for St. John. We have discussed that. There has been discussion yes, with St. Patrick's. They are concerned as well. But they have, as they put it, they have a special problem as they say because they figure that when students are identified as being of a certain, how should I put it, group from within the community. Of course, as I said earlier, there was discussion with Presentation.

But the question being asked as to whether or not we would increase any of these areas, we must remember we cannot discriminate or appear to be discriminating. So if we just increase for one or two, we will have to increase for all. And, therefore, that will be additional cost.

But we know, as parents find it more difficult to pay the dollars day by day, there are requests for children to come into the Government Secondary Schools. That is why we are looking into the whole programme on a regular basis, analysing the enrolment at each secondary school. I would also state that the whole policy in support of secondary schools is not discriminatory as might have been said from time to time. I will not give all the details but the most money being spent on any secondary school in Barbados is at Ellerslie School, not at one of the so-called grammar schools as is normally said. I do not have time to go through all twenty-one. I can give you the individual dollars.

Mr. Chairman, special education. We are looking at the whole area of special education and, indeed, we are hoping that something can be done not only in terms of buildings but in terms of the whole programme. But, again, this is being worked on. There are various agencies, various groups within the Ministry working on these areas. They

cannot be done overnight. They are being addressed. That is why in my presentation I made the point because I knew the numbers, that we have approximately 300 more children to look after.

Mr. Qhairman, as I said we have gone wide and far. Sometimes we have gone from education to drugs to...

Aside.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: We have gone. We went. We have gone.

Aside.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: I said we have gone.

Asides.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: However, I do not think that we need to continue this. And it is on this basis, Mr. Chairman, that I move that Head 34 stand part.

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that, Sir.

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

Asides.

3.00p.m.

HEAD 76 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE CAPITAL - \$41,720,143

Hon. C. V. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, again I move that Head 76 stand part.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question that Head...

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I just have one item to advert to, Sir. I see that under Subhead 33 there is provision made to meet the cost of any statues of national heroes or persons who have made an outstanding contribution to the country and I assume that the purpose of this Vote is to carry out the Resolution passed in Parliament relating to *he late Dr. Charles Duncan O'Neal and with that I have no quarrel, Sir. I just wish to ask the Honourable Member whether or not the Government has found out that provisions had been made in the Estimates of 1986 - 1987 for the erection of a statue in honour of the late Sir Grantley Adams. In the cut-back that took place after the change of Government the amount was removed from the Estimates but plans had been afoot to arrange for the statue to be completed and Mr. Broodhagen had already completed this local work on it and had been in contact with an overseas person who, I believe, provides the final cast. So I must ask

the Minister whether it is intended at all to pursue that. I believe at the time in those Estimates there was some \$200 odd thousand dollars which were taken out and have now been replaced. But I see that this is only for \$225,000.

Asides.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, I want to move very quickly because I know you said you want to move on. We are looking not just at the Charles Duncan O'Neal statue. The problem we are having is that the present sculptor appears to be too busy and cannot find some of the documents or the necessary pictures to prepare what should be prepared, and as it is stated, we are not limiting this to any one individual.

The point made earlier that we may have to go outside is also well taken.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is that Head...

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, without prolonging the debate on Education, I believe that I would be somewhat remiss in my responsibilities if I did not have it recorded that the National Democratic Party does not consider the building of an Examination Centre for the sums involved - there are large sums involved here - to be an appropriate Capital Expenditure at this point in time, bearing in mind the almost \$300 million gap which we have between Revenue and Expenditure on Current and Capital Account. We were particularly concerned about this when at the same time we have an IADB assisted project in school building going on. One wonders whether or not some adjustment to the common facilities in the new schools that are being built would not have filled the gap at this point in time. This is not to say that in days of more comfortable financing when you have large surpluses and so on that it might not be desirable.

I also want to make the second point that even, if one were going to involve the country in this kind of expenditure, one would prefer to see an expenditure in a Convention Centre which would assist a revenue generating sector of the economy such as tourism whilst at the same time making it available for the short period in a year when we have examinations. I believe that a Convention Centre appropriately located in Barbados would be a far more appropriate form of capital investment which could be used and so designed that it could be used by some or all of our children depending on the size and the particular time of the year. I also, of course, would like to share the concerns of the Barbados Labour Party Opposition that there was no provision for the current expenditure that would be consequential on this expenditure.

I do not wish to hold up the House any further. But I think that I have a duty to this Honourable House formally to record the position of the Opposition in this matter. If I

may say so, Sir, this particular Capital Expenditure is a matter of considerable concern to the public of Barbados and for those who believe that you can only cut expenditure by cutting jobs here is an example of what could be done at this time when you are clearly projecting significant fiscal stress. However, I think that other opportunities will arise, particularly if the Head of MTW is called, to indicate those areas in which one would be happy to approve Capital Expenditure that touches the people, generate jobs, and so on. So I just want to get this formally recorded. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I wish to reiterate the position of the Barbados Labour Party also in relation to the Sherbourne project. When a Supplementary was brought here last year, I think it was October, we were very critical of the expenditure. The Minister this morning gave some figures as a result of a series of questions I put to him yesterday afternoon which bolster us in our view that, at this time, the building of this project is a clear case of misplaced priorities and is a waste of money. It has been conceived and begun in a hurry. I hope it will finish in time for October 4th as was the plan. I would like to know from the Minister whether he thinks that that is a realistic date for completion. The Note is very instructive. The Note to this expenditure in the year 1989 March 15th says this, Page 101 - the opposite page to Page 101. 3.10p.m.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I would like to remind the Honourable Member that there were amendments.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Show me the amendments.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: They were circulated. *Asides.*

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: That is the point I wish to make. I am not going to speak on it if he tells me that there is an amendment.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Well, if the Minister says that the note has been amended, I accept it. Otherwise it was nonsense.

Since that is explained, Sir, I still stand on the point that we think that this is a case of misplaced priorities, the hurried putting together of a conference centre principally to accommodate the CPA Conference in October, and as I say, having regard to the significance of the conference this year and the pivotal role that Barbados is playing in its chairmanship of that conference, I hope it will finish in time.

I wish to ask the Minister, however, Sir, about some of these expenditures in relation to the Development Plan. Under Subhead 28 on page 98, Human Resources Development, there is an amount of \$522,920 to be voted this year, but in the Development Plan for this year the Government had projected to spend \$3.75 million, so there has been a substantial cut of this Subhead. I wish the Minister to explain the reason for this very substantial cut of more than \$3 million. Indeed, what does such a substantial cut imply for this Human Development Resource Programme? You see, Sir, I am having a little difficulty in understanding the figures as against the policies.

Yesterday I think there was an agreement on both sides that the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic is now short of space for all those who would wish to become students in that institution and there is also a very severe cut in the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic from what had been planned in the Development Plan. In fact, the Development Plan tells a story, you know. On page 208 Government had projected to spend on the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic \$620,000 in this financial year, but for the years 1990-91, 1991-92, 1992-93 not a cent is allocated in the Development Plan.

Now, I find that as very poor planning when you accept that the place is too small, having regard to the number who want to get in, and I do not believe that you only accepted that yesterday because the Leader of the Labour Party said it, I believe it has been a fact recognizable in the Ministry and in the planning for some time, and yet when this Development Plan was being prepared there was no money being allocated after this year such as would allow for an expansion of the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic to take up this excess of students who wish to get in.

I would like to hear from the Minister, since we are on Capital, what plans, if any, the Ministry has for the future development of the Polytechnic and its enlargement to cope with the number of persons who would wish to go there.

There is one other area, Sir, that I want to draw attention to, Subhead 16 on page 95, Barbados Community College. I think the Minister had said earlier to me that the School of Art is going there. I do not know what that is, and all the various things I had talked of today, I suppose they want to put them up at the Community College, but when he looks at his own Development Plan, page 95 and then matches that with page 207, we were told when we received this Plan that in the financial year 1989-90 Government would spend \$2.53 million on the Community College. I am drawing to your attention that what I see under the Object Classification and the same Subhead is not 2.5 but \$305,000, a cut of 2.2, matching the Estimates as against the Plan. If you are telling me you are getting the funds

from some international agency, show me where you have provision made for them.

I am not talking only of maintenance, we are talking about future capital development of such an extent and magnitude's would cater for the needs of the Community College in the medium term, and perhaps in the long term, because when you look at the note attaching to Subhead 16, do you know what you say? "The provision in this Subhead is to carry out ongoing maintenance work at the Community College." 3.20p.m.

Maintenance work is no big capital development work. And you are buying a van too? This is for maintenance and to buy a van or some vehicle or other. When we on this side complain that the numbers that we have to deal with as far as the Ministry of Education is concerned do not betray any policy, or if there is a policy articulated instantly on the Floor of the House, then you take that policy and then match it to the numbers, it is shown not to harmonise. So we want the Ministry to get its act together, and that is why we were complaining that in the presentation of these Estimates perhaps it would reduce the time spent in probing and criticism from this side if Ministers would give expansive vision of how they see the development of their Ministries taking place and how funds are going to be allocated this year and over the next five years to match up with the Development Plan. We might get that from the Minister of Transport and Works because he would understand that. He is in a hurry to go away, so we are not going to keep him too long and I know he is not going to go into all that debate, but when he has the chance to dilate and expatiate - he is ingratiating himself with us now, Sir - when he has a chance to do all of these things, one can see a policy or a philosophical premise from which he is going to do various works in the Ministry, and this is all we are asking the others to do.

I am giving credit where credit is due. I must congratulate the Minister of Education before I sit down. Let us put this in the record. The Minister of Education manfully answered nearly all of the questions that were put from this side with courtesy, and we are grateful for that. We did not expect him to have all the answers but at least he answered all that was put very courteously and in a controlled way. He is still learning, he is in the Ministry of Education, and we expect that learning process to continue, but as a result of the criticisms this year, he will be better next year, but he has done well.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, the comments come but we pay no attention to them right now. Quickly just to deal with the few points raised. We have already visited and made arrangements with the construction people for all the requirements by the Clerk of Parliament for the CPA Conference to begin on 4th October; so we are in constant dialogue there.

The reason in terms of the human resources area why you see the difference is because there are several courses which were already completed. We were not sure of all the deadlines and all the programmes, but they are now completed, so we had to make these necessary adjustments to the figures after submission. You would know that draft estimates are usually prepared late in the year before, and the last one under SJPP; basically the same thing applies there in terms of the project unit because they are considered to tie in with the other schools training units.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 76 stand part.

The question that the sum of \$41 720 143 under Capital - Head 76 - Ministry of Education and Culture - as amended, stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 42 - MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND WORKS

Head 42 - Ministry of Transport and Works -for the sum of \$55 867 989, as amended, was called.

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: Mr. Chairman, any introduction to these Estimates necessarily involves a reference to Head 84, Capital Estimates, if the presentation is to have any coherence at all, and, therefore, during the course of this presentation; I shall from time to time make reference to issues that properly come under the Capital Estimates of the Ministry of Transport and Works.

I have always said that one of the difficulties that bedevilled the work of Ministers of Transport and administrators within the Ministry of Transport is that there was no clarity with respect to the role and purpose of the Ministry. There was no clarity as to whether MTW was to function as a full-fledged Ministry of Works or whether it was to be accepted as an unpleasant fact of Government, too burdensome politically for Government to disgorge itself of and therefore many of the difficulties and problems and the inefficiencies that have traditionally plagued that Ministry have come from the ambiguities in which its purposes and objectives have been shrouded.

I have sought and continue to seek a clear definition of that role and I am happy to report that the role of MTW is now much clearer than at any other time in its long and troubled history.

Starting with 1982 when I commissioned a study with the Inter-American Development Bank for the institutional strengthening of that Ministry, this study was duly executed and, once it became available in 1984, was implemented in only a haphazard way. The haphazardness of the implementation of the report from that study flows again from the lack of clarity as to its role. There is no doubt that

this Government subscribes to the view that the Ministry of Transport should be a fully fledged works Ministry, and if MTW is to be a fully fledged works Ministry it must *mutatis mutandis* acquire the characteristics of efficient and effective construction entities similar to those which exist within the private sector, except that the Ministry of Transport and Works has certain social responsibilities which it cannot easily and will not ever as long as I have anything to do with it slough off. Therefore, we have moved full-fledged into this internal institutional strengthening of the Ministry which has led to heightened productivity which is manifested for all to see even within this august and historical environment.

It must be pointed out that when the private sector that some of us within the four corners of this building deem to be sacrosanct failed miserably to keep its deadline and squandered millions of the taxpayers' dollars, the Ministry of Transport and Works came to the rescue and saved this country from embarrassment. The magnificent renovation work which was effected on the Senate could only have been completed in time for the Queen's visit because of the heightened level of productivity which flows directly from the institutional restructuring now in progress, carried on within the context of the new clear policy, a policy that abandoned schizophrenia and the shilly-shallying of the past, a policy that states clearly to all that the Ministry of Transport and Works as a Works Ministry should be organised to function as such. 3.30p.m.

One of the changes which grew out of that report - and let me say in passing that the financing of that report was achieved with the greatest difficulty; the Finance Minister of that day considered it a waste of time but, fortunately, the other Ministers of the Cabinet agreed with me that it was absolutely necessary if the Ministry of Transport is to be expected to deliver services effectively - was that there must be internal reorganization.

There are some Members over there who would describe it as egotistical, arrogant, egomaniacal, call it what you like. It is historically factual that this Member was the prime mover and shaker who gave birth intellectually and administratively to that institutional study which has resulted in these changes that have taken place.

Implementation and maintenance management system - the first phase in the maintenance management system has been completed with a road inventory being taken. This has been placed on a micro-computer for easy reference and the Ministry of Transport and Works will shortly be receiving technical assistance from the United States Department of Transportation for the establishment of a modern maintenance management system.

As you know, maintenance, like most road works in the past, was executed in an ad hoc manner in response to

community or political pressures and not based upon any analysis of the demands in the country as a whole and the need to respond in a rational way. The exigencies of politics for the most part dictated the course of maintenance at any given time. We hope, with the establishment of a modern maintenance management system, that this situation will come to an end.

Also, recently established is an equipment maintenance system and it is hoped that the Ministry of Transport and Works will be able to manage its equipment far more efficiently than it has done in the past.

We have had an inordinate number of problems in our workshop for all kinds of reasons, untrained individuals, poor organization and the like, and it is hoped that the equipment management system which is now fully operational will go a long way towards reducing the down time of vehicles and eliminating the wastage on spare parts and the abuse of other equipment.

Within the Ministry itself we had a standard situation in our Parts Department where people in charge of the Parts Department did not even know what parts were there and could not identify the parts or the purposes for which they were acquired. It is hoped that this new system instituted with help from the World Bank will eliminate this particular problem.

Another area where technical assistance is being given and will be continued in the new financial year would be in the area of materials and soils testing within the laboratory at MTW.

The Government has, over the years, spent far more than it ought to have spent on materials as a result of poor management techniques and the inability of persons within the Ministry at the time to determine whether materials received were of adequate quality. As a result of material from MOBIL, I am not excluding those multinationals - I will say more about Mobil later - and from the producers of limestone, marl and the like who have in the past sold the Ministry substandard material because nobody in the Ministry was trained to detect the defects in the quality of the material submitted.

Even so, we still have problems in acquiring the ideal mix for our asphalt with which we barbergreen our roads in many cases because of the nature of the emulsion sold to us by Mobil in some cases, and the softness of the stone from the owners of quarries under contract with the Ministry to supply materials.

Here, Mr. Chairman, I must state very categorically that there is no doubt in my mind whatsoever that a contributory factor, and not an inconsiderable factor at that, to inefficiency within the Ministry of Transport and Works

where it existed, was the number of parasitic businesses in the private sector that thrived off these inefficiencies.
3.40p.m.

There are many businesses in the private sector that - make huge profits and whose Managers consider themselves to be successful Managers, men of managerial skill and acumen. And their sole claim to fame is these gigantic profits often amassed as a result of shortchanging the Ministry of Transport and Works. The Ministry of Transport and Works has carefully planned its paving programme in St. Michael to be completed at the end of this month. We have now lost three weeks because MOBIL has claimed that it did not have enough bitumen. I believe, Mr. Chairman, that the Government should look into a situation where a company like MOBIL enjoys a monopoly over the importation of certain products, a shortage of which could seriously disrupt the social programme of this Government. I do not care who is offended.

I called the Manager of MOBIL in my office himself and told him how I felt about the situation. The Government of Barbados must also examine the price of this bitumen that is sold to the Ministry of Transport and Works.

My unofficial investigation revealed that it is possible to get bitumen on the world market at a substantially lower price than that at which MOBIL sells it to the Government. To the extent that we can do this, we can pave many more roads than are now paved. I believe that Government should seriously look at bringing this monopolistic situation enjoyed by MOBIL to an end. And that is a classic case, in my view, of a company being successful at the expense of the Ministry of Transport and Works. I do not take kindly to any obstacles being placed in my work when I am serving the people of this country in any respect.....

Aside.

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN:..... or the constituency of St. Michael East, for that matter. Yes. I do not hide about that. They are the people responsible for putting me here. I cannot abandon them. I do so at my peril.

I should deal with the salient points, a comprehensive disquisition on the philosophy and problematic proposals contained in this year's Estimates could take about a week. I should deal, therefore, with salient questions. One of the issues to which this Government has had to address itself was what I found in certain parts of the Ministry of Transport and Works, elements which I describe as big road apostles, those persons who favoured big roads as they call the ABC Highway as distinct from those persons who felt that the people of Barbados who live in the villages, whether the people in the villages should enjoy roads of a certain quality. While big roads in certain circumstances can be justified as having an economic impact, road

building in Barbados must also have a social dimension and road building in Barbados must go to the issue of improving the quality of life of the people in this country. And that is why our road construction programme has sought to achieve a balance between economic and social goals. And the paradigm case of this balance can be found within that area known as the Scotland District, particularly St. Andrew where the Government of Barbados is faced with resolving the problem that a large number of major arteries in that part of Barbados has failed.

A study was commissioned and Errol Clarke Associates have within the last two months handed in a fairly comprehensive Report about development in that area. Errol Clarke is a distinguished Barbadian Engineer. But, having regard to the magnitude of the sums of money called upon or recommended in that project to rectify the particular problems, I feel that this Government might very well be faced with a situation of having that study further studied by another group of persons. When I indicate the sums of money involved and the other competing claims for* scarce financial resources, this Honourable House will understand why.

Now two of the main arteries into St. Andrew, Turners Hall Road and Spring Vale Road have suffered considerable erosion. And it is predicted that if heavy vehicles continue to use those roads with the present regularity that certain areas will collapse completely.

Aside.

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: Both. Both Turner's Hall and Spring Vale. They will collapse in precisely the same way that the road at Bloomsbury has collapsed.

In my discussions with the Engineers they are proposing to solve both problems by building a diversionary road which takes you around areas of those two roads that moved. The diversion around Spring Vale is about two miles in length and the estimated cost is \$38 million. The people of Barbados, in my view, cannot seriously be called upon to spend \$38 million to construct two miles of road. It would be ridiculous to make that request of the people of Barbados and the other diversion off Turner's Hall, I understand, would cost about \$46 million. It is roughly the same distance. The problem is that the Spring Vale and Turner's Hall Roads are both built, at least those parts that are subject to erosion, are built on mud that is about 300 feet deep and, therefore, according to the gurus of road building there is no possibility of having a surface that will not move in those areas. 3.50p.m.

Now I am no engineer but I believe that I have a large stock of commonsense which is not so common. Fortunately, my peregrinations throughout the globe have taken me to areas like New Orleans, Louisiana where I have

observed substantial highways being constructed and built on water with just logs under them. All of those massive highways that go out of New Orleans right across the state of Louisiana are built for the most part on swamp land and the engineers in that area use logs and the logs do not move. They are some of the strongest and the most stable highways found any part of the world.

The conventional wisdom in Barbados is that you dig until you reach rock and then you build. This is the undeviating engineering approach to that particular problem and that is precisely one of the reasons why in all our road building projects there are substantial overruns because the level at which you will find rock is not easily predictable unless a considerable investment is made up front with respect to experimental bore holes. In the light of this, Mr, Chairman, it is my belief, subject to the Cabinet approval, that it is going to be necessary for us to have another look at using these roads in a particular way. For the coming financial year, therefore, I propose to forego any attempt to implement those expensive recommendations and to beef up our maintenance of these roads while creating a situation where heavy vehicles, except buses, can be removed from usage of those roads to other roads. You will recall that I said that road building confronted the Government with dualistic objectives to develop the economy of St. Andrew as well as to ensure that the social intercourse between the people of St. Andrew and other parts of Barbados could be facilitated.

We are hoping to have 2 exits which can be used by heavy trucks and other vehicles to remove sand and other things from St. Andrew. It is proposed to begin rehabilitation of Route 3 which extends from Horse Hill, though having some difficulties at this time, which is deemed by the experts to be constructed on firm rock and there is no possibility of erosion of the kind which obtains in Spring Vale. So you begin your rehabilitation in Horse Hill and come right down to the East Coast Road which will fall apart if it is not resurfaced soon anyhow and straight into Belleplaine up to St. Andrew Church so that there will be a road from Shorey Village on the Charles Duncan O'Neal Road through which heavy trucks will have 2 ways out of St. Andrew, either on the East Coast Road and going over Horse Hill or the Charles Duncan O'Neal Road. Those roads that are prone to erosion will no longer be pounded by these trucks. That, I believe, is a solution. It is not the best solution, but it is a solution that is consistent with the limited resources of the Government with respect to roads.

Now moving quickly from the Scotland District to other parts of Barbados, I indicated that our new conception on road maintenance impels us along the path to pave our roads rather differently than we have been accustomed to doing. We, therefore, have a barbergreen programme that will extend to the whole of Barbados. When we complete St. Michael, we now expect to complete St. Michael by the

middle of April and having completed all the roads in St. Michael, we will go into St. James, St. George, and Christ Church.

Asides.

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: No, you are not in the wrong order. All of these parishes will have work done on them simultaneously. I cannot pronounce the words simultaneously. I can only pronounce them and put them in order, and I came from North to South. But we have other things in store. The Government plans to introduce a revolutionary programme of modernizing all of the plantation tenancies in Barbados. We will commence this year the first phase in a \$60 million programme which is tripartite in scope. It involves not only the construction of roads but the laying of pipes and the electrification of these areas. There will be approximately 90 roads started in the first phase and they will be divided into 5 divisions. Let me see if I can find the 5 divisions. I can tell you from my head. St. Lucy, St. Peter, and St. James will constitute one division. 4.00p.m.

Aside.

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: I cannot tell you what they are in my head, all I can say for sure is that when our programme commences, roads will be built in every area simultaneously.

Aside.

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: Every parish. We will duly publish the roads that will be constructed in the first phase. The Barbados Labour Party spent the \$90 million on a road for development purposes, laudable in a sense, but their priority was on business, the enrichment of businessmen. The Democratic Labour Party is spending \$60 million on roads, but our priority is on human beings. We subscribe to the proposition that Government ought to be a humanistic enterprise or nothing at all.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will give the Minister two minutes to conclude his presentation.

Aside.

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: You can boast about the big road to enrich businessmen, we will boast of a revolutionary tenantry programme to relieve the descendants of slaves still living on the locations where their forefathers toiled and sweated for no pay. We will relieve them of the Stygian gloom, we will relieve them of the primitive conditions, bring modernity into Black Bess, Indian Ground and all of those other places. Every single tenantry everywhere in Barbados, no matter who it is

represented by, we will bring those people kicking and screaming into the 20th century.

Mr. Chairman, there will be more on this. I thank you for your indulgence.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Transport and Works is, among his other attributes, a linguistic expert and he has a remarkable capacity, Sir, a singular capacity among men to be able to drop the letter "D" from a word and substitute it with "B" without changing the substance of his sentence. I rather suspect, Sir, that he might in due course carry his linguistic skills to even higher heights by forming various combinations between D, B, and N and change them at will without effectively changing the substance in his own ...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: If the Honourable Member will give way, I think there is a little anomaly here, that the Head has not been moved, so if the Minister would and have it seconded please.

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: I beg to move that the sum of \$55,867,989 under Head 42 - Ministry of Transport and Works - as amended stand part of the Schedule.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Can I beg to second that, Sir, and proceed?

Laughter.

I would say, Sir, that he is a linguistic expert and we saw ample evidence today of his great capacity with the spoken word.

We on this side, Mr. Chairman, can identify with a tenancies development programme only on the caution that in his revolutionary zeal the Minister does not lay pipes where pipes have already been laid before, install electricity where electricity has been installed before, and does not build roads where roads have been built before. I will beg him that if he has to carry out this revolutionary zeal in St. Peter that he will find that there are tenantry roads which have already been done by the Barbados Labour Party and he must not build them over again. Electricity has been installed in tenancies by the Barbados Labour Party and I beg him that he must not install electricity twice in the same district.

I am saying that, Sir, only to say this. We welcome this programme, but the notion of it being a revolutionary change to put tenantry roads, pipes and electricity in villages in Barbados is like an exaggeration that resides heavily in the mind of the Minister. I do not want to remind him that while he may be at this stage of a mind to criticise the expenditure of \$90 million on the Tom Adams Highway, he might want to remember as well that he was one of the persons who were involved in its initial planning,

and he stands today to be condemned by the very strictures which he has imposed against that road as being a road built for the rich people.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. Mr. Chairman, I believe the Honourable Member for St. Peter is misleading the House. I will tell you why, Sir. During 1981 when the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works was the Minister of Transport and Works in the Barbados Labour Party Government, he walked through the entire area of St. Michael West, and I know it was his intention because he assisted me in subterfuge, he allowed me to allow the Government to believe that Prescod Bottom was in Aaron Truss' constituency, so I could get one road done.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, in his Government we now have the Cabinet of many great skills. We have a linguistic expert to the southern end and a mind reader to the northern end. As regards this particular programme we obviously can find no grounds for quarrelling with the continuation and the elaboration of a programme that has been in place, and it is obviously a programme that will excite the support of the Barbados Labour Party Opposition.

There were a number of other things which the Minister raised. He referred to the Mobil Agreement and the relationship between the Mobil Company and the Government of Barbados. This is a matter I would want to speak on within the context of a general relationship between the Government of this country and the Mobil Oil Company. 4.10p.m.

In so far as the agreement that now exists with Mobil which expires in 1991 is concerned, I believe that the Government is in the process or might be in the process of looking again at the existing agreement with a view to establishing a new relationship with Mobil, but the experience has been that energy pricing in this country has been in many respects adversely structured as a result of the existing provisions in the agreement between Mobil and the Government of Barbados entered into in the sixties. We have as a Government had to inherit and remain faithful to the provisions of an agreement and we had in this party accumulated a range of experience as regards the operation of energy pricing policies and other related matters flowing out of that existing agreement.

* Now it is not often, Sir, that we in this House get an opportunity to agree that as one people we should participate in a matter that is of national interest, but the experience has been that energy*pricing has had from time to time such a tremendous impact on this economy that I believe that there is scope for us in this country now to draw from the accumulated experience that exists in renegotiating of a new agreement if one is to be put in place. We in the Barbados Labour Party had to ask the

country to pay a very serious price for an agreement written between the Government and a private company which guarantees that private company a reasonable rate of return on its capital investment from the sale of energy products in this country in the context of a situation where that company has enjoyed a monopoly situation. We have experience that we would like to contribute to any negotiation that may take place as regards any agreement that can in future affect energy pricing in Barbados, and I am therefore in that spirit, in the spirit of a Barbados Labour Party spokesman that has had to participate in the execution of an agreement that we had inherited from the Democratic Labour Party suggesting that this is a matter in which there ought to be some collaboration. Energy pricing in Barbados is too important for this particular matter not to be addressed seriously, and I would like to believe that in 1991 or whenever a new arrangement is put in place in Barbados in the whole area of energy relationships, that it can reflect the collective wisdom of the people of this country as a whole.

The Minister was very careful obviously not to advert to the Transport Board. I suspect that he would want to advert to the Transport Board when he returns, but he has gone on record, Mr. Chairman, as saying that he would have been able to bring the Transport Board subsidy down to \$1½ million at a bus fare of 75 cents, that there were ways in which it could have been done. In these Estimates this year the House is being asked, Mr. Chairman, to approve a subvention to cover the operating deficits of the Transport Board to the extent of \$10 million. This comes after the Minister of Finance has as recently as last April approved increases in bus fares which were meant to yield an improved intake to the Transport Board of \$6 million. The Minister's words in the Budget have said that the Minister of Finance is wrong again. He said \$6 million and I have additional evidence brought to bear in the matter to take the words of the Minister of Finance in the matter, but he said \$6 million; so that what we are dealing with is a situation where the Ministry of Transport and Works is still not yet in a position to report progress where bringing the deficit of the Transport Board down to \$16 million is concerned. If it is \$12 million now, in the absence of a \$6 million increase in bus fares, it would have been \$18 million, and if you are going to compare your performance with that of other Ministers, then you have to compare like with like because they had a bus fare of 75 cents, you have a bus fare of \$1.00. So an \$18 million deficit compared almost in exact detail with the kind of deficit that other Ministers of Transport and Works including the beleaguered Deputy Prime Minister ran up.

I want, therefore, to know of the Minister what is stopping him from bringing to bear at the Transport Board the same kind of institutional strengthening measures which he boasts of having executed at the Ministry of Transport, to bring about the level of productivity of which he boasts during the course of this debate. What kind of

circumstances, Sir, can justify this House today being called upon to have to approve a \$10 million subsidy to the Transport Board when the Minister himself pledged to us that he was going to get this to \$7V4 million on a 75 cents bus fare and when the House as recently as last April was called upon to ask the people of Barbados to directly contribute \$6 million in increased bus fares? I want to know what has gone wrong at the Transport Board.

There are two matters of a more narrow constituency interest that I would like to raise. Subhead 7 of this Head 42 deals with the question of drainage, and I recall that following upon the unfortunate deluge in St. Peter in 1984 the then Barbados Labour Party Government had commissioned a complete study of the drainage problem of St. Peter which study was done by Island Engineers, and it had recommended that work be undertaken on a phased basis. The first phase of that work has been completed. It began in late 1985 and has been completed and it entailed the drilling of new wells and the cleaning of existing wells in the constituency, and I think that to some extent that would ease part of the problem.

St. Peter is the second largest drainage area in Barbados and the point I am about to make is that the study recommended that there would have been additional drainage work undertaken in the future, and I therefore must enquire of the Minister, Sir, what really is the existing status of the report that was done by Island Engineers that was designed and meant to do not only short term but long term remedial drainage works in what happens coincidentally to be the constituency that I have the honour to represent as well as the second largest drainage area in the entire country.

Secondly, Sir, this head also deals with the whole question of the maintenance of roads as a current activity on the part of the Ministry. St. Peter as a parish happens to be the only parish in Barbados, and this is a fact, in which there is not a MTW depot from which this normal maintenance work is undertaken. There is one in St. Lucy, there is one in Prospect in St. James and there has historically been a special disadvantage, and there is one in every other parish in Barbados. St. Peter has experienced, Sir, a historical disadvantage in this respect, so much so that very little has happened in relation to the on-going maintenance that is provided for in the current Estimates of the Ministry of Transport and Works. It is a real problem that I am speaking of, and it has to do with the fact that the depot at Prospect in St. James seems more inclined by reason of logistics or for whatever reason to deal with immediate maintenance problems in the surrounding areas. The depot in St. Lucy is concerned largely with problems in St. Lucy, and St. Peter falls between the two. I am asking, Sir, that this historical imbalance be redressed. I know that I speak to a Minister who is always interested in redressing historical imbalances.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has two minutes.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: I can therefore only plead with him that if he can find it in his heart, to remedy the situation. The Minister is given the assurance that it is a serious problem and that the roads in St. Peter do not enjoy that same kind of maintenance attention purely and directly because of the fact that there is no depot at all in St. Peter and I thought I would bring it to the attention of the Minister. 4.20 p.m.

Aside.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: If I am getting a lot of work done in St. Peter I would want the records of this House to show that the Honourable Member for St. Lucy said that the Member for St. Peter is getting a lot of work done in St. Peter. I want the records of this House to show that and I want the records, also, to show that the Member for St. Lucy congratulated the Member for St. Peter for his effort in getting the work done in the parish.

Generally speaking, Sir, the Minister has spoken about the institutional strengthening. He said that our Minister of Finance was opposed to it but the BLP Cabinet in its collective wisdom voted for it and, perhaps, we have another case where there is the value of the working of the collective will. That is all he was trying to say that we are benefiting now from a stronger MTW because there was a collective will within the Barbados Labour Party to act in the national interest.

We support the expanded tenantry works programme now that we have gotten the major problems of the construction of the major highways behind us. We do not have to build a new big highway again and, therefore, we can substantially identify with the general thrust of this programme both as regard its BLP content as well as the dimensions that have been brought to it by the Minister acting under a new dispensation.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for St. Peter was commendatory of what is proposed. Speaking on behalf of the people of St. Thomas, I want to see it happen before I congratulate anybody.

The intentions maybe desirable but I have a certain reality which my colleagues on either side of me do not necessarily share and that is I realize that I am in the Opposition and that I can get some bad treatment so I have no particular expectations. I am going to just put certain things on the record.

^f It is all well and good to assume. The Minister mentioned that he may have been considered egotistical and arrogant for what he was saying. Using his own language - and he and I have been friends from 1957 - 1976, he may have been indulging in a form of intellectual masturbation, a phrase that he appended to the late Right Honourable Barrow, except that he did not qualify with the word "intellectual". He talked about political masturbation in relation to him.

I know he would like to help in St. Thomas but I have seen no real and concrete evidence of this desire ...

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: But what roads has he done? I have passed through there up to last week and it was in a state.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I understand the imperatives of surfacing, there were 24, now 20 on that side and I have no pie in the sky expectations. I have to take my place in the queue because I have seen a document out of MTW and I am going to bring it. Do not challenge me. When we talked about the diplomatic dope in here you were the first one that said that it was a lie and your Prime Minister ...

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You believe me? All right then. I have seen a document that promises to do Lion Castle Road ...

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: That is not the one. Who signed it, the CPO? That is not the one. The one I have talked about all the roads in St. Michael are being done and in St Thomas Lion Castle is promised to be done and Dukes. Now, I want to talk about them.

There are a number of tenantry roads in St. Thomas which are in a terrible state of repair. I will list them - Highland, Lion Castle, Content, Bennetts, in particular, and Dukes.

Not last year, the year before I asked that these roads be done. All cannot be done at the same time, grant it, over a period of time. MTW in the summer of 1987 went and put down 300 loads of marl in Dukes. I warned that it was a waste of money. I went in there when the men were working and I spoke to the driver of the heavy equipment. He is from St. Joseph - the people in Dukes know about me - and I asked the gentleman if it was the intention of the Ministry just to put down the marl and roll it because with the rains coming in the late summer of 1987, the marl was

obliged to wash off and we would return to a state of potholes. He said, those were his instructions.

They went to Bennetts and I was on the site the very morning work started and I enquired again.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: How did I know when they started? Because I am doing my work as a representative.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Asked for marl? Who asked for marl? Anytime I have asked for marl tell them read on and see what I say, "and a binding agent". You do not ask for just marl. I am a madman? I went to Bennetts and they were going to marl Bennetts and I told them "Look, if you look there by the little shed you will see on the grass piece a natural area for rain to wash off and this will go." So said so done ! Both were done with marl and rolled, rains came and they have returned to the former state. 4.30p.m.

I got in here late 1987 - and it is recorded in the debates of this House - I criticised the methodology that was being used by MTW in relation to those two roads. So in effect they have not done anything.

In relation to Dukes, as I explained to the Minister yesterday out of the House, the road leading to Dukes is a long winding road. It must be very nearly a mile to the tenantry of pure, what we call white, road. Inside the village itself are no more than twelve to fourteen houses in a little area. I had been to the people in Dukes and discussed with them that what could be done would be that, in the areas around the houses, we could pave those areas and drain them, but for the long road of what MTW called dead miles, there was no necessity to pave that part. But they dumped the marl in the whole area around the houses and across the long road. Well, they are going to do Dukes again according to my documentation in the coining Financial Year. And I say to them that they should rethink what they are going to do and how much they are going to do. If they are going to pave it properly, then I think great savings can be effected to Government if they pave the area by the houses and do a better job of marl filling on the main road that runs right back out through the old plantation linking up with Fortress Hill. That is Dukes.

Lion Castle is a road that will call for major works. It is on two slopes. It is hill. They have to drain it and you cannot marl fill that. You have to pave it properly with some proper binding agent.

But those are not the only roads, Sir. If there is a tenantry road programme, which I accept the Ministry has every intention of piloting in time, I expect that they will

get to Highland and Content and there are two roads off Shop Hill on the right hand side when you go up opposite the road taking you to Grand View where you do not have mains. There are two of them there that need to be done also. But I can give a list of the roads in St. Thomas which is not meant to be exhaustive, but a list to be indicative of the type of disrepair that we have in St. Thomas. Lion Castle, Content, Bennetts, Highland, Grand View Heights. They went into Grand View Heights and they paved a little part of the road. I do not speak in terms of elitism and those sorts of things, Sir but from Lawson Bayley to Hamish McClurg. All the way back down now from Ossie Lynch back down, they have left in the same raw state.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You know, I would hear Ossie Lynch is a poor black fellow see. If I used to speak in certain tones and use certain pejorative language, I could parade and turn that into a colour.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You have just two minutes now to....

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Only? We are here all night on this.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: But if you are going to do a little road like Grand View Heights, do the whole thing. But do not leave out where the poorest people live. Even though they are the Heights poor people live in there in wooden houses. Do the road opposite their houses. Do not just stop at McClurg and Bayley.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I never said that. It would take a perverted thought like that to say that.

Laughter.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Christie Village, the road leading from Grand View down into Christie Village is a problem. They patch it ever so often. You get the rain, it goes again. We need a proper job on that road because you can get to it from Redman's Village - Highway 2A Road - or you can get to it from the Shop Hill Road.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The Minister of Health knows it. He says it is true.

The road to the dump, well I spoke of that in here a few weeks ago.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: An effort was being made - Yes. They put up a sign. Up to the Tuesday that the Select Committee on the Parish Boundaries went on tour we saw the sign, Rq&d Repairs. But we did not see any road repairs.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: What tractor that broke down? Look you want to hear about tractors, Sir? I live in the worst road that any MP in here lives in. There is no doubt about that.

Laughter.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: That is the worst in Barbados. MTW comes once a year. Last year they went. They started to clear some bush from the side of the road. Do you know what they did? They heap it up. So we have three large mounds form between Grenville Phillips' house and Mr. Jeffers' house. Three large mounds "pelt one side" narrowing the road. They cleaned the side of the road and then took all of the rubble and banked it there.

Three weeks ago they sent a little yellow thing M, I cannot remember the number, MTW 8 or something and parked it in the road. I said, well we are going to get something happening down here now.

Laughter.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Certain of my friends and neighbours have influence on that side so I figured something is going to happen. Do you know that vehicle

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On that side. They are not Ns. They are Ds. Do you know, Sir, what happened? That vehicle remained there for two whole weeks. I asked the technicians about here, the technocrats, to check it out. It did not work. And when I pass coming to work on mornings I see a fellow cooling out in his car. And I say, well what is happening, what are you doing in there? He said, "Dah en wukking and I cool."

Laughter.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Two weeks you know.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your time

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Dead equipment.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: has expired.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I have to come back, Sir. I have a lot more to talk about.

Laughter.

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

His Hon. J. J. PAYNE: Mr. Chairman, I just want to make a brief contribution

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I note that two Honourable Members are on their feet. I am permitting the Honourable Member for St. James North to speak.

His Hon. J. J. PAYNE:... on this particular Head - and perhaps it would be in order for me to start by complimenting the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works for the effort that he has been making in that Ministry since he has been appointed - I have no doubt in my mind, Mr. Chairman, that all of us both on this side and Members on the other side have been able to show their appreciation for efforts which the Minister is making in that Ministry. I believe that all of us are satisfied with the programmes which they are putting forward in the interest of this country.

I think that when we look through the Estimates, we will all agree that the money which it is proposed for the year under debate is money which will be well spent.

But I want to say a few words myself on this question of the roads. I want to refer to the barbergreen programme which the Honourable Minister has dealt with in his opening remarks. I heard the Member for St. Peter tell us in his contribution that he was able to get many roads done in St. Peter. I think that what has to be recognized is that there are not all the constituencies in the island which can make a similar boast. 4.40 p.m.

We in St. James North, even under the Barbados Labour Party when they had a Member of Parliament in that constituency, have not been able to get roads done in that area. As a matter of fact, Mr. Chairman, the past representative for that area always used to say that when the people elect you that you do not have to do anything for them. We, therefore, had a situation where, in that constituency particularly, upper areas of the constituency like Sion Hill and Rock Dundo and those areas and even down on the coast, Mt. Standfest and Weston and those various districts, the people of those areas over the last 20 years have not been able to get a sufficiently large number of roads done in those areas. I am particularly happy to see that we are now getting a programme which will bring some relief to the people of those areas.

One of the reasons why I want to highlight the problems of the people of St James North is that many of these roads which we are talking about are roads which lead to the homes of poor people and these are people who have to walk through mud to get to buses, in order to get to bus stops, people who have to travel late at night through mud tracks. I believe, Mr. Chairman, that one of the ideals of this Government is not only to create jobs and create housing facilities for people, but one of the rights of the people of this country must be the right to have proper access to their homes. For those people who live in those depressed areas where the road facilities are not up to date, I will be continuing to make my effort to see that relief is brought to them. I am particularly happy to see that the Minister has outlined his programme and included in those areas some of the roads in this constituency. In fact, I can mention, Mr. Chairman, that he has already started on some of these roads. He has already completed the road at Olive Lodge. I think that one is to be barbergreened. Work has already started on Laynes Gap. Work has started on Yearwood's Road and there is a road in Rock Dundo on which the work has been started and I understand that the full programme will be moving to St James sometime after April. We welcome that particular development. But we cannot talk about this question of doing roads without looking at what used to happen in the past.

In the past we used to have a programme which used to become effective at election time. I remember in my own constituency in St. James North the week before the election we had equipment moved into areas and work started on roads. I believe that as a Member of Parliament I would not support any effort made to rush to do roads at election time and it is for that reason that I want to express my gratitude to the effort made at this time where the election fever is not in the air and where it cannot be said that we are doing these roads as an election gimmick. The roads are being done as part of a programme and I believe that that fact alone makes me feel happy to see us going about it in that fashion.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I think that we all have to recognize certain facts when we look at the situation. I believe that one of the areas that will call therefore for a lot of organization is the planning that goes into these particular areas. I think that the Ministry of Transport and Works will have to depend to a very large extent on the people who work in these particular areas to ensure that they give not only their honest days work but that they maintain a standard that is acceptable in this country. I believe that it is not only important that we build a large number of roads but that we should ensure that the standard of the road which is constructed is such that it will last for a considerable period of time.

I have been observing some of the work that has been done and I am very pleased to see that we are using the barbergreen method of converging these roads. I believe that

this is something which we should try to standardize as far as possible. The old system of having the colas thrown on the road and then after the rain comes it washes the whole thing off was a most disappointing feature of the past. I believe that the effort in having the standard of work improved is something that should be complimented and I believe that we have already begun to see an improvement in the work attitude of our people who are engaged in the road construction under the Ministry of Transport and Works.

I feel that we still have to continue every effort to seek areas of improvement. I believe that no matter whatever field we go into, we are going to find people who will not want to give their full day's work. But every effort will have to be made to make sure that the money we spend on labour and materials is fully utilized. I believe that if we follow that pattern we will achieve the objectives that we set out to achieve.

Now what is also very important, Mr. Chairman, is that we also have to look when we are talking about maintaining the roads in terms of coordination between the various Departments of Government. One of the things that concerns me a lot, as I look at the roads around the island, is that very often, after the Ministry has completed a road, we see that some Department moves in and has to do some digging up, whether the Water Works Department or the National Petroleum Corporation or some other agency comes and damages the road in order to install some service. Now I believe that there is a need for a coordinated programme between the various Departments of Government to ensure that, when these roads are constructed, they are not dug up and damaged unduly. In particular I feel that we should try to see that the regulations or rules which are in force in this particular area are adhered to.

I believe that the people of this country have been spending a lot of money on road construction and, unless we have a programme not only in place but a programme which is enforced to see that the roads are not dug up, I believe that to a very large extent we will be spending money and, as it were, throwing it down the drain, unless that particular policy is well enforced. Only, for example, a few years ago the Highway 1 was constructed and within a few months the National Petroleum Corporation had to install some mains to extend the natural gas service to the northern part of the island. Now I feel that it is important that the natural gas service should be extended into, as far as possible, the country areas of the island. But unless we have that programme coordinated we will find that all of this money which is utilized in those particular areas is not taken the fullest advantage of.

I will want to come back a little later and deal with some other areas. We have street lighting and things of that kind. But I will probably deal with that when we move to

another aspect of the Estimates under this particular Ministry. So I would like to conclude, Mr. Chairman, by saying that the Minister is achieving the objectives which we all want to see him achieve. I want to give him my praise for that and I support this Resolution. Thank you.
4.50 p.m. ^

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, when Government is doing things in the interest of people and not, to my mind, wasting their money - that is, the taxpayers' money - or spending it well or wisely, I will have no hesitation in giving them support. I do not believe that I sit on the Opposition benches just for the sake of opposing everything that they bring, and I believe that the road rehabilitation programme and the sidewalk programme is a good one.

I think we all know that the state of the roads in Barbados, secondary roads

Aside.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: I will get to that. Not all, most. The Minister and I know about that, do not worry.

Aside.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Are you not happy?

Aside.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: As a matter of fact, we all know in here that prior to 1986 - maybe it was because the last administration was concentrating on super highways - we had a lot of the secondary roads in Barbados in a bad state of repair. That is true. I believe even the Honourable Member for Christ Church West might agree with that, because he had some bad roads too. But, Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Minister said when I was on that side that he was going to start a rehabilitation programme starting in St. Michael, and he said he would start in the City and go outward, across St. Michael and out into the country. He said he was going to do that, Sir, and he did, and even when I came on this side and became a member of the National Democratic Party the Honourable Minister still recognised that he was not fixing the roads for me or the NDP, he was fixing it for the taxpayers, the people of Barbados.

Aside.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: He is a man of integrity, yes. I cannot say that about everybody. Do not push that one too far. Stop there. I suggest that you stop there. The only time I got a little concerned, to be quite honest, was when I saw that they had done the New Orleans, Spencer's Gap, Reed Street, and when we started to move up town I saw them hop over Dunlow Lane and went into the Bay Land, which is in St. Michael South of course. I thought it was going to

rafale from the City, but I saw this skip. I got very concerned, because they hopped over probably one of the worst roads in St. Michael, which is Dunlow Lane. The Honourable Minister knows that, it is not a matter of criticism, it is a matter of fact. It is probably one of the worst roads in the City. It is not a road of pot holes. It has wells in it. I believe if you drove one of these little Suzuki cars through it and you fell into one of those pot holes the car will not move again, it will ground off.

The Honourable Minister again has assured me that he has not abandoned the programme. It is continuing, and that, in fact, Dunlow Lane will be done, because he is interested in the people who live out there. When the day comes that I am not the representative for the City any longer, those people will still be living out there and it is their money we are spending.

I noticed only yesterday they were back in the City. Hunte Street was being done and Lightfoot Cross Lane is being prepared for paving. I am happy about that too. But in the Chapman Lane area we have a little problem there. I do not know if it was deliberate or not, but during the last administration all of the roads in Chapman Lane were paved except one, and if you take a drive through there you will see what I am speaking of. I am told by the residents of that area it was because of the political colour of the majority of people living on that street that that road was not done, and that the former representative of that area seemed to have a difficulty in having that one done. I would appeal to you, Sir, to take a look at it and see if we can get it done, if not in this financial year, at least in the next. It is the closest thing to what one would call a cart road, It is the kind of road where you could stub your toe, like some of the ones I see in the constituency of St. George South. The North looks pretty good, they took good care of the North.

Sir, as I said when I started, I really only wanted to make a short intervention, because I do not think that any one who is fair-minded can find a lot to criticise about what is happening with MTW as it relates to road maintenance and rehabilitation.

The only other point I would like to make quickly, Mr. Chairman, is that on the question of the Dunlow Lane area, that road, beyond the need of very immediate repair, is very narrow at the end that comes out to Bay Street, and there is a business place up in there that has several large heavy duty trucks. I believe that might even have added to the condition of the road. I would think that the wall running along the property of the late Dr. Scott is a rubble wall, and in recent times every year when there is a lot of rainfall that wall seems to lean more and more, and I fear that before we have some kind of disaster that you may want to consider removing that wall and widening the road at the same time and look at the possibility of probably even making it into a one-way street. It is being used now by a lot of drivers as a

way to get away from the traffic on Bay Street and to get on to Collymore Rock.

Mr. Chairman, as I said when I started, I realise my time is running out anyhow, but I do not have any quarrel as such.

Aside.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: The Honourable Member for St. Lucy is acting in glee now because when he comes to have his little drink and some fish in Baxters Road he will now find sidewalks and he will not be stepping into holes any more. We feel pleased about that, there is nothing for you to quarrel about. I am not even quarrelling and you are quarrelling.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

On the motion of Hon. P. M. GREAVES, seconded by Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress and asked for leave to sit again, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I move that the sitting be now suspended until 5.30 p.m. this day.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly. 5.00 p.m.

ON RESUMPTION

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

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, the position of the National Democratic Party on the question of road repairs, road construction, road maintenance and road rehabilitation I wish to make very clear on this my first intervention under this Head. Like jobs, we on this side believe that the time has come when such matters as good roads in Barbados should be well above the area of either parish pump politics or politics for getting votes and so on. This means that the aim and objective must be to get all our roads to a appropriate standard of repair, and whilst that process is

going on we must start immediately on a road maintenance programme.

There have been umpteen studies done, particularly one by the World Bank about five to six years ago which I made a document of this House at the time, which demonstrated beyond a shadow of doubt that the savings to a country are enormous if you have an effective road maintenance programme as distinct from one which requires significant road rehabilitation. So that even now that roads are being done, whether it be a highway for a primary and economic objective or whether it be subsidiary roads which serve people living in villages and so on, it is essential that the Government should be developing an effective road maintenance programme in order to prevent the kind of rehabilitation exercise which the Minister of Transport described in relation to St. Andrew and elsewhere. I think it is an important policy position that needs to be taken at this point in our history, because I believe that if effective planning of a road maintenance system and a significant thrust is made to rehabilitate and repair those in need of rehabilitation and repair, that would be a major contribution which can be made.

I myself believe that this country has come to the end of a prolonged period of large capital projects, and the time has come when we try to get such things done as road repairs, road rehabilitation, road maintenance and most important that there should be a programme going hand in hand dealing with drainage of Barbados, because there is no single item that create greater problems in terms of road maintenance or the other way around, destruction of roads than inadequate drainage, and as the roads are repaired and as the surfaces become smoother, then that drainage problem is going to become even more pronounced. I am therefore pleased to see that some emphasis is being put on the question of drainage hand in hand with the question of surfacing of roads.

We have had a whole lot of debate in this House particularly following the Speightstown flooding with a lot of discussion going back into the historical annals of Barbados as to the reasons why drainage has become such an important problem and how it impacts on the ability of the roads to stand up, apart from the whole question of the types of vehicles that can travel on the roads, the distribution of weight of the vehicles and so on. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I would like to see, and I appreciate that the Minister is trying to introduce a comprehensive policy concept quite outside the kind of ridiculous ad hoc arrangements which have been tried down the years in order to deal with the question of adequate roads for all the people of Barbados to meet their social and economic needs.

My criticism of the ABC Highway has always been in relation to the cost of the highway per kilometre and the fact that it did not seem to be a highway which related to

industry, because it was built at a time when industry was dying, although I am pleased to say that it is quite clear that it is now becoming very much an enhancement of the tourism infrastructure of Barbados. At the moment it is enhancing the tourism aspect of the economy more, but I would think it would be remiss of me in my first intervention if I did not indicate the kind of successes and failures which we have had in St. Michael South Central because there are one or two jokers who walk around talking about their doing this and doing that, as though there was not a Minister or a representative in the constituency.

St. Michael South Central happens to be a constituency which cannot escape road repairs in Barbados, and I believe that the late Tom Adams made that point in this Honourable House, that whether you wish to do something about it or not, because of its location something has to be done, and when I related the things that were done in St. Michael South Central some years ago, the former Minister of Transport, Mr. Vic Johnson, decided that that had to come to an end temporarily, and I am glad to say that the Minister of Transport has been able to start again what he started way back in the early eighties in relation to St. Michael South Central.

We have had Halls Road done, we have had the Halls Road Roundabout, we have had Martindales Road, we have had the Martindales Roundabout, we have had Collymore Rock and we are hoping to get upper Collymore Rock expanded later on; we have had the Pine Road done, we have had George Street done, we have had Belleville done, we have had Belmont done, we have had Tweedside Road done on more than one occasion; we have had the Bridge Road done, we have had the bridge repaired, and we have had the gully beautified and so on just to mention a few. We have had Laynes Road done we have had Villa Road done in the past and it needs to be done again, but the point I am making is that within the Ministry of Transport and Works going back to the day when the present Minister was formerly Minister of Transport that there was a programme for road repairs in St. Michael South Central, and because of the associated traffic problems in that particular area, a decision was taken by the previous administration that you would have to do the roads outside of the constituency first, otherwise you would create such extraordinary bottlenecks in St. Michael South Central that it would be virtually impossible for people to live inside there, and therefore when those roads have been done, the inner roads are now being done and I am grateful for that.

There is also a problem in relation to drainage. The drainage had to be done and if one had to wait for seven years to have the whole lot done bit by bit within the resources of the country, it was a planned programme and the Ministry of Transport and Works should be congratulated that over a prolonged period they have been persistent in helping people in St. Michael South Central.

Ypu know we all have our friends no matter what administration exists. We don't have as many friends as the Honourable Leader of the Barbados Labour Party Opposition because I walk around his constituency a lot and wherever I go I see a little road started here, a little road started there. That has been going on for a long time, and I am often amazed how he succeeds in getting it done. Only two weeks ago, Mr. Chairman, I was walking around the back of a supermarket in an area that one would hardly walk about 5.30 in the morning, and suddenly I stepped on these grits and when I looked around I saw roads being done in the area. I said I saw a road that was being done when I realized I was walking on grit so he has remarkable capacity for getting those things done. I do not know how he manages. 5.40 p.m.

Anyhow, I can say that I am satisfied - that bridging, in various administrations - with what was done in St. Michael South Central in an orderly manner and the^ problems of drainage, the problems of flooding, have largely been overcome, whilst the roads have been repaired over time in St. Michael South Central.

I particularly resent people who have not presented themselves to the electorate of Barbados at any point in time walking around my constituency saying that they can get this done, they can get that done and all kinds of things like that. You talk about parish politics? It is being reduced now to parish pimp politics. That is the kind of thing that is beginning to happen in this country.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that the time has really come when probably there should be a committee of this Honourable House assisting and advising a Minister of Works in order to help him to decide on his priorities because, make no mistake there is no point doing roads in a DLP, or BLP or NDP constituency. You might win that seat that you already have but then you are going to throw away some other seat so it has really never made political sense.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: It has never made political sense to allocate priorities in road repairs to constituencies that a Government might hold. As a matter of fact, the political history of Barbados demonstrates that any time you have a major expansion programme around election time the Government loses.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has two minutes.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: That is a fact and the reason for that is I believe that people

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES I am talking about a General Election.

I think that people generally object and feel very distressed if they think that their votes can be exchanged for public expenditure.

Now, there are other areas of policy, the NDP policy, which I would like to enunciate during the course of this debate so that I have tried to address one area of policy and tried to give my constituency as an example where I think the public servants and a dedicated Minister - you know it took me almost 30 years to get him into the Democratic Labour Party

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

The Leader of the Opposition - we are getting some wires here crossed. The day that the Honourable Minister went across into the Leader of the Opposition's office in the presence of the Honourable Member for St. Philip North and the late Right Honourable Mr. Barrow, on television the night I, with these four, Sir, saw Mr. Barrow, say and demonstrate as he was wont to do when he was bringing over his arm. He did this, Sir, "Am.."

When he was asked the question about the membership of the Honourable Member in the Democratic Labour Party he said, "he never left us" and he wiped his eyes.

The Honourable Member has never answered that, but I know, Sir, in my heart, he was with me in the sixties in London at the Students Centre when the nov/ Leader of the Opposition was giving us licks on his sojourns from Edinburgh University, praising the Democratic Labour Party. There were two, sometimes No. 1 Collingham Gardens, Earl's Court, S.W.5, he and I. He was with us all the time.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I am going to clarify that. I believe that at a meeting at No. 85 Collingham Gardens, I did invite the Honourable Member to attend and he did attend. He did not become a member and his name was recorded as having been in attendance and I believe that there was an excuse from the Honourable Member for St. Thomas that he could not attend because he was busy on that particular day.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order. As Dr. Gilmore used to say to every question that was put to him by Counsel, Sir, "That is possible".

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I trust that answers all the queries.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Asides.

Mr. C. A. NEBLETT: Mr. Chairman, I just want to take this opportunity to congratulate the Minister and the officials of his Ministry, that of Transport and Works, on the manner in which they have expedited or caused to be expedited the studies of the Scotland District in terms of the problems with the roads.

I must say that the residents of the St. Andrew District have had two years of woes. I am aware that nothing technically could have been done to relieve them within a short time. I received many lashes in the printed and the electronic media in spite of all the efforts that I had been making. I was in close contact with the Minister. I was also in close contact with the Ministry and, I think, that what I have seen from the Errol Clarke Associates, I am indeed pleased with what efforts were made to bring the study to the stage it is at the moment whereby certain recommendations have been made.

I am a little concerned over the estimated cost for bringing about the necessary rehabilitation. I support the Minister in having a second opinion where the technical nature of this rehabilitation how it should move and I hope that he will get an answer within reasonable time.

One point I must state clearly. I hope that the technical staff of the Ministry will not forget the question of drainage and the outflow generally of storm water. I recognize, also, that we will have to think seriously of the type of agriculture in the area because it seems to me that with the decline of sugar in the area that there is a greater run-off and, hence, we are having a serious problem where the water is actually destroying road surfaces. 5.50p.m.

I think we have to plan the drainage in a way that we could get the water safely from the ridge to the valleys whereby very little damage will be done or at least minimize the damage that is being done to our road surfaces.

Another great problem has been suggestions that we might very well have to abandon certain districts. Now that will create a rather difficult situation, especially for people who have lived in areas for generations. It might be convenient for those folks to move to a new area. But what I am watching is an expanse of land that will be neglected. When this happens we are going to get a greater dereliction in the area. And I am hoping that, whatever happens, we maintain a road system that would lend itself to agriculture. In fact, I am looking forward to a study of agriculture in the

area and its economic viability. It might not be concerned with the question of sugar. The St. Andrew area can play a very important part where food production in this country is concerned. I am also looking forward to the question of developing in a formal way the livestock of the area so that we could help meet the food supply of this country with reasonable ease. But again, we must have certain priorities namely the drainage, the roads. Our network of roads will have to be well kept so that we could relate to this.

There are one or two points that I must emphasize, the continued maintenance of certain of the roads. Because over a period of about twelve years there has been no serious work and that has culminated in the problem you see that came on to us in 1986. I do hope that we will get back to a situation where our bridges and culverts are inspected regularly, where remedial work can begin as soon as there are signs of deterioration. There are some cases where we will need to organize the waterways in a manner to take a greater outflow of water and, until this is done, we are going to be in very serious trouble in maintaining our road surfaces.

I also must draw attention, it is not the same part of the Ministry but it is tied in now with the public transport system, each time there is a breakdown in the road, it creates inconvenience for the people of the area. Again, I am hoping that, when we have re-established links in some of these districts, we will get a public transport system back in place that will relieve again the suffering people of the area.

There is quite a bit of potential in the area in terms of tourism. We are always being visited not only by the tourists but even the locals that enjoy the landscape and even the casual visitor as he passes from one point to another. My friend from St. Peter, the Representative from St. Peter....

Aside.

Mr. C. A. NEBLETT: he assures me that he is always in St. Andrew and I know he is always in St. Andrew. In fact I think he passes through St. Andrew on his way from St. Peter to St. Philip.

Laughter.

Mr. C. A. NEBLETT: Anyway, we have got quite a bit to offer to extend and improve our tourist plant and hence the necessity for maintaining our roads in good shape.

Mr. Chairman, at this point, I will rest my case until we further explore other probabilities under the same Head.

Thank you.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Thank you, Sir. Sir, I was very heartened to hear the Minister outlining the present DLP policy in relation to road building, maintenance and rehabilitation and things like that. He said that road building would not have a social dimension and particularly referred to the Scotland District area. But of course knowing the Honourable Minister, that concept will permeate his whole approach or the Government's whole approach to road building in Barbados. That is a significant departure from what has been the case before.

He also made another significant point in relation to the plantation tenancies and the necessity for having a proper network of roads in the plantation tenancies. That approach he said will be a three part programme, including the laying of pipes and the electrification of these areas.

Now, Sir, at this item I would want to dwell in this area for a little while, insofar as it relates to the constituency which I have the distinction of representing in this Honourable House. That, Sir, is the constituency of St. George South. Now I am certain that, being a rural constituency, those two approaches to the whole programme relating to roads and so on will, in a direct sense, impact upon that constituency. I have had occasion in this House before to lament the fact that the road system in the constituency of St. George South is not of the best quality. And I have had occasion to ask specific questions relating to road repair in that constituency and also to address correspondence to the Ministry of Transport and Works about road building and road rehabilitation in the constituency. The Minister himself has also accompanied me to my constituency and he has seen the quality or lack of quality in the roads in that constituency. He had a first hand look at the quality of roads in the constituency.

Aside.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Or the lack of quality I should say. Now I would hope, and I would reserve any congratulations in this regard, I would hope that the programme that the Minister intends to embark upon will get into the constituency of St. George South. Because there is no gainsaying it, Sir, for a long time, for many years, we have suffered in terms of the lack of certain basic amenities and certain basic facilities in that constituency. I am not saying, Sir, that that constituency is singular in that regard. But it is my business to speak about the concerns in that constituency. I am not really concerned with any others in the manner in which I am concerned with that one. Under the previous administration, there was not any real concerted effort at addressing the problems of road repair and road rehabilitation in the St. George constituency.

Aside.

Mr. R. P. BYER: I do not know.

Laughter.

Mr. R. P. BYER: The Leader of the Barbados Labour Party asked if the former Representative for St. George South was victimized on my behalf.

Aside.

Mr. R. P. BYER: That is not the reason why he lost in St. George South.

Aside.

Mr. R. P. BYER: It had to do with a lot of other things, Sir.

Asides.

6.00 p.m.

Mr. R. P. BYER: I am not going to call his name man. Yes, Sir....

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Sir. Mr. Chairman, let it be said, Sir, and recorded that for the period 1976 to March 16, 1985 the Barbados Labour Party built 205 - let me get the words right - tenantry and subsidiary roads which were constructed by the Ministry of Transport and Works. Today...205.

Asides.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Sir, I do not know what was the reason for the intervention. The point I made was that - no, I never said that the Barbados Labour Party did not do any roads in St. George. I never said that. No, no man, keep quiet, the Honourable Member for St. Peter. What I said was, given the extent of the problems in terms of roads in St. George, that there was a lack of real effort in terms of improving those roads. I am not saying that they did not build any roads. I would be very wrong to say that. Anyhow, let me continue.

The point is this, Sir. When you go into the area of Drax Hall Jump in St. George, Sir, for sometime now the residents of that district have been complaining about water problems especially when the crop time is in and they have been complaining about inadequate roads. I had inquired by way of Parliamentary Question from the former Minister responsible for Transport and Works about the water problems in the area of Drax Hall Jump. The Minister had replied by saying that the problem was being attended to through the manipulation of valves. Now I have had several letters written to me from the residents of that district and some of these letters have been addressed....tell the two of them to stop talking man....and letters have been addressed to myself and also to the Honourable Prime Minister about the problems faced by the residents of this district. Now I do not know if the letters reached the desk of the Prime

Minister. But I know that the letter that was addressed to him was copied to me and that is how I know about this. There were also letters appearing in the media and a reporter from the *Nation* also went to that district and a story was published in that newspaper highlighting the plight of the residents of the area.

What I would like to ask the Minister to do, and I see some of his technocrats in here at the moment, Sir, is to see if he could address the problem that I highlighted, that is the water problems in the Drax Hall Jump area, for me. Especially now the crop is in, Sir, it is very difficult and there is always a fire in that area. Drax Hall Jump is in the heart of Drax Hall Plantation and it is always important, Sir. I believe that the main carrying water into that district may be too small, given the housing expansion that has taken place in the Drax Hall tenantry or rather in the several districts of Drax Hall and also in the Byde Mill area, and it might be necessary to have some look at the problem in that context in terms of solving it by laying a larger main to take water to the residents of the district. They have been complaining for a long time and I think that some effort should be made to address the problem, unlike the manner in which it was being addressed before.

Now the Member for St. James North made a significant point in his contribution when he said that, to his way of thinking, the old method of repair where tar was laid and then grit was placed on top of the tar awaiting the falling of rain was an unsatisfactory approach to road repair and maintenance and I entirely agree with him. At this moment, in the district where I live in Greens, St. George there is a stretch of land passing in front of my door which is being repaired in the same manner that I just described. It is just a road covered in white and if the repair is continued in that fashion it would stretch over probably 3/4 of a mile. This is the dry period and the rains are not going to fall yet for a little while. I am certain that it is going to cause the residents of the district some inconvenience. I would have thought the better approach would be to have barbergreened that area. But the Minister said that some work will be done in that regard and I hope that he will approach the resurfacing of roads in the constituency of St. George South by laying of barbergreen and not repairing them in the manner that I just described.

There are several other roads in the constituency, Sir, and many of them would fall under the Plantation Tenantry Road Scheme. There are several roads in St. George that will fall under that scheme not only in St. George South, Sir, but also in St. George North and at a later intervention I would like to highlight some of these roads, Sir. Thanks.

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

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Mr. Chairman, I just would like to make a brief intervention. I think that I understood the

Minister of Transport and Works to be adverting to the fact that, in many instances, we get a sort of incrementalist and economistic approach to matters of certain economic development in our country. We get a kind of ad hoc and scatter-shot approach to things that you are doing and that • he was suggesting that there was a revolution in transport especially in terms of tenantry roads and road maintenance based on the fact that what you have is a systematic approach to what the Minister has to do and that there is a thought-out strategy and concept about what has to be done. I am not disputing, as the Member for St. Peter said, that the BLP did roads. They did tenantry roads, and so on. There is no dispute about that. That is what I call the incrementalist approach and the economistic approach. We spend so many thousands. You spent so many thousands. We spent this many more thousands than you spent and you can go on from now until the end of history talking about who spent and who did not spend.

There is a simplistic approach to planning for developing countries. What I understood the Minister to be saying is that he had a thought-out policy that we are going to maintain all the roads at one time. We are going to barbergreen them instead of having to do as has been done in my constituency several times - come in Kingsland and repair pot holes. Five months later you come in Kingsland and you repair pot holes again and 5 months later you are doing the same thing. We are going to barbergreen the area and give the roads a life for a certain amount of time. You save the taxpayers money and, furthermore, what he is saying in terms of the tenantry programme is that you are spending money in areas where there has been no systematic programme for years in this country to deal with the neglected people of our country. Let us be very clear about these things. The issue of roads in Barbados was a history of central government and local government doing roads at a time when there was no real representation as we know it now, when Members of Parliament did not go in then for voting to represent any group of people who were poor and they put roads where they wanted roads put. In the modern period of Parliament, of our modern parliamentary development, we have not really seen systematic road programmes. Roads just developed all over Barbados in an ad hoc way and there are several poor people who live in areas where there are no roads to talk about. As I understand it what the Minister has done is to develop a programme, a concept and a programme, which the Democratic Labour Party has sought to fund at one swoop to bring those areas into the 20th and 21st Century. 6.10p.m.

I think that kind of social planning which has strong economic underpinnings coming out from the Democratic Labour Party has to be understood and to be valued for what it is worth. I am glad to see that that programme is being carried forward by this administration. It has nothing to do with trying to catch votes, it has to do with a

philosophy of operation for the benefit of the mass of people in this country.

I want to advert also to what is happening at the Transport Board. One of the problems we identified when we became the ruling administration of this country was in the structure of the Transport Board. We had concerns about whether or not we had the management structure that would help to provide the underpinnings for improvement in transport and to bring about economies that we expect over time. I would just want to ask whether we have been able to fill a number of those management positions and whether we have the management structure now that will give us the position on which we can move forward. I believe we have, but I would like to hear the Minister on this.

I know for a fact that as the bargaining representative of the workers at the Transport Board we have been very pleased at the spirit of co-operation, particularly in relation to the training at the Transport Board. There has been an extremely liberal policy in terms of allowing the rank and file members of the Board to be trained, and furthermore with the support from the Transport Board in sponsoring Transport Workers' Week last year I think the public was able to see the Transport Board in a different way, and I have perceived that the kinds of attacks that were daily launched against the Transport Board have lessened to a significant extent.

I think there is a different approach and the workers have begun to value themselves and to see themselves in different ways, therefore there are certain levels of motivation that have come out of that kind of management approach. I say management here not strictly in terms of the persons who are managers, but I am talking about right away down, a vertical approach from Minister down, in approaching the workers at the Transport Board.

I know that there are still problems. There are several problems in terms of industrial relations at the Transport Board. I know management perceives that the workers are responsible for certain practices and habits that would have to be addressed as we always do, bilaterally, through discussions between the Union and management at the Transport Board, but I perceive that there is a different spirit among the workers coming from training - you might perceive otherwise, Sir - and I am also going by the public's perception. You do not hear as many barbs aimed from Guttaperk and so on in that direction at the workers. I believe this is important. We have to stabilise that relationship before you can go on to the kinds of economies that one would expect.

It is not the first time it has happened. I remember when the Minister of Transport was Minister of Transport during the time of the Barbados Labour Party and Glenroy Straughn - I call the name, Sir - was the Chairman at the

time and Mitch Codrington was the Manager, there was a public relations approach also. It is being repeated and I believe that this is all to the good of the Transport Board and the public, a transport system which has serious ramifications for productivity and work in our country. People sometimes do not understand the relationship between proper transport and productivity in work, and I believe I can see some very positive signs there.

I want to come into my parish, particularly my constituency, Christ Church East Central. I note that, in the Development Plan, it is the intention to do some road repairs, particularly to the road to the top of Oistin Hill. That is from Oistin Hill, Highway 7, the junction with the Airport/West Coast Road via Lodge Road and Newton. It is a very, very important road. First of all, it is serviced by a number of schools in the area. Those who have to travel over Oistin Hill where there are lots of Foundation school children know the precarious slate of Oistin Hill. It is a very old hill, a badly constructed hill, a very dangerous hill. I know so many people who have lost their lives there, it is like a burial ground to some extent. That hill certainly needs widening, you need proper footpaths at the side, rails and so on, and the road going right through to Lodge Road. Not only do you have the Water Street boys and girls using that road, but at peak traffic times you can see hundreds of workers coming from work in Newton. It is really a very dangerous area and unfortunately I have had to write the police so many times, because, again it is used as a race track. We got some signs put up by MTW some time ago reminding people what the speed limit is. It is really a very dangerous road and we would welcome any early indications that under the World Bank programme you will be starting this road. I know it is part of the programme, it is just a matter of the timing.

In addition to that, the road from Searles, going right through to Six Roads, that is really a road in very bad repair, especially at the St. Patrick's end - Grand View, St. Patrick's - and the reason is that it has always had to carry two factories, not one, Foursquare Factory and Carrington Factory. It was also the brunt of development in terms of the natural gas when they had to dig up the road, and it is really in very bad repair. I am very happy that these roads have been indicated within the programme and I look forward to them being developed.

The road along Newton and Lodge Road, I think that was also indicated in the Miles Rothwell plan for drainage as an area where drainage would be put at the side and the water would then be conducted right away down Lodge Road to lead into the Oistin area. I believe it would be good if the second part of the Wotton/Kingsland drainage programme could be done at the same time when the roads are being developed.

Those are areas of concern which I have been asked by my constituents to raise in this particular forum and I am happy to do that on their behalf.

Two minor areas. I believe letters have been written to the Minister of Transport and Works, copied to me as representative, by some youth groups asking for zebra crossings to be put somewhere along Oistin. Of course we would depend on the expertise of the people in the Ministry of Transport and Works, but there is a real concern about being able to cross the road in Oistin. You have a number of bus stations there at one end near to the District Hospital, and at the other end by the fish market there is always a confluence of people moving from one side of the road to the other. It has been very dangerous.

On one occasion I gave a prize, to the oldest man in Lodge Road at a Street Fair. One week later he was no longer there, he had been struck crossing the road in Oistin and died. That was about two years ago. It is a very busy road, it is a very dangerous road and I would want to go by the advice from the Ministry in terms of what can be done to make it safer for crossing. If zebra crossings are the answer, then I would hope that something could be done in that regard.

Mr. Chairman, on those few notes I would like to again compliment the Minister of Transport and Works on the programme and to indicate that I believe the entire House supports this particular programme. I have only been hearing positives, no negatives, a clear indication that the Democratic Labour Party is doing the right thing. 6.20 p.m.

Mr. E. BOURNE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to say a few words on transport. I have listened very carefully to the Minister whom I call the working Minister, and I am quite happy with his programme. I feel quite sure that he will do all in his power to implement it, but at the same time I would like to point out a few things, which should be done in my constituency. During the time of his predecessor I asked that some work be done at Wilcox Hill, which is very dangerous. It is used almost minutely by the tourists and locals alike, and I was promised at that time that it would be included in this Development Plan. Well I have searched the Development Plan over and over and I have not seen any mention of it, but I would be happy if something could be done about it because the road needs rebuilding completely.

Last year I had the privilege of visiting the site with the Chief Technical Officer and he promised me that he would draw up his plans and have them submitted to the appropriate authorities and I would hope that he would not wait too long, neither would the Ministry take another two to three years before they can implement that work.

Now dealing with Sayes Court-Goodland, how many people are not killed around that bend Heaven alone knows. That, too, was promised to be started in June. Now there is a high wall at the corner, and I think that to remove the wall would be a very simple matter. If the wall is removed and the corner is widened, I think that should answer the question. It is a very dangerous corner and I am asking the Minister really to look into these two dangerous roads and give them a little push forward.

Now there is Greenland which is opposite Upper Carters Gap. I think he will be looking after this shortly. I was promised by him and I can always take his word on that, but I would like to point out that the people in Greenland have always been having great difficulty with this road and whenever there is heavy rain in September and October they always have to purchase loads of marl out of their pockets to make it passable.

At Landsdown which is in another developed area, the road there is in very poor condition. A pregnant woman travelling over that road recently fell and had a miscarriage, and this is because of the poor condition of the road.

Now drainage. The drainage engineer of the department has promised me in a conversation that I would be given five drainage wells, and it is nearly a year now and I have not seen anybody showing up with any kind of equipment to dig these wells.

Now Inch Marlowe is a place that is prone to flooding, and I can always tell when it is September. My phone is ringing and then you see the familiar faces on the T.V. complaining about flooding of their houses, and in every case the Fire Service has to come up there and pump the water off. I hope that this matter will be looked into immediately before September comes again. The same thing goes for Parish Land. We have had a site visit in Parish Land and I was promised by the Chief Technical Officer that work would be done on that, and I would hope that September does not find Parish Land in the same position where some people are already planning to buy boats or build boats to get out of their houses when the rain falls.

Sayes Court is another area which is very prone to flooding, and I would hope that the technocrats carry out their work to have the drainage done there. I don't see there is any need for a well. I think if they would grade the drainage properly that they can use the existing wells at the Sayes Court farm. There are two existing wells down there which are practically useless.

Now there is another area, Rollins Road, which floods just as much as the others and this too I would like to see some work done on. St. Christopher is another place and Green Garden is another one which is pretty near to Silver Sands Hotel. Now there are five wells which were

identified by the MTW technocrats and I would like to know that some work would be forthcoming on these.

Now the representative for Christ Church East Central talked about a zebra crossing in Oistin. Two years ago I asked a question about crossings from Oistin to Speightstown. I asked that traffic lights be put up so that people could cross the roads in safety. From Oistins to Speightstown people walk across the road. It is dangerous in Oistins, it is dangerous in Worthing, it is dangerous in Maxwell, it is dangerous in Hastings, it is dangerous down the St. James Coast. I travel these places too, you know, and the answer to my question was that at that time they were looking after the lighting of the city and they could not entertain that. I hope that the Ministry will give this due consideration.

Now there is something that bothers me every day when I travel on the new highway. I have noticed that bicycles dart in and out on the highway at will at some times. We have the problem of farm tractors, earth moving equipment and road building equipment, and I think it is time that we should stop these people from using the highway because the speeds that they travel at will only cause serious accidents. The highway is for rapid progress and not for snail's pace, and learners seem to think that the first day they go and practice they should use the highway. I think they should go and practice when the officers are taking them out for trial because we who are old drivers did not practise on the highway, but yet we use the highway fairly efficiently; so I do not see the need for a learner to go on the highway.

Now there is a problem with the trucks that carry around goods, marl trucks, gravel trucks and regular cartage trucks. I think something should be done about the loading of these trucks and the fines should be fairly heavy. I notice recently that there is a team from the MTW which has to go and sweep up the gravel which is very dangerous around the roundabouts, and I think it is high time that we really put our foot down and make these people understand that they just cannot create nuisances at will.

Now the workshop. The Minister spoke very well about the workshop and I think it is high time that the workshop at MTW becomes an efficient operation. I look forward to some efficiency and I know that if this is really put in operation the way it should be, we would really get a lot of production and there would be less down time for the equipment.

Regarding the repair of roads, the Honourable Member for St. George South talked about the method of tarring and gritting the roads and the early disintegration of the roads. I think that the disintegration of the roads is not due to marling and tarring. I think that the road surfaces are not properly prepared in the first instance. On occasions I happen to see some of the crews, not all of them, who will

just go and throw marl on the old road instead of scourifying it, and if you are not going to security the road, it is just a waste of good time and material. I think that better supervision should be carried out when road repairs are being done, because there are some roads in my constituency which were built for many years and they were just dirt and marl, and they are still in fairly reasonable shape. 6.30 p.m.

With those few words, Mr. Chairman, I think that I will end and hope to come again later.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I am glad my constituent, the Honourable Member for Christ Church West has permitted me to go before him because I am certain that he, for the record, and otherwise, would be interested in some of the matters that I am going to raise.

When the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act was passed I got the impression from the Barbados Labour Party then that there was to be some trade off between the question about acquiring other people's land for the purposes of giving other persons right and the provision of social services or infrastructure in those tenancies and while it is true, Sir, that the Government went ahead and proceeded under the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act to give people rights in respect of the land, they did not, at the same time, provide the infrastructure in the tenancies which would make them not only places that since the days of slavery were considered to be the backside of the plantation, but would make them places that were habitable and as I remember reading in a speech delivered by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central in 1981, places that people would wish to bequeath to their children or places that are habitable and that you can feel some pride in living in them so that there would be the development of an area and not just giving people security of tenure or giving them the right to land without providing the facilities that go hand in hand and making a community.

It is true, Sir, that there are some very small tenancies and Government has to be very careful because the cost of providing infrastructure in some of those very small tenancies may well exceed what the taxpayers can bear in relation to the small number of persons who may live in a given area but that is one of the hazards of the Tenancies Legislation and the provision of infrastructure in these areas.

In my own constituency, Mr. Chairman, there are a number of tenancies which do not have roads. They have what, basically, you can call tracks and there has been a considerable deterioration of the existing road surfaces which should have been established years ago and I was hoping that when the Honourable Member for St. Thomas read from the Cabinet Paper that the Honourable Member for Christ Church West would also have read the Cabinet

Paper or the documents which might be on the file which would tell him that so intent was the Barbados Labour Party in stopping the development of any infrastructure in St. John that the materials that they had dropped down in College Savannah to complete the turntable for the bus consequent on September 2, 1976, they sent back the truck and put the materials back in the truck and carried it back to the depot and that was the end of development in College Savannah.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: It would be in the file. You can consult the file on that one.

Now, Sir, that is a critical need because apart from the question of transportation, the bus cannot turn at the bottom of College Savannah but there is another wider problem, a problem for which I am very concerned in that particular area.

Now, Sir, that relates to the fact that in that particular area known as College Savannah which is not a tenantry *per se*. The Codrington Trust owns large tracks of land. They have allowed people by giving them letters, to borrow money and build wall structures, wall houses on this land and yet they have not put in any of the facilities, no roads, no water, no lights, nothing and this is something that the Town and Country Planning Office is going to have to look at very carefully.

It cannot be fair to the Government where a new development takes place for us to have to stand the cost of putting in water, street lights, electricity and new roads in those kinds of developments because it was not an existing tenantry so it cannot form part of the purpose of the Tenancies legislation which was passed in 1980.

I have a large number of constituents who were building large structures in that College Savannah area and yet none of the infrastructure facilities were there and they expect, and, probably, rightly so, their representative to lobby for these facilities and, yet, the persons who own the land have made no provisions for these facilities nor, to the best of my knowledge, have they ever submitted to the Town and Country Planning Department any plan for the overall development of the area. So development is taking place that is not planned and at the end of the day Government will have to come and rescue the area from development that is unplanned, by putting in expensive infrastructure which normally the Town and Country Planning Department demands the developer himself or herself to put in.

It was in the area of Pool, Sir, and that is why this Tenantry Road Programme is so dear to my heart. It was in the area of Pool when we opened that new tenantry road which is one of the projects under the St. John

Development Plan. It was instituted by this Government that the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works announced the Tenantry Road Programme. Apart from that, this Government did work in the areas of Glenburnie and Zoares in St. John.

Now, I heard the Minister speak about the Scotland District. The Scotland District, as I understand it, extends right across into Sealy Hall in St. John and there are a lot of areas from Foster Hall right across to Sealy Hall where the new road was built where considerable erosion has taken place not only affecting agricultural lands but, also, affecting the roads and the houses which are on the tenancies that are close to this road, particularly, on the bottom of Bath Hill and these are matters of grave concern to me.

It is, obviously, going to be an expensive exercise but one which Government will have to undertake if it is serious about providing infrastructure and providing proper road surfaces and drainage facilities.

Under Phase 1 of the Tenancies Road Programme there are a number of tenancies that will be done in the St. John area. It looks to me like 11 of them not all of which actually falls in my constituency but all of which fall within St John and this is because as many members can attest, when they were there in 1987 in the by-election the roads were, literally, in an appalling state in that particular constituency. Not one tenantry road was completed in St John other than Henley, I believe, which was done by the Labour Party which really falls in St George South and there were no tenantry roads, therefore, done in the constituency of St. John. The only road that was done was the Foster Hall to Sealy Hall and that is not really the road. That is resurfacing a surface because no drainage was put in and there are a lot of spring lines there, as I understand it, which cause erosion.

The major tenancies like Cliff, Society, Clifton Hall, in particular, Lemon, Arbour, College Savannah and Guinea are all tenancies that are in need of the tenantry road programme and it is one of the major concerns that was addressed by the St. John Development Plan which was not a plan that dealt with anything more than the provision of services by a Government in a particular constituency and we set out each of these areas as areas which we would be paying attention to in respect of road facilities.

A constituency like St John and unlike areas in St Michael where you have to pass through - to get from St John to Bridgetown you have to pass through St. Michael so it is necessary for you to do those roads anyway but if you are going to do a road in St John you have to intend to do it and I always make this point. It means therefore you have to determine that your resources are going to be allocated in an area where usage of the road may not be as

large as in other areas and so on. And we understand these kinds of things. 6.40 p.m.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: But it is equally important because these people are taxpayers. And not only that. It is in these tenancies that a large number of persons are now building large houses and contributing to the economy by employing people and yet they have to run fifty lengths of pipe from a main road to get water, electricity and that kind of thing. It cannot be fair if they are putting out a capital outlay in the economy, spending money, employing people, buying materials and at the end of the day they cannot receive some of the basic infrastructural facilities that are necessary.

There are some areas in St. John that do not fall within the tenancy programme. The situation in Welches is . appalling. I mean you can barely drive through it. I took the Minister there. There is a bridge that they had done some repairs to. The bridge is now washing away again. The major problem with that bridge and areas like this is the tremendous danger to people who live in those areas. You could be coming through that area which is not properly lighted and drive straight off the bridge on any given night. It is only fortunate that a lot of people do not use those kinds of roads as a matter of course. But if you did not know the area and just drove in there, it would cause probably an accident and some kind of fatality. The problem at the bottom of Bath Hill is similar in the sense that houses are perched at the edge of a cliff. There is no drainage and the water is washing away the foundation to the houses. And I refer also to the area of Sargeant's Street.

Now last time we debated Transport and Works, the Minister indicated that there was a problem with street lights. I did not hear all of his opening speech and I do not know if he dealt with it. But I should really like to know what the position is with regard to street lights.

I want to go a step further. My own personal experience with public utilities in Barbados has been one of frustration and it is absolutely appalling that these people have a monopoly in this country and do not treat consumers with any kind of decorum or courtesy. For example, you will write and make an application for some kind of service, as I have recently done, and you would receive a cydostyled letter or a stencilled letter saying we cannot provide the facility because there are no cables in the area or something so. Do you wish back your deposit? A monopoly in a country like this! You cannot go to anybody else. And it is unreasonable to the consumer. It is not as though there are six telephone companies you can go to that if one cannot provide a telephone you can go to another, or six Light and Power companies. We have a monopoly and these people have a duty to provide the facilities. If they

cannot provide they should state within what time frame and at what cost they will be able to provide it in the near future if at all. That does not necessarily relate to street lights because I know that street lights are Government's responsibility, but I only raised it because of recent experience with public utilities.

I know that the Minister had indicated his dissatisfaction with the manner in which Barbados Light and Power was not able to put up any street lights during the former Financial Year.

Sir, these are things that concern us in a parochial sense but they also have national significance, particularly in the whole question of development of tenancies. It is a credit to this administration that, even though we did not pass the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act as part of our legislation, our social legislation, that we have still ensured a commitment to the people who live in these areas by embarking on a tenancy programme of the nature of the one which has been outlined by the Minister. It falls squarely within the development plan for St. John which the Honourable Member for the City has indicated only yesterday that he read and knew about and was questioning me on, this particular aspect falls squarely

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Two minutes more.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: On a point of order, Sir. I never said that I read or knew about any St. John Development Plan. I asked about it because I had never seen it. I had heard about it but I have never seen it. I have never seen any St. John Development Plan.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Two minutes to conclude,

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: i do not wish to be contentious but I have the tape of a meeting where he quoted from the St. John Development Plan in St. John. It was published. Do not do that to me Peter. That is not fair.

Laughter.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: He said yesterday he wanted to hear about it and this falls within the Development Plan that he articulated so well for me and for which I thank him....

Laughter.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: on this occasion. Do not deny it. You did a good job.

*Laughter^*

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Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: The Honourable Member for St. George South would not say he does not know about it. The Honourable Member for Christ Church East would

not say he does not know about it. He was there next to me. Do not do that to me. That is not fair.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Pardon? Well this is part of it And you know this was a major part of our platform in St. John, the provision of tenantry roads and roads in the constituency. Therefore I am very happy that the Minister of Transport and Works has demonstrated his commitment to this. We are getting a polyclinic which you will hear about a little later. After that, Sir, the plans will take shape in the time frame which we anticipated.

Thank you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Christ Church West.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is interesting that there is a large measure of agreement under this Head, and there is probably not much controversy on either the role of the Ministry or, indeed, about the purpose of the programmes or, indeed, about the social policy which inspires the programme in the Ministry of Transport and Works.

The substantial complaint which has emanated from both sides of the House relates solely to the pace at which the roads of Barbados are being transformed. Sometimes, I think, in the partisan political atmosphere of Barbados we get carried away to blaming administration after administration without looking at the historical reasons why the roads and particularly the tenantry and subsidiary roads of Barbados have remained as they are for umpteen years.

The Honourable Minister is a student of history, particularly of the history of Barbados, and like me he would know that the system of slavery has had a lot to do with the state of the tenantry roads in Barbados. Certainly the state of the tenantry roads cannot be laid at the door of the Barbados Labour Party for the simple reason that, if we would take the parish of St. John, the Democratic Labour Party had responsibility for fifteen years. We then intervened for just short of ten, and now they are back in for just short of three. I reckon that, in a major part of that time, they have had the responsibility for that parish. I am not even counting the fact that the parish

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. That is not a fair argument.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Sir, the honourable Member knows that the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act which would have given you rights to go on to the tenantry was only passed in 1980.

So you cannot say that the Democratic Labour Party Government prior to 1976 would have had that duty or right to do those things.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: If the Honourable Member would let me develop the point, he would see that I am not even criticizing the former Right Honourable Member for St. John. I am trying to put Members in an objective frame of mind rather than coming in the House and trying to score points and to deny the contribution made by the great Party which I now have the honour to lead, because the position is that, historically, those plantations were first under slavery, then under a system of terrible ownership and limitation. Then we had the system in Barbados where responsibility for tenantry roads was the responsibility of the Vestry and Local Government system rather than Central Government.

Now all of a sudden we are hearing in this House that all of the ills of what has happened in the tenantry roads must be laid at the doors of the Barbados Labour Party. I am not saying the Honourable Member has said that. I am not speaking about the Honourable Member.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: What I am saying, Sir, is that, during our term in office, we laid down the policy framework which we are seeing now, continuation of which we are now seeing by this Government. To the extent that the Government is continuing within the same policy framework, the same social policy framework that we outlined, I can certainly support the Government's programme.

But it is a mistake to continue to give to the public of Barbados the conception that the Barbados Labour Party did not have the intellectual capacity or the social conscience to conceive and execute programmes that were for the benefit of the masses of this country, particularly the lower income masses and the black masses. We brought political enfranchisement to this country. 6.50 p.m.

We are proud of having done so. We have contributed substantially to economic enfranchisement in this country and will continue that programme, and we have more than manifested our social conscience and nobody but nobody will be allowed to write it out.

Now Sir, we had to acquire - we had to give tenants the right to purchase the plantation tenancies. That bit of legislation is there and it is an outstanding piece of social legislation engineering, a bit of legislation for which we have been severely criticized in this country. It manifests our strong commitment to democratic socialism from which we will never depart.

Part of the concept of that legislation envisaged that, in the plantation tenantry, we would have continued with a programme of rehabilitating the tenancies by putting in electricity, by putting in water and roads. I will cite only 2 instances Mr. Chairman, Sir, to illustrate. I will cite for instance the tremendous work done in Belair where we spent over \$1 million to reconstitute the tenantry roads and also.....

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

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

Hon. B. M. TAUT: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member is misleading the Committee as the Barbados Labour Party has attempted to mislead the country. There has never been any criticism of the plantation tenancies and he is continuing to mix the two. There was criticism of the methodology that was used. There has never been any criticism of the plantation tenancies. We have indicated in our Manifesto those areas that we will change and we have set out to change them by law. It is misleading this Committee to continue to give the impression that the Democratic Labour Party argued against what he said.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The Honourable Member continues to piggy-back, Sir. I am not now arguing about the legislation. I am trying to point out to the Committee, if the Honourable Member would listen and stop trying to take merely facetious points in my view, not in the Chair's view, on these matters. The point I am making, Sir, is that we had a programme for giving people the right to purchase their lots, which was land reform. We also had the programme of bringing in the infrastructure. The legislation was passed in this House in 1981 and we set about within the plantation tenancies with a tenantry road programme. But at the same time we also set about a programme for the rehabilitation and reconstruction and maintenance of the roads, and the construction of not only major roads but as well the subsidiary roads.

Now Sir, again within the Ministry, Government will have within its bosom communications from the Chief Technical Director to the Permanent Secretary setting out in 1985 that some 205 subsidiary and tenantry roads in several parishes, and I do not want to read them into the record, had been done. When I get up here and hear it being said that we did nothing about the subsidiary and tenantry roads - I am not talking about plantation tenantry roads now - it aggrieves me that we are really again being misrepresented for what we have been achieving in this country.

At the same time we set out restructuring the Ministry. On June 14, 1984 we entered into an agreement with the World Bank for an amount in various currencies of U.S. \$11 million to undertake a road rehabilitation programme

during the planned period 1983-88. Now part of that programme involved the institutional strengthening of the Ministry of Transport, including putting in management systems, including the soil and material testing lab - we started the building of that - including the equipment, the maintenance and management system. So it was within that policy framework that we were doing these matters.

Sir, the Honourable Member and I were Members of a Cabinet together. I have without any hesitation when he was conceptualizing the idea credited him with the idea. So he need not quarrel with whether it is his or something. We were all part of a Cabinet. But although he has had his differences - just a minute, Sir. Although he has had differences with Members of my Cabinet, the point is that the Labour Party was part of a policy and implemented a policy, that the Honourable Member is now fortunate to be able to continue sitting on the other side. I wish he had stayed over here because now I would be leading him over there and he and I will be continuing the policy. He might have been next to me in No. 2, Sir, if he had stayed over. He would not be far down the line at all, and I have told him so, Sir. The Honourable Member knew that, Sir.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order. I do not accept that he would have won an election. I do not accept that, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: But the Honourable knows it. The Honourable Member knows because not only were we using loans. The Honourable Member knows the Transport Levy and I have read this into the House before. The Honourable Member and I stood in the hot sun on Hastings Road one Saturday, he would remember, I was not in the Cabinet then, discussing the whole Transport Levy and its purpose. We discussed a few other levies, too, to transform the social configuration of Barbados and he told me of his ideas on that. But we also used the Transport Levy for the purpose of the tenancies, including the urban tenancies.

Therefore, to continue, some Members might give the impression that nothing was done under the Barbados Labour Party. It is not so. Today I have had to correct this Committee's view on the whole question of maintenance. So we had a triple programme going on major highways on rehabilitation. Take for instance the Salters Turnpike Highway that is now being done. That was one in the planned period and there were others that we were doing, and we were also attending to the other aspect of the matter of the plantation and subsidiary roads about which we have obviously tremendous problems. The Honourable Member who represents the constituency in which I live has just spoken of the problems in his own constituency.

So I hope that we can clarify this matter and get on to some of what is called the parochial housekeeping areas

*Vi'r. which we all have concern, Sir, when we come to these matters.

Sir, the sidewalk programme is another programme which we started. You will remember the tremendous criticism about the sidewalk programme along Highway 7 in the Maxwell area when the former Right Honourable Member for St. John made the fuss about the cutting down of trees. Well, they are still cutting down trees opposite the NUPW for the same purpose. But I am not going to make an issue of that. The point is that the sidewalk programme is an important programme that should be continued. In my own constituency, I recognize from the period 1930 to the last World Bank Project they omitted Hastings.

Now, Sir, if you want a road that is really very dangerous you must take from the Garrison right up to Worthing to St. Lawrence which is a very serious area for pedestrians. Even becoming a worse one is the area along Golf Club Road which has become so crowded because of Rockley Resort and the Rendezvous Hill Road passing Hawthorne Methodist Church and the Fire Service. Those are areas of utmost priority. I do not believe that we have the money to do all at one time but I am citing them.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church East spoke, Sir, about pedestrian crossings. I have asked questions in this House and I have spoken in the Committee about pedestrian crossings. I am tired writing to the Ministry about pedestrian crossings along Pavilion Court, the one opposite Hastings Rocks, one by Chefette. I was told that one time the problem was that they were waiting until Highway 7 was rehabilitated. Another time the problem was that they wanted special traffic lights. But I again say that that must be part of the safety measure, Sir.

Sir, I am going to move very quickly to the question of street lights and remind the Minister, Sir, because I do not know if he is in a position to tell us whether his representations to Light and Power have borne any fruit yet. What we are finding is that, in areas like Bonnetts, Simmons Road, where the very poor people live, Sir, and Passage Gardens, Neil's Plantation Road in the Minister's constituency, Sir - I am going to talk for all of them, Sir, being a true national leader, Sir, I will talk for everybody, Sir, in Dayrells Court as well, Sir, we need these lights to be placed. 7.00 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: One minute.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Lastly, Sir, I want to talk a bit about the bus terminals. Everybody should be satisfied about the tremendous change made to the face of Bridgetown with the bus terminal at Fairchild Street, commonly referred to by most people as the Johnson International. There is also the Speightstown Bus Terminal and I understand that the Government intends to continue

the programme by a rehabilitation of the area for the minibuses as well.

Likewise, Sir, I would welcome the continuation, as I see it is continuing, of the programme for bus shelters, a programme^ that began in this country with service clubs. The Lions Club was the first club, at my instigation and the instigation of a former member of this House, Mr. Louis Lynch, to start such a programme, and now I am glad to see that it has been taken over by the State. I believe that it can pay for itself over a period of time, if advertising space is sold consistently. I believe that these are things about which there can be no quarrel in the House between any of the three constituent parties which are now in this House. There should be no quarrel on these matters.

Therefore, I hope that my short intervention in this debate would clarify the role which my party has had the honour to perform during its terms of office, and I give the House an assurance that after the next election we will continue the beneficial aspects of this policy when we constitute the Government from the other side.

Mrs. M. BARKER-WELCH: Mr. Chairman, I listened with great interest to the recital of the number of roads that had been done by the Barbados Labour Party. Whilst I am sure that they did some work on roads, I am also sure that facts are stubborn things and St. Joseph does not seem to have been on that list. I am not saying nothing was done, but I am saying of the percentage of roads that was done in St. Joseph, seeing that St. Joseph was a parish that was so loyal to the Barbados Labour Party for so many years, it is amazing the extent to which some roads were neglected. Not all. For instance, there is a road in Hothersal that I understand was done because a certain person's car stuck up there one day, and the next week the road was done to a certain extent, and the people on the other side still need a road.

Now, I was very happy to be able to invite the Minister of Transport and Works to my beautiful constituency to see what was going on there, and I am really grateful about the programme for tenantry roads, because you have to be there to understand what is going on in the tenantry roads in St. Joseph. Roads that had been broken for years, like the roads between Lower Parks and St. Sylvan's which used to be called Dark Hole, the road between there was broken, no buses could pass and for years women trudged up that hill, a very steep hill, getting wet, just trying to get a bus, because the bus could not go down there. So I am very glad that these will ease the constituents in St. Joseph who most of the time have to pass through those tenantry roads to get on to the main roads in order to get buses to get to work.

One other problem we have had in St. Joseph was the problem of the maintenance of these roads. I walked down several roads which I thought were tracks, only to find that

they were not tracks, they were roads, but the sides of these roads had not been weeded for so long that they just appeared to be tracks and no vehicular traffic could pass properly there.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member for St. Joseph is being unfair. The Honourable Member must know that the following roads were done in St. Joseph: Branchbury Tenantry, Mapp Road, Horse Hill, Joes River Tenantry, Horse Hill Tenantry, Blackmans Tenantry.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member is making what I consider a speech.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Orange Grove, Easy Hall Tenantry Road.

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

Mrs. M. BARKER-WELCH: Mr. Chairman, he called the roads that were done and I would not have enough time in here this evening to call the roads that were not done, but they are going to be done. You did Branchbury, and right behind Branchbury there is Ginger Works where people have to get two pairs of shoes in order to come through to get to the bus, where the houses were allowed to be built below the surface, and I am telling you it is grim down there. Then we have Claybury, Fisherpond, I could go on and on and on.

I began by saying that I was not saying that nothing had been done, but I was saying that for a constituency that was so adamantly loyal to their party, very much was not done. As for what I just spoke about, the road weeding, that is another serious thing, especially down Mellows Hill where there was no weeding of the road so therefore the water gets into the various pools at the side of the road and you get mosquitoes and things like that. So I am saying that road maintenance, especially in certain areas, was certainly lacking. Thank Heavens, by April at least people in Easy Hall, Ginger Works and out by Hackleton Cliff will be able to have the benefit of these works.

Asides.

• Mrs. M. BARKER-WELCH: I know every inch of the constituency, so I know where was done and where was not done. I am saying that for places like St. Joseph where even to get from one village to another, it is not like Bridgetown where you just slip from one house to another, in St. Joseph in order to get from one village to another you have to go through tenantry roads most of the time, and with the fixing of these roads people will be able, especially the women who have to go into town early on mornings with lots of

loads and parcels find it very difficult to traverse these roads.

7.10p.m.

Now we are having road works with a human face as the Minister said because of the masses of people who otherwise would have to trudge through terrible little roads, especially when it rains two rains. I am scared to go into Ginger Works. We have other roads like that.

Asides.

Mrs. M. BARKER-WELCH: The thing is, though, that my constituents will tell you that if the water is up to my neck I am going to be there. The programme has not started yet but I was very impressed when one rainy morning we discovered a crack underneath one of the bridges in St. Joseph and I got on the telephone and called MTW. By the next day that bridge had been fixed because that would have been a serious thing. We have one or two more to do which the Minister has assured me we will get done in due course, and I believe him. He is serious about community development, and I am sure that will happen. We are expecting these things and we are also expecting street lights.

I was reminded of another great instance when at 2 o'clock in the morning MTW workers went to help us to save Horse Hill. A part of Horse Hill broke down between one and two o'clock and they really were very swift on that. It is still a little precarious, but I am assured too that that will be done.

Now I understand that there was some problem with Light and Power in relation to street lights, because they were talking about street lights in other areas like the City and other suburban areas, but the problem with street lights in St. Joseph is even more difficult because when you don't have street lights out there, the place is pitch dark and in some areas women are quite scared to walk because of the absence of street lights. I have been assured now that the Barbados Light and Power are getting whatever went wrong corrected, and I am hoping that they will stop talking about a rural electrification programme and get on to it, because every time I have asked and I have had discussions, I am told that they are on this rural programme, but I don't see anything happening. With all of these things coming on stream, I am sure that my constituents in St. Joseph will be very happy, because the country constituents are very reasonable people; they do not expect miracles but they do expect some sort of convenience when they have to go out. They are church-going people and on Sunday mornings they cannot get through the road to get to church. It is very serious.

Sir, thanks to the foresight of our Minister and the Ministry we hope that this will be corrected. There is one other small thing and this is to do with transport now. I am

wondering if there is some way in which the Minister or the transport division can have the car light at night dimmed by some sort of contraption so that the lights do not blind you so badly at night. Is there no sort of way that we can arrange it so that the lights are less severe? I think the lights at night are very serious.

With those few remarks, Mr. Chairman, I conclude my remarks in support of these Estimates to be spent on the road programme. I thank you.

Asides.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: If the House wants the work done, let's put the question. Unless we can put the question, I have to move the suspension of the sitting. Do you want to come back tomorrow on this?

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Your Honour do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

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

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be suspended until 12 o'clock noon tomorrow, Thursday, 16th March, 1989.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly. 7.20p.m.

ON RESUMPTION

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

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY Mr.

CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, yesterday the debate tended to centre as usual around the question of road construction, road maintenance and road rehabilitation. These are hardy annuals, but I will be dealing with certain individual roads in my constituency.

First, I think it is a necessary thing to put in context the question of tenantry roads in Barbados. Way back with the Development Plan that ran from 1961 to 1965 the Democratic Labour Party made a proposal to do ten miles of tenantry roads a year, and within the limits of the finances that the country then had. Significantly that programme for tenantry road development was limited to Bridgetown and St. Michael and its environs. In fact let me just read from page 23 of the Development Plan 1962-1965 Tenantry Roads, and this is how this matter was then described.

"There are some 100 miles of rough earthen and macadam roads in tenancies all over the island but especially in the parish of St. Michael - (Bridgetown and its environs) - which have to be reconstructed. A programme to reconstruct 10 miles per annum is aimed at within the limits of funds available."

Now we boast, I think quite properly, that in the context of the Caribbean we have the best network of roads. There is no doubt about that. I have been to virtually all of the islands, and we also seem to have, through successive Governments, a planned programme for repair and maintenance of this massive network of roads that we have.

The Minister, I believe, in his address did indicate that one of the problems with many of the main roads in Barbados is the foundation. The foundation to the roads in Belleville and in parts of St. Andrew and so on were built in days when it was not envisaged that you would have the kind of heavy equipment driving on these roads as we have today, and there has to be a gradual redevelopment of many of these roads to cater to the type of vehicle that will use the roads today.

The Barbados Labour Party's policy was to develop a new network of main highways and we all know what these are, and to rehabilitate existing highways, and I have to confess that about 1978-79 I had a very heated argument with the late Prime Minister Adams that I thought the emphasis was wrong and that the attack should have been concentrated on the tenantry roads, because I had a lot of them in St. Philip at the time, and quite frankly those were days of some fiscal and economic restraint which were inhibitive of free movement and comfortable movement in the constituency because there was not a lot that was happening, and I felt that if at least road works were done in the tenantry roads to alleviate some of these basic daily problems of the poorest people in the parishes, that would have counterbalanced in some way the pressure or the little disquiet that was being fomented because of the economic and fiscal restraint.

It was argued with me that this was not productive and that it was better to do the highways. I think as a matter of priorities that perhaps was slightly misplaced, but as things improved the Government decided to make an attack on

subsidiary roads as a necessary corollary to the development of tenancies in the sense of the enfranchisement of the owners of the lands in the tenancy areas. What we felt was that if you were going to promote home ownership among plantation tenants, then the next logical step would have been the development of the infrastructure that led to those homes which we all hoped would be developed by the plantation tenants, and so you had the Act of 1980-53, the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act which gave plantation tenants the right to own their own homes, and the companion Act, the Tenancies Development Act 1980-54 that provided the legal framework for the development of the infrastructure, and the urban and suburban tenancies were to be dealt with under that Act, and from time to time the various Ministers responsible including the present Minister have designated, I think that is the language of the Act, certain areas as being ready for development by the provision of the various services.

Now all of us in this House accept that these are basic* needs and that they cannot all be done at the same time, and I think once the House is assured that there is a planned and systematic programme for the development of these roads, sooner or later the question of repairs to roads and so on will become a non-issue as between the parties. 12.10p.m.

I was careful to say, Sir, so long as there is a planned and systematic programme for the development of roads.

I do not know if providing roads necessarily secures an MP in his seat. I had the experience in St. Philip North. It was in a terrible state in 1976. For as long as the DLP had represented St. Philip the people had been promised a road connecting Blades Hill with Bayfield. I got that road done to such an extent that buses could go up the hill or come down the hill - the roads in Padmore, the roads in Marley Vale, Well House, Benthams. The corner was widened at Well House to make it safe - in Duncans, Gibson's land, in Church Village, and I still lost.

Vic Johnson must have spent millions at MTW when he was the Minister in whatever that constituency was. I could never remember whether it is West Central, West or whatever, St. Michael West Central, and lights, barbergreen, everything down there was pretty. He still lost. It did not make a difference so I am not satisfied that the provision of roads is any necessary determinant to ensure the security of an MP's seat and that is why I am calling for this to be taken out of the partisan.....

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The Honourable Minister of Transport and Works, I am being reminded, on the other side is my MP. He has not done my roads for as long as he has been MP and he gets back with a majority that has been

pretty and challengeable so these things happen, Sir, but I really wish to make a plea for some roads in my constituency to be looked at.

I said yesterday that I know from a document that I have that it is planned to do Lion Castle Tenancy and Dukes and I have warned the Government to look again at what they are going to do in Dukes. If they try to macadamize the whole way it will be a glorious waste of money. They must do in by the houses. They are all in a group, 12 or 14. They can fix-up down in there nicely for the residents but Dukes Long Road, as they call it, does not need any massive expenditure of money, like that money and put it somewhere else. Do another road for somebody else and let the long road be of a quality not of the same as where the people reside otherwise it would be a waste of money.

I look forward in time to Highland, Content and Bennetts being done but what we need is for an efficient system at the various depots.

Now, I filed a question in here last November. We have not got the answer yet but it was to highlight the types of response that I am given when I call Bagatelle. I have a good relationship with the people at Bagatelle but when you call Bagatelle and say, "look, the roads down Grand View have fallen into potholes, up Walkes Spring potholes, Shop Hill, wherever" you get the same response each time, four, five times a year and it is this. "We do not have any equipment". They do not have a dumper. They do not have materials and I am told that that is the biggest constraint upon the proper repair of the roads in St. Thomas, this lack of equipment.

Now, the Minister in his opening yesterday, I believe, said that he now feels that a decision has been taken by this Government to render MTW a fully fledged Works Ministry. If that is so, then all the depots will have to be supplied with the basic equipment to do the basic repair work so that we will not have these excuses anymore and there is need for one in St. Peter. I think that was mentioned yesterday.

MTW itself cannot do all the tenancy roads in Barbados. Government has this grand plan to start all at the same time. They have to enlist the support of private contractors, obviously, they must and if that is going to happen, I would be very grateful but so long as you are going to maintain the depots, the depots must be properly equipped, no problem with staff. You have the staff but the depots must be properly equipped so that when they decide that this week they are going to do Walkes Spring...

Aside.

It is not with people who want to work. The Minister says that there is no problem with productivity now. He

said "look, this Parliament Building was got ready because of the heightened level of productivity in MTW". What the Minister did not tell us is that the former Minister of Transport and Works who was very doubtful as to whether this building could be completed on time when he was the Minister some time ago and what we would like to know is what was the original date for the completion of the works of Parliament. If the original date coincides with last week when the work was finished, fair enough. I do not believe that. I believe that there were several extensions of time so I am not satisfied that there is any heightened level of productivity.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: But I have to come back later, Sir.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Sir, I want to continue from where I was yesterday and I had, on that occasion, made the point that I was heartened to see Government's Road Building Programme had taken on a social dimension in the manner the Minister outlined and that the whole approach to plantation tenantry roads would be revolutionized in the manner he described.

Now, there was a point made by the Honourable Member for St. Joseph yesterday regarding the rural electrification programme. I think the Honourable Member for St. John, I do not know if he said something about that as well, yes, both Honourable Members did refer to that and it is something that I would like to join in complimenting them both about and also to add a word or two about it.

That programme is one that is fully in the control of the Barbados Light and Power Company and the similar sentiments expressed by the Minister in relation to Mobil and the operation of a monopoly can also be expressed in relation to them.

I would like the Government, even though I know that the laying of pipes and the electrification of the plantation tenantry areas would be part and parcel of the programme, I would like the Ministry of Transport and Works, or more precisely, the Government of Barbados to look at the approach to the rural electrification programme as it is currently practised by the Barbados Light and Power Company.

I do not believe that there is always an expeditious delivery of service in that area and the waiting list for applicants to be part and parcel of this programme is particularly long and I wonder whether the Ministry could take this up as part of the whole rethinking of the electrification effort to speed up the process and to bring electrification to those persons who need it in several of our tenantry districts. 12.20p.m.

Now I would also urge the Minister or the Ministry to look again at the manner in which vehicles traverse the roads of this country and the bad loading of vehicles. I have been the victim of a bad loading of a vehicle transporting refrigerators when the vehicle that I drive was involved in - an accident, as two fridges fell off and smashed into the front of the car. Now I know that offences of these kinds are merely misdemeanours under the Road Traffic Act or Regulations and I wonder whether the law could not be used here in a more telling way. I doubt, or it is not to my knowledge, that any of the persons who offend the law in this regard are ever prosecuted. I believe that it was told to me that a relative of a Member in this Honourable Chamber suffered or was involved in an accident in this way when a bag of sugar or something like that fell off a truck and killed that person - similarly, a bad loading of a vehicle again. We have several incidents of this in the newspapers everyday or nearly everyday, very often for that matter where goods on badly loaded vehicles fall off into the streets and cause problems. Even now, in the crop time every crop time, I have to change my route on the way to town and go via St. Judes rather than through Mount Ellerton and Bulkeley because the tractors on the road are badly loaded as well. I think we have got to pay particular attention in this regard. It has even been brought to my attention, Sir, that proper handling of these container vehicles is not observed as well.

I have a cousin who lived and worked in England and he used to drive vehicles of that kind throughout Europe and he told me that since his return to Barbados he has noticed that there is no proper underpinning of the container on the truck. The containers are placed on the platform but they are not, as it were, securely fastened to the truck and a lot of them have fasteners missing on the trailers. I am certain that the time will come when a container will fall off a truck to somebody's detriment. I am pretty certain about that. The day is not long off when that will happen and I will urge that some effort will be made to institute some system where these things are checked and, if they are not properly secured, that people be prosecuted. I think the law could act as a very good deterrent in this regard.

Now I would want also to look further at some of the roads in my constituency again, Sir. I noticed recently, that some work was done on the road that runs from Turnpike to Boarded Hall. The road was done in such a way as to elevate it. It was raised about 3 inches or 4 inches. What has happened though is that a part of it was rebuilt, that part from the junction to the Turnpike to just beyond where the tractors turn off on the road to go to Bulkeley Factory. But about the unpaved road that runs from that junction as I just described out to the junction with Boarded Hall and the road that runs on through Watts Village to Windsor, I would want to find out from the Minister whether there are any plans to continue the paving of that road, as I said the uniform paving of that road, because, as it is now, you drive and then you go off into a slight descent. So you move from

driving on a road that, let us say, is 6 inches high and then you drive on one 4 inches below that.

I would also want to once again bring to the attention of this House the conditions existing in 2 districts of St. George South. Those districts are Dash Valley and South District. In a related matter, I had informed the Minister of Housing about the bad housing conditions in these 2 areas. But I would want to deal specifically this morning with the Dash Valley District because I had written a letter to the Minister of Housing about that. He had responded to me saying that he would at sometime make a tour of the area and so on.

Now why I want to highlight Dash Valley is for this reason, because Dash Valley is located, as I have said in here on numerous occasions, in a Zone 1 water area and there is a lot of unregulated development taking place in Dash Valley. I would want at sometime for attention to be paid to this aspect of development in that area because of the fact that the district is located in a Zone 1 water area." We know of the consequences that could result if bad or unplanned development takes place in that area. I know the Minister has, and we share I believe, similar problems in the Belle as well, that being a Zone 1 area. It would be important if some comprehensive study be made of the development taking place in that area because the property in that area is owned privately as well as owned by Constant Estates Limited. So you have something of a tenantry developing on the one hand on both the privately owned land and also on the plantation land. That land is being transferred to people as well from the estates under the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act and people would want to construct houses there. Several applications have been made to the Town and Country Planning Department, all of which have been turned down. But I know of cases where people have built houses and they are now faced with enforcement notices to remove the structures in those areas. But still you will have people who are in a position to build who would fall within the regulations in the sense that they have been living there for a long time and they now want to improve their properties. But you have the problem also of roads in that district and I would not want the development in that district, if there should be any development at all, to take place in an unstructured way. Once again I would urge, given the nature of the location of the district, that some effort be made by Government to attend to the possibility of some planned development there.

South District: as well I would want a similar approach to be made there except that there are no water resources. It is not a sensitive area that I am dealing with. But you have also unplanned development going on in that district as well and you have cases where 2 houses occupy one lot. It is a very bad scene, Sir. It is very jumbled as it were. It is a very jumbled approach to development in that district because you are not getting proper permission from the Town and Country Planning authorities to build in those

areas. Once again I am trying to highlight the problems in those two districts. 12.30 p.m.

I have done it in here on numerous occasions and I would put in a further plea that some approach be made to development in the districts of Dash Valley and South District.

We do not have many problems with flooding in St. George, in as much as that parish is of a high elevation, but there are low lying areas in the constituency and there is need in some cases for wells to be dug. In the district, for example, where I live, it is a low lying district in the sense that there are hills off to the north and to the west as well, so that when the rain falls the water flows downhill and some of the properties

Aside.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Well, just slight inclines, not hills, but enough to make it difficult, when rain falls, for some households. I unfortunately am one of those households that suffer when the rain falls in Greens, St. George. I know the Ministry of Transport and Works had visited after I made a complaint as far back as 1979, I think it was, to look at my problem and they concluded by saying that the water did not come off the road, which was not an accurate statement. I made another appeal in 1986 or 1987 and they came and they agreed with me on this occasion that the water came off the public roads on to the several parcels of land that I referred to, and they said they would have dug a well, but so far I have not seen any activity in the area. But it causes me problems when the rain falls. I always have to make claims against the insurance for flooding and so on, and I would be very heartened if the work that the Ministry has started would be followed up with a view to alleviating not only my position but also the position and the situation of several land owners that live on the same side of the street in Greens, St. George as I live.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I would like to place on record the gratitude of the people especially in the area of Haggatt Hall, Lower Burney and Mount Friendship for the excellent work which has been done in that area over the past two years, and particularly within the last three months, as far as road maintenance is concerned. There are a lot of the elderly people who have come to me, especially from the Lower Burney area, which the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works knows very well, because I think he spent a lot of his boyhood in that area, and for years the people of Lower Burney, especially the elderly people, had to live through situations where they too had to use two pairs of shoes in order to get just across the street to St. Barnabas Church, or to go to town, when there was heavy rainfall.

I can say that all of the road out there is now finished and the people in Pasture Road in particular, after the Democratic Labour Party started the roadworks after 1986, were particularly pleased with what has been happening, because especially in that section of Pasture Road where Mr. Watson's shop is, they were told in no uncertain terms - this is what they reported to me - that their roads would not have been fixed because their property did not belong to the proper political persuasion, so now they are very, very thankful that this has happened.

But there are two other areas in the Haggatt Hall, Mount Friendship area I think I need to say something about, and it brings me back to what the Honourable Member for St. George South said. It is that he does not have much of a problem about flooding in St. George, and that is because most of the water from St. George comes through the Mapp Hill area, across the playing field and finds itself into the Pasture Road, Sailers Tenantry Road area, and we are the ones who have the flooding.

We have had problems with maintenance of wells in that area and we have had the wells cleaned in the last two years, but I would say this, that the wells in the Haggatt Hall area, some of them on private lands, are very deep wells, and the present day well diggers, or whatever they are, are very afraid to go into these wells. I know that the Ministry of Transport and Works is fully aware of this and we have made tours over there, and I am quite sure that that area will be corrected. We have already cleaned the wells, but I think that the wells do need some more sinking, because after heavy rainfall you still get some of the backup of water.

There is also the problem of street lighting and I think that in terms of that area, the only area where we really need street lighting and I am sure it will be there in short time, is the area of Lower Burney, which tends to be rather dark, especially at night.

If I were to move to another section, which is the Clapham/Flagstaff area, which as the Honourable Member for Christ Church West knows is an area of great concern with respect to roads. That area has been neglected for years. As a matter of fact, Gas Products Road is probably one of the worst roads in the St. Michael area, and that is partly because - and I think the Ministry of Transport and Works needs to look into this, I know that this road is on the programme for repairs, but I think that some consultation should be carried out with Gas Products Ltd. - because the heavy trucks which use the entrance to that road are the main contributors to the destruction of the road, and I think where you have commercial firms destroying roads leading to tenancies the commercial firms should be made to contribute something to the upkeep of the road.

So I would like the Minister and the technicians from the Ministry of Transport and Works to probably have some

words with Gas Products Ltd. with respect to the maintenance of that road.

We have also got a serious problem of flooding within that area. I think what we need to do within that area is mainly to elevate the roads, because most of the roads are built below the level of the surrounding terrain, so that the water collects in the roads, which are virtually mud tracks anyhow, so people are marooned in their houses when we have heavy rainfall. If the surface of the road is raised and properly finished, then I think we can eliminate a lot of the flooding within that area.

The area of Ifill Road is an area which will need some lighting and I am quite sure that area is being attended to, and also the entrance to Ifill Road, the tenantry leading on the right hand side, there is some remedial work which is going on, but I think the intention is to Barber Green that whole area, but we do need some lighting in that area, and in that area as well I think we need to raise the level of the roads.

In the area of the Pine and Wildey we do need road repairs as well, but I would say that the major problem is in the area of street lighting, especially in that section of the road when you enter Wildey south of Banks Breweries, which tends to be very dark. 12.40 p.m.

That road tends to be very, very dark and workers are known, especially women, to be attacked and raped along that road. We have got requests in for street lighting within that area and I am quite sure that that area will be attended to. From the time the Meadow Road Development was carried out, the grills which took the water from the road into the wells were made of wood, so that during heavy rainfall and flooding you had a situation where the wooden grills would float out of the covers and vehicular traffic as well as pedestrian traffic were at risk because people passing that road when there was water in the road could not see that there was a sort of trap, and both vehicles and pedestrians were injured, and as recently as a few months ago we have had claims by people that they had been injured in these areas. I am pleased to say that within the last month or so the wooden grills have been replaced by metal grills, and therefore that problem has been taken care of.

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

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: In the area of Sixth Avenue leading from a south to north direction west of the Errol Barrow Memorial Park, we are hoping that that road will be made a one way road because that road is used as a bypass from traffic either off the St. Barnabas Highway or off the Clapham area as a short cut to get either into the Pine or into town, and we have a lot of children coming from the

Pine and Wildey area crossing that road, and it is a hazard, and the reason why I specify that the road should be in a one way direction leading into the Pine, that is from a south to a north direction, is that children crossing the road would have a very good view of traffic coming whereas if the traffic is coming from north to south direction the children would not be able to see the traffic coming around the corner from the Pine entering on to that road. We would also like to have a pedestrian crossing at that area.

I would like to compliment the Ministry of Transport for the wonderful work being done in that area, and I would like especially to thank them for stopping trainee drivers from practising in the Pine which is a very congested area and causing damage to people's property and threatening the lives especially of children. I will be coming back to add some more, but I would like to place those statements on record. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, yesterday I adverted during my short contribution to the question of the "relevance of simultaneous attention to the question of drainage of this Island whilst these roads are being done. I say this, Sir, because as I said, the NDP feels very strongly that in a debate taking place in this Honourable House in the year 2001, anyone speaking in the Chamber on the Head of MTW should say during the last century that kind of debate took place, the kind that takes place in here year after year, roads being no longer a matter of political divide or in any way a matter of electoral significance. I believe that this can only be achieved if there is simultaneous attention to drainage and to road repairs and I say it for this reason, Sir. I have seen a lot of roads repaired in Barbados over the past ten years. I have seen even main highways, for example, the highway that goes through Salters going to St. George. I have been surprised over the years with the ease with which these roads which have been repaired become broken up, and usually after heavy rains and flooding. It is not only a question of heavy vehicles, but I rather suspect, and this relates to a point the Minister made yesterday, that there are materials of inferior quality being used in road construction, because it is my understanding that the quality of materials that we use in Barbados today is not as good as it used to be. The binding components of the various ingredients seem to have deteriorated, and I believe that there is a problem consequential on the Mobil agreement which prevents the Government from obtaining better quality material from elsewhere.

However, unless we deal with this problem of drainage, unless that is attended at the same time I will guarantee you that in a matter of a few years you will be back here again with most of these roads to be done all over again.

Now there are several levels at which this could be done. There is the level that deals with the proper maintenance of trenches that is a relatively simple exercise,

and it is something that should be done. When a road is completed and there are trenches on both sides, then there should be a continuing programme to make sure that these trenches are kept clear.

Then there is the question of wells, and it is my perception that the entire Island needs a programme, for well cleaning, well clearance so that you can get back down to effective sucks in the wells. Now right opposite the Hospital in Bannister Land there is a well that has to be cleaned every few minutes when you can get it cleaned, and merely cleaning it does not help. Either the well needs to be redug or you need to go deeper down and get more sucks, but something clearly has to be done, because when it is full you can almost smell the stench over in the Hospital, but we are not dealing with health yet

Over in Halls Road a similar problem exists where despite cleaning and recleaning of a particular well it just fills again and again, and I think something has to be done to get these wells functioning properly, and I think this is the case throughout the Island. Unless you deal with the question of wells, the question of keeping the trenches clear and building proper culverts whilst the roads are being replaced where possible within the resources, then you are going to get a recurring problem over and over again, and I say this because it is consistent with the position that I took yesterday when you are dealing with road rehabilitation you must have an associated policy of road maintenance that would follow it.

Sir, this question of the roads in Barbados is a matter of tremendous historical importance, and, indeed, if we were to look at the origins of the problems of drainage in this country, you will see one or two things happening.
12.50 p.m.

It relates to housing development which I will deal with later in the day. It also relates to the dramatic decline in our agriculture and also the different methods of cultivation of the fields of Barbados. That may seem very far-fetched, Mr. Chairman, but it is a fact.

There was a time when, for example, canes used to be planted in caneholes and every field had a hedgerow and at the points of drainage from that field you had wells that were kept by the plantations. That not only related to the prevention of soil erosion, but it also prevented the wash of water from the fields on and under the roads. This may be one of the problems in the Scotland District in a sense apart from the variations in the change in soil with the slippage, super structure over the infrastructure there.

Now, that canehold factor actually multiplies - a canehold was about 3 x 3 - the capacity of any given service almost about 9 times the amount of water that it could hold, even before the water went under, so now you have 9 times as much water coming on to the roads because

of the elimination of caneholes and then you no longer have any hedgerows. All the wells are now blocked up so you see that the volume of water per square foot of surface in Barbados is multiplied several times and the capacity of that water to get under the slightest breach in the surface - of a barbergreen road is tremendous and that only has to be done once or twice so unless you correct that, all the work you are doing you are going to have a problem and that is why I was so patient in St. Michael South Central. I waited until the Minister ceased to be a Minister in the Barbados Labour Party Government and is now a Minister of Transport here and over that time span I got my drainage problem solved except for those two wells first.

Let me revert to another problem, Sir. That only relates to the impact of agriculture and if you take housing, a lot of the surface area has also now been given up to housing. Within those housing estates and so on, a lot of the area is now taken up by roads which no longer absorb the water that falls in that particular area and the general trend towards draining now is to drain water from wherever you can get it on to the highways and you only have to look and see the difference.

I would say 15 years ago it took a lot of water to flood lower Bay Street and Jemmotts Lane. Now, it takes a little sprinkle in the mornings and when I come down there you can see flooding down there and this pattern is going to continue. So I would hope that the Minister, when he has the opportunity, would be able to tell the Honourable House what his programme is for dealing with the problems of drainage simultaneously with the programme of maintenance and rehabilitation of the roads.

On the question of the development of tenancies, it is our view, Mr. Chairman, that when you are developing roads in a tenantry, you should also be keeping an eye on the possibility of further recultural development and also in relation to housing development.

It is for this reason, Sir. Let us say you are forced at this stage to put in a tenantry road two miles long to serve six houses and this may well be the reality you may have to face from time to time. If people have built wall houses and have substantial structures and they cannot get into their homes and you have your programme of tenantry development, you may have to put in an infrastructure there, for example, in Woodland in St. George South.

Now, there is no point putting in infrastructural services only to serve four houses because it seems to me that even if at this point in time you cannot do an associated housing development, even if the Town Planning Department might object to at this time in its history to what they refer to as ribbon development, nevertheless, the infrastructure that you put in should have the potential of making the fullest use of the cost of that road infrastructure that you put in.

This might well relate to a policy in relation to the provision of house spots. It may need for the Government to acquire small strips of land in order to maximize the substantial capital investment which it would have put into a tenantry of that nature so that the NDP sees this exercise - in a more global way and we feel that in due course we would hope that as these Estimates progress that the expenditure under MTW would then marry - with the expenditures under the other Heads so that a comprehensive programme not only relating to roads and associated infrastructure but also to agriculture, housing and related problems because they all would be addressing simultaneously fairly fundamental, social and economic objective which any Government should have today, the question of housing, unemployment and the question of the provision of food and it seems to me to be an infrastructure that should be made the best use of.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

His Hon. J. J. PAYNE: Mr. Chairman, I just want to make a few remarks in continuation with some of the points I made yesterday but before I go into my remarks, I just want to clarify a remark I made yesterday because it seems that it was incorrectly carried by "The Advocate" Newspaper in their publication today.

Now, yesterday when I spoke I indicated that there were a lot of villages in my constituency, as, indeed, there are villages all over the Island where people have settled for more than 20 years, in some instances more than 100 years.

Aside.

His Hon. J. J. PAYNE: I named a lot of them yesterday but I can name them again - Rock Dundo, Sion Hill, Mt. Standfast, Weston, Greenwich Village. There are many of them, Mr. Chairman, I do not really want to recite them again today but we have many of these villages where people have settled for a long number of years and the point I was making was that the roads in these districts have continued to remain in a bad state and we have a lot of new villages emerging around the Island where the road services have been given a lot of priority in preference to these districts.

In many of these districts we have people who have contributed significantly to the development of this country like, for example, in those villages which I have mentioned which were settled, you will find that many of those people have contributed to the sugar industry. They have contributed in agriculture and in those areas where the development in this country over the past number of years has become dependent on their labour and the point I was making is that we have to pay some attention to those villages which were settled for a long time which have not been given that kind of attention. 1.00p.m.

And in many of these cases, as I was saying, people have to battle through mud and rocks to get to church and get to bus stops and that sort of thing. And I was making the point that I would have liked to see those villages in my area given some attention.

Now the Advocate was making the point that I said that these roads were completed in my area. The point I was making is that I would like to see them done. And perhaps if they can carry a correction because the people of my area would certainly know that that was an error. So I wonder if perhaps you know, you can have a correction to that particular point.

Now there have been.....

Aside.

His Hon. J. J. PAYNE:.....a lot of points mentioned since I made my contribution and I should like to look at the question, Mr. Chairman, of safety on our roads. I think" that this is something that concerns a lot of Barbadians, especially now that we have been able to get a lot of highways, some are on the plans, some are completed, and this question of safety on the roads is one I believe that should concern us all as Barbadians.

If we look, for example, at what has been happening recently, you will recognize that there is that all-important effort being made to ensure that our roads are safer to persons who use them. I wanted to highlight a particular problem which I have noticed at some roundabouts in the Island, particularly if I can highlight the roundabout at the Halls Road area in the constituency of the Leader of the Opposition. I notice that the trees and the shrubs around the roundabout there are allowed to grow so tall that persons approaching the roundabout cannot see vehicles which are already in the circle. Perhaps some effort can be made in maintaining these roundabouts by putting up the appropriate signs and so on, make an effort to see that these areas are as safe as possible to people who use the highway.

But the area which I want to pay some special attention to, Mr. Chairman, is in relation to people who transport sugar cane to the factories in this island. There has been some concern expressed recently in the various sections of the media about accidents which occur in this particular area. I believe that this problem is nothing new. It is something that has been with us for a very long time. In fact, if I look through my constituency I can name as many as five families who have been affected by this problem since 1972. I am sure the problem goes way back beyond then. Year after year we get a situation where there is a tragic accident by persons who transport sugar cane to the factories, whether it is by a tractor or sugar truck. Everybody shows some sympathy but we never get the opportunity to seek to enforce safety for those persons who

are engaged in that area and to provide some sort of effort to compensate those persons who suffer.

In many cases these persons who die leave families, large families, five and six children who have to depend in many instances on a mother who is not working, and they are very often left at the mercy of the Welfare Department, or friends or relatives in the district.

I believe, Mr. Chairman, that it is time that we see some regulations in relation to this particular matter. I believe that the Minister has been looking at it. But I believe it is time that we see some regulations, whether it is in relation to enforcing caps for persons who are driving the tractors to ensure some safer mechanism for those persons who are engaged in that industry. I believe that sugar has played its part in developing the economy. Historians tell us that sugar made us free. But I think the time has come when we have...

Aside.

His Hon. J. J. PAYNE: - Yes - ...to protect those persons who contribute in such an important area of our economy. I believe, Mr. Chairman, that we should even go further, because I feel that people in that category, who transport cane to the factories are exposed to such risks that perhaps it may be necessary to enforce some sort of compulsory insurance to protect the families of those persons who die. I think that the loss to families in those circumstances is so great that perhaps some means of insurance whether it is by the state or enforced through persons who own the vehicles would provide some measure of comfort to the families. We cannot really replace the loss, but we may be able to provide some measure of comfort in those circumstances. I am sure the Honourable Member for the City understands the point which I am trying to make.

Aside.

His Hon. J. J. PAYNE: I believe, Mr. Chairman, that if we can move in that direction it would encourage many persons who are shifting work in that particular area to seek employment in that particular regard.

Now many other speakers mentioned the question of drainage and I should like to also touch on it here because I am the representative of a constituency where drainage has posed a serious problem to the residents over a large number of years, particularly people of the Hometown area. We have, earlier in the discussion, heard the Attorney-General outline his plans in respect of the Hometown Police Station and the building of a complex there. I believe that when that comes into place the whole question of drainage in that area should be looked at very carefully. But there are many persons who have businesses in Hometown and who live in the Sunset Crest area who every year suffer

particular hardship especially during the months, the latter months of the year, September and October when there is heavy rain. Every time there is a heavy downpour of rain, that area suffers as a result because most of the rains that come from St. Thomas come into the Hometown area and it floods that area.

I believe that a survey was carried out some years ago where that problem in Hometown was analyzed. But it seems to me that many of the proposals which were made as a result of that survey have not yet been carried out. Perhaps a closer look should be made at the problem in that area. I believe that for example Hometown is one of the areas where there is a very large concentration of tourist and many of them have to walk along that road to and from their hotels. The problem of water being splashed on people who use the road is something that should be considered very seriously. I should like to see some attention paid to that problem of drainage up in the Hometown area.

Now the very last point I want to raise, Mr. Chairman, is in respect of street lighting because I also think this is very important, especially for a rural constituency like the one which I represent. Some years ago, I highlighted the problem of street lighting in many of these districts which I represent. We live in a day when many parents live in fear for having their daughters walking these streets which are so dark. I believe a Government will not be able to light all the streets at one time but we must go through a process of gradually ensuring that lighting is brought to many of these districts where people can feel some measure of safety in using the roads at night. In many districts, when people get off the bus, they have to walk for considerable distances before they get to their homes.

I can tell you the district of Bagatelle - it is in St. Thomas but it is in my constituency - is one of those areas where we have been having a lot of complaints. Areas in Upper Carlton, just a couple years ago, we had a young lady who was murdered on a lonely road. Up to now no street lights have been placed in that area. People still fear using that Carlton Road because of that particular death some time ago. Especially now that we have a situation where this question of lingering fear remains in the minds of a lot of people, I feel that every effort should be made to have many of these streets lit. I will be making every effort, I have already discussed it with the Minister, but I will be making every effort to see that lighting is brought to those districts as soon as possible to bring some relief to the people of those areas. I do not want to mention the roads or the areas in particular because my proposals have already been forwarded to the Government Department concerned. I thought I would mention it now because I will be following it up as the year progresses.

Thank you very much.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Christ Church West.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I am intervening for the second time in the debate really to obtain some information from the Minister and at the same time to give his officials the benefit of hearing for the ninth time the areas that require treatment in my own constituency so that they cannot forget, Sir, insofar as the Minister said in his introduction that there were a number of tenantry roads to be done and I believe he should have no difficulty in giving the Committee the list of roads, the names of the roads.

In particular, I should wish to know which of the Christ Church roads, since he said there were twenty tenantry roads in Christ Church which were to be attended to. I wish to know where are those twenty located and what is his overall programme during the planned period that he will be spending, as he says, about \$60 million in tenantry roads? So that I think the debate could be shortened considerably if there is some way of letting the twenty-seven Members who have a vital interest in this matter know the programme for their particular constituency. Indeed it would be helpful if officials would take time off from time to time to discuss with us the areas, as we see them, particularly the priority areas in some....

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: No. I do not expect the Minister to read them all out. But he could at least pass the file around or the notes around so that we will all see where they are, if he wishes us to save the debate going on from time to time.

I, however, Sir, wish to talk about specific areas that I have written to the Ministry about, not only in the last couple of years, but for some time and for one reason or another have not been attended to. Significantly, Sir, most of these areas are where the poorest persons in our community live. Between the Navy Gardens and Dayrells Road, there is an area called Old Navy Road and the specific area is the Goodridge Land area which is prone to tremendous flooding. The reason is that there is one shallow well there. In addition, there is a bit of a gully in which people have place old cars and that sort of thing.

I believe that we can improve the drainage by additional wells. I am not sure if the Minister has been able to overcome the problem of well digging of which he spoke in here in the debate on drainage which I remember very significantly. But I would wish to know if he has been able to overcome that problem in getting enough men and equipment to clean existing wells and, equally important, to dig more wells where they are called for as in the area to which I have just adverted.

In addition, this area needs a basic road. It has no road at all of any class, not even a marl filled or marl covered road and it lies between two significant parts of my constituency. In addition, the Ministry of Housing and Lands has designated some areas as tenantry areas for development. There is a major tenantry off Gospel Hall Gap going right back up to the bottom of Lady Chandler's property in Gun Site Road which obviously needs major road structures going in. I am not sure what is the procedure or what is the co-ordination or the required action or where the action is co-ordinated when once a designation has been made under the particular Tenancies Development Act.

Several Orders have been made, some in St. Michael, Christ Church, all over the place. But the follow-up procedure seems to be swallowed up in the Ministry. I have, on at least three or four occasions in the last year, gone up to the Ministry of Housing and Lands to enquire from officials what next would happen and there seems to be a vagueness on their faces as to whether the responsibility is theirs or whether the responsibility lies in the Ministry of Transport and Works. For the benefit of myself and my constituents, I would wish to be enlightened on this, to find out if Government has worked out the mechanics of how to deal with these areas. I said that Gospel Hall Gap has been designated. But so too has the area near to Government land between Brewsters Road and Amity Lodge and right next to Graeme Hall.

Now we have special problems at the Graeme Hall Swamp, as the Minister would know. But that area has a tremendous number of houses. There is no proper lighting system there. In addition we have not got a proper water borne system. Everybody brings in their little bit of pipe, rather than a main coming in from the Barbados Water Authority to whom I have written on several occasions. That area had been designated for tenantry development some years ago but nothing has happened. I rather suspect that nothing is going to happen about it in this year either. But I believe it is an area that calls for urgent attention because a large number of people live there in substandard situations and a large number that are senior citizens who really deserve a little better.

Now, Sir, there are also three avenues off Forde's Road about which I have written the Ministry. It was my understanding that some work might have started in this, but I do not know whether that is going to be done. There is also the area known as Medford Land.

Now I want to move on from this, Sir, to deal with the question of drainage. I am not going to repeat what Honourable Members have spoken about. But we have still not solved that problem in which there is always, every year, very significant flooding in the Hart's Gap area and going right back to Barnes Land, and also involving the area to the west of the Marine wall just as you come into School Gap by the St. Matthias Church. Part of the problem

is that to which other Honourable Members have adverted already the problem of cleaning wells. There is also the problem to sink additional wells in the area.

Also there is the problem that the Government has omitted - I am not meaning any particular Government - but Government officials have omitted through the years to maintain the drainage system that was established by the military, the colonial military down through the years. In fact I think that some departments do not know that there are major drainage pipes running under the Pavilion Court and under my deceased mother's house. In the conveyances there is a covenant to give a leave or wayleave for the passage of this drainage. Certainly in my many years I have never seen anyone from any Government department come up to Elsie Court to enquire whether or not that drainage is kept free and what is done with it. Unless these things are followed up, you will always get the back up problem which occurs in that area.

Sir, I also want to talk about Dalkeith Road because some minor work is going on at Dalkeith Road at the moment. It seems to me, frankly, to be a waste of money to be doing what is being done there. 1:20 p.m.

Unfortunately, Dalkeith Road has now become a major linkway for those persons bringing their children to schools and, particularly, trying to traverse to go into Collymore Rock and it also links with those coming from Brittons Hill who may have dropped their children along the Pine Road or Wildey and who are going back into the South. So traffic is very, very heavy there early in the morning.

There is scope for road widening and why road widening is necessary is not only because of the vehicular traffic but a large number of school children going to the Garrison School and the Seventh Day Adventist School traverse this area on mornings in competition with vehicular traffic. There is room for a sidewalk. I know that some of the owners of land had already said that they would give up to Government a part of their lands which adjoins the road to put in a proper sidewalk.

The former Smale School, that wall there is right chock-a-block to the road, and children are forced against the wall on morning because of vehicular traffic. I consider that a very high priority and we must not wait until somebody is killed there. Likewise, Sir, I wish to thank the Ministry for continuing to carry out the programme for getting rid of blind corners. We have now got rid of some serious blind corners in my constituency at Harts Gap, for instance, St. Matthias corner which was fixed sometime ago, and now, further up on Skeetes Hill, those 3 blind corners had been redone along Highway 7. Well, we have the problem where Golf Club Road joins Rendezvous Hill and where Golf Club Road joins upper Dayrells Road, the

other side - both ends of Golf Club Road and although the Ministry has constructed the glass in these mirrors, particularly the one on the Rendezvous Road, is very little use. It should be possible at little cost to do a bit of road widening there since, I believe, on one side there is only a garden and on the other side there is a house where I am sure the residents would give up for the area for road widening to improve visibility at this particular corner.

The last point I should wish to make, Sir, about roads is a much wider point. It seems to me that part of the overall planning of the Ministry would involve the retirement of some roads. As we continue to move into other areas, the heights, gardens, and what not, we are continually adding a number of roads, particularly subsidiary roads, which will eventually call for repairs. Sometimes the residents wait for a period of time before handing over the roads to the Government. But even in areas like Highgate, I think the Government has now accepted responsibility for repairing those roads. I know that the persons in Old Chancery Lane, a couple of years ago, or a year or two ago, had to repair their own roads although there was a petition before the Government to take over the roads up there. I realize that eventually Government will have to take over those roads.

So we could look, as development occurs, to an increasing number of new roads, subsidiary roads, coming onto the public purse. But there must be roads in Barbados that are no longer serving a tremendous purpose either for residents, because people have moved out of the area, or there are not too many residents there, or formerly they were areas to traverse between plantation points. With major highways and the improvement of the major highways coming in we should look to a programme of retiring some of these roads in our overall physical development planning and letting people know that these roads would be retired. So we would not be adding to the particular bill of Government from time to time, Sir.

I am not going to go through the whole host of other roads in my own constituency. I will continue to write to the Ministry about those and have an exchange of correspondence and I must say that I usually, almost invariably, 98% of the time I get a prompt reply, Sir. I will get the 100% eventually, Sir. But I get a reply from the Ministry and usually there is an explanation given. I would say, Sir, that what is a little disappointing, probably, for the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central and myself now that we share together the South Point, and Christ Church East; Christ Church West Central and West now come under the depot at South Point, I noticed myself when West was transferred to South Point that we got an increased efficiency in service, but unfortunately as soon as they get a good person who moves around the area the Government calls him to higher service or service somewhere. There is a Mr. Bourne, a Public Officer, who I would like to say gave tremendous assistance to all 4 of us and was prompt in responding to answering any complaints

that you had. I do not know where he is now in the service, but he was really a person who was keen on the job. He would be there. He himself was a good Public Relations Officer for the Ministry of Transport and Works even in circumstances where they could not respond readily with action. He always had a good explanation and a very good liaison with the people whom the Ministry was serving.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Member has one minute.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I will be failing in my duty if I did not in the debate recognize now he is no longer in our area particularly the contribution which he has made.

Sir, I have the same sentiment as the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central when he says that he and the Minister for this matter, would like to see reach the stage where it will not be necessary for this Committee to spend hours on end and each one of us getting up and talking our own parochial or constituency needs. I think, with the long term planning that we must have for the 21st century, where we go and how we go on this point, should be a matter of non-partisan, divide between the parties because we are all agreed that the economic and social dimension of this problem is one that all parties in this island now recognize and are prepared to address.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. Peter.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, two very broad points not of constituency focus at all. The first, Sir, concerns a matter that I think is of concern to all rural constituencies pertaining to the rural electrification programme, Sir. In many cases, Sir, the purpose of that programme is frustrated because some houses are not in a position to benefit immediately from the supply of electricity and in those cases, Sir, the persons who live in the particular districts are requested by the Barbados Light and Power Company to meet the cost of installing utility poles. In very many cases, Sir, those costs run into thousands of dollars and in fact, in my constituency, there are some that run into tens of thousands of dollars, Sir. The problem is, Sir, that when once the potential consumer has paid for the installation of the electricity poles they apparently pass into the ownership of the Barbados Light and Power Company which is thereafter free to do as it pleases and to make as many connections as it would wish to the poles which have been paid by the private consumer. I think, Sir, this obviously is an anomaly and it is a matter that I think imposes a hardship on the rural people of Barbados. It is a matter which lends itself to the Light and Power Company generating a profit on the basis of expenditure, not by itself, but expenditure by the people of the country side of Barbados. I really do think, Sir, that perhaps we need to address the matter that Chapter 278 of the Laws of Barbados, The Electricity Light and Power Act, Sir, needs obviously to be toughened. If we are going to ask the people of the country to pay for these utility poles, then

we obviously have to find some system whereby they have to be refunded by the Barbados Light and Power Company in circumstances where the Light and Power Company would want to use the poles paid for by one person to gain a profit by connecting other persons to that particular utility pole. I think the matter, Sir, is a scandal in my view. I think it is also unfair that a person should be asked to pay thousands of dollars for a pole and then a private company thereafter determines how that particular utility should be used. 1.30p.m.

I am asking the Minister if he would have a look at this particular legislation and bring such amendment as may be warranted by the circumstances to redress what I think is a very severe hardship on the rural people of Barbados. There are many people in my constituency, and I am sure in the other rural constituencies in Barbados, who even today are faced with this particular economic rape.

My second broad point has to do with the financing of * the tenancies programme. As I understand it, the overall programme is to cost in the vicinity of \$60 million. Provision has been made in this year's Estimates for a \$10 million programme, so the bulk of the programme is yet to come. I have to ask the Minister of Transport and Works directly what really will be the source of financing for the programme of this scale. I ask that deliberately, Sir, because the Development Plan which was laid in the House as recently as December of last, year in treating this particular issue cites a \$22 million programme, \$14 million of which was to be sourced from foreign entities and \$7.9 million was to be sourced from domestic sources.

I am asking the Minister, therefore, given the increase in the scope and scale of the planned developments in tenancies between December last year and now that the House is discussing it, given the increase in the size of the programme in monetary terms, quite obviously the manner in which Government had initially proposed to finance this programme, that itself has to change, and I would therefore only want to ask of the Minister of Transport and Works by what means is Government proposing to finance the programme of this scale. Has a source of financing yet been identified? So that we can be satisfied that the \$60 million programme will in point of fact be a programme that will come to fruition in due course.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

Mr. R. P. BYER: I do not wish to prolong this Committee. There are two matters that I did not get the chance to mention when I intervened before.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: If the Honourable Member will hold just a minute. I am having some difficulty in hearing what is said because there is some thumping going on downstairs. I should like to have it ceased. Please continue.

Mr. R. P. BYER: As I was saying, Sir, there are two matters that I did not get the chance to mention in my two other interventions in this debate and I would like to mention them now.

The first one concerns the traffic warden scheme. It has been told to me that the school warden scheme will now as from April be operated by the Ministry of Legal Affairs, but that the Police Department will have direct responsibility for this. This is a scheme formerly operated by the Ministry of Transport and Works and what will result from this change in the operation of the scheme from one Department to the other is that a number of persons who were previously employed under the Ministry of Transport and Works will have their duties terminated on 1st April, 1989, or from that date.

It seems to me that it would have been a good thing if employment could have been found for these wardens in the same scheme, in other words that they would now be employed through the Ministry of Legal Affairs rather than bringing new ones, because in many cases this employment was a kind of promotion for them. Many of them would have been road weeders and water carriers and so on in the Ministry of Transport and Works, and they will now be absorbed in the general Ministry of Transport and Works' work force. Since they are the most experienced ones it would seem to me to be a logical choice that they be preferred for employment in the scheme to be operated by the Police.

Aside.

Mr. R. P. BYER: No, I do not have any in St. George South. It is just a matter I was raising in general.

The other one has to do with this. Some time in 1986 I tabled a Question in the House pertaining to some roads at Ellerton in St. George. They were Lowe's Road, Blenman's Road, Crawford's Road and so on. The work on these roads has started, Sir, but I would want to mention that it is going at a very slow pace. I think the work started early in October of 1987 and all that has been done so far is that a slipper drain has been put in along the Crawford Reid. That is the only thing that has been done for that entire period of time and I wonder when the work will be completed. At the pace which it is going now it would hardly be completed before some time in 1990, and I wonder if the Minister could throw some light on what could be the problem.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I think we can finish this debate in time for the Minister to wind up and go away by 2 o'clock. I just want to mention a couple of concerns about the bus service in St. Thomas. I ask questions and I do not get them answered, so I have to repeat it again. I have one down here since October last year.

We have a particularly bad situation in the Welchman Hall area, Sir, and on the other route coming through from Porey Spring via Shop Hill. The problem is most acute early in the mornings. By the time the bus reaches Dunscombe it has picked up people from Hillaby and White Hill. When it reaches Dunscombe it is full and the people in Dunscombe, Porey Spring, Canefield, Spring Farm, Content are very often stranded by reason of the lack of adequate transport. 1.40p.m.

We have made representation, Sir, individual constituents, and I have a question down, and I would like to know if they intend to do something about it.

(Asides.)

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: When are you going to get them? All right, the Minister says that in a few months we can expect an improvement when they get new buses. If the problem is lack of rolling stock, I will wait and see if it improves. The problem of a lack of adequate bus service is indeed unfortunate because it is not only my constituency that is affected, but a lot of us, and it can lead to tragedy such as we had day before yesterday. When we were in power the bus used to go up Church Village and turn by the Church and go up through Padmore Village, but it appeared yesterday it went straight up, refused to go through Padmore Village, that poor child had to get off the bus and walk the whole length of the cane fields from St. Philip Church corner to Padmore Village and the last 100 yards before her home is where she was killed. That bus service in St. Philip, particularly St. Philip North and the Padmore Village, Church Village area needs to be looked at. It is really unfair to the people of Padmore Village not to have the bus pass through that village on a regular basis, because there are no street lights between the corner of St. Philip's Church and Padmore Village and Dodds. It is dark and long and has a set of canes on either side of the road, and I hope that the Ministry will give some attention to that which has become even more acute as a matter for consideration as a result of what happened day before, but it should always have been properly lit because of the presence of the Government Industrial School there in any event, and try and ensure that there is such re-routing done that buses or every other bus that comes at least turns right by the Church and turns left and goes up to Dodds. I think, Mr. Chairman, those were the only two points I wanted to make in relation to Transport. We will wait and see what happens after we get the new buses.

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: Mr. Chairman, the debate has been long and overall constructive. I appreciate, though it infuriates, the political necessity on the part of some Members to repeat themselves on paper and in this House *ad nauseam*. It is a function of representation to repeat and repeat and repeat your representations until such time as there is a solution to the problem, but in my opening

statement, having outlined a comprehensive programme which is systematically implemented without regard to the geographical or political considerations as is demonstrated, whatever I said is empirically demonstrable already, and the constant repetition in here will not bring it any quicker than it is going to come because we are implementing a plan which starts in the City of Bridgetown and radiates out. Any time anyone in the logical geographical progression is left out, I believe that is a basis for a genuine complaint.

There are several issues raised. One impinges upon the question of productivity within the Ministry of Transport and Works. I am not going to go over the ground which I covered in this regard, but to the specific question raised by the Honourable Member for St. Peter about the existence of a Ministry of Transport and Works depot in St. Peter, I have to point out that there was a Ministry of Transport and Works depot in St. Peter; it was first ousted from its home by the Transport Board to make way for a Transport Board office, it was then relegated to the old almshouse which is near to the sea, and it was moved from there as well to make way for the then new Speightstown Fish terminal as was projected. It has not yet found a home, but the Ministry subscribes to the importance of having a depot located in St. Peter to facilitate the execution of work in that part of Barbados.

The other question relates to the paucity of equipment that is available in the St. Thomas depot as raised by the Honourable Member for St. Thomas. One of the points that I have made since November last year is that the schizophrenia which characterises the approaches of respective Governments to the Ministry of Transport and Works with respect to its role and functions within the governmental scheme of things led to a situation where it was not clear whether the unit was to perform the function of a fully fledged and modern construction entity, and as a result of that it was starved of equipment.

When I was Minister of Transport and Works in another political dispensation, time after time the then Minister of Finance would refuse to listen to entreaties made by the Ministry of Transport for more equipment, and the efficiency of that Ministry inexorably decreased as a consequence. The shortage of equipment is an historical one and the amount of money which is required to be spent in order to make the Ministry of Works a fully modern functional Ministry of Works is so great that it can only be done over a period of time, and that is why in every agreement that the Ministry enters into, with respect to financing its operations, we always seek to negotiate for a component for the purchase of equipment. So over the medium run this particular problem will be resolved.

Another point raised by the Honourable Member for St. Philip which goes to the question of productivity within

the Ministry of Transport and Works again has to do with the completion date of the Houses of Parliament. 1.50p.m.

Now, I am going to exhibit little patience with the splitting of hairs on this issue because there was a thunderous silence when people with great reputations from the private sector made a mess of the work.

This Government paid millions of dollars to Ken Gardner, a white South African born architect. He was rammed down the throat of the Ministry of Housing in a most brutal way, in my presence, and then he failed miserably and is now somewhere luxuriating in Florida with his pockets laden with taxpayers dollars and not a single whisper has been heard about what I believe to be the criminal conduct of this so-called professional man. Now that the Ministry of Transport and Works after another private sector firm became bankrupt in the process and disappeared and nobody in Barbados can even remember the name of the private construction firm that was awarded the contract to complete the work - we do not hear anything about them - they have gone into some kind of limbo after, again, messing up the schedule and now questions are raised about the Ministry of Transport and Works, the perennial whipping boy of everybody. Everybody washes his or her mouth on the Ministry of Transport and Works.

We want to hear people talk about the monumental failures of these great, competent individuals in the private sector who have cost the taxpayers millions of dollars in this unfortunate venture. We want people to talk about them. Leave the poor Ministry of Transport and Works alone. We were called in at the last minute to do the difficult work as usual, the scavengers of the Government, clean up the mess created by these men.

When the good decent work was available, they went for the white men and the other people in the private sector. When the thing was totally messed up they then called upon the poor artisan, the black, barefooted, despised artisans of this country to go and clean up the mess and we came in and cleaned up the mess and evoked commendation from no less a person than Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. If she said it then it is fully authenticated.

In fact, as the Member asked what was the original completion date for MTW, the original completion date for MTW was June 1989 which is over three months away. That was the original completion date but we were then told that we had to make it ready in time for the arrival of Her Majesty the Queen and that black Barbadian labour force put its nose to the grindstone collectively and did the job and delivered and we should be praising them, singing hymns of praise to our people rather than questioning, spitting hairs and nit-picking.

Imagine a black man over there over-whelmed by this sense of inferiority. Criticize Ken Gardner and those other people, M & M and the other invalids who failed to deliver. Do not criticise MTW. We are fed up to here with being unjustly excoriated by everybody, the hale, the lame, the blind and the purblind.

Some other questions were....

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Sir. I want to know what I criticized MTW about in here, I do not know what was the programme of work because all down there and all downstairs is not finished yet and I am not on that.

What I did criticize yesterday was the fact that they had equipment lying down in my gap for two weeks, the road to Neils Plantation and a man turned up every morning and was sleeping. If you want the number of the car, you want to hear about the productivity now I will give you.

Certain remarks made by Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS were ordered struck from the records by Mr. CHAIRMAN.

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: Mr. Chairman, there is no organisation anywhere in the world employing more than 2,000 people where you would not find malingerers. I have worked in many countries in the world and the laziest people that I have ever worked with are the people in England, so do not tell me about malingerers. One swallow does not make a summer. Even within this Honourable Chamber - I am not going any further than that.

The Honourable Member raised another question with respect to that road on which the equipment broke down. That road on which the equipment broke down will be begun in a very few weeks for my constituents.

(Aside.)

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: Mr. Chairman, I really find it uncomfortable dealing with these minutiae when the broad complex issues are at stake and pose so many challenges and pose so many questions.

The Honourable Member raised a question about Dukes, St. Thomas and why was marl placed in Dukes, St. Thomas, when it was known that after a high level of precipitation the marl would be washed away. I believe that any child of two years old in Barbados is aware of this. I do not understand why it is implied that the people of St. Michael East would not understand that if you put marl somewhere in a certain amount of water that it would wash it away.

The proper approach would be to pose the question and ask why it was done. It was done precisely because residents of Dukes, St. Thomas, came to the Ministry of

Transport and Works and asked that it be done and they were informed - I would not tell you what they said about the representative of St. Thomas at the time. I am not going into that. 2.00 p.m.

Laughter.

Aside.

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN* I am not going to tell you what they said at that time. I will tell you what I was informed by the officials.

Aside.

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: That is why I did not repeat it.

Aside.

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: If they had told me directly, I would have said it.

Aside.

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: What I am saying is that the residents of Dukes spoke to the Ministry of Transport and Works directly about a problem, in the absence of their representative. And they said certain things about their representative which from my point of view is hearsay. And that is why.....

Aside.

Laughter.

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: They found it impossible to say anything about the representative.

Laughter.

Aside.

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: They said they were aware of the fact that if there was rain that the marl would likely be washed away, But they wanted it anyhow. That is what they told the officers of the Ministry, while saying nothing about the Honourable Member for St. Thomas.

Aside.

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: Do you want to speak on a point of order? I am quite prepared to give way.

Mr. Chairman, there were some other questions raised with respect to street lights. I have said before in this Honourable House and I said it up to yesterday that there

are private concerns in Barbados amassing profits and not acting fully in the interest of the people of Barbados. I do not care who gets angry or upset. I named MOBIL as one of them. And today I now name the Barbados Light and Power as another. And I will promise you that, as long as any enemy or Anybody gets into the way by obstructing my work in MTWI would be prepared to take them on.

Over a year the Barbados Light and Power Company which is responsible for providing lights, street lights in this country, failed to bring any street lights into this country which could be used. And every day thousands of people are complaining about MTW not providing them with new street lights because of the remissness of the Barbados Light and Power Company in performing its part of the bargain.

I myself have been trying to get a particular street light located in Flint Hall, St. Michael, in St. Michael East near to the - this is since 1982 - driveway of a palatial residence in which a big shot, a prominent citizen of Barbados resides, and where untold number of women, poor women have been molested because of the darkness of the night. I am told that this big shot has told the Barbados Light and Power Company that they must be no light there because he does not want certain kinds of people to congregate by his gate. That is what the people told me, the constituents. And they have no personal axe to grind with this man. All they want is a light so that persons can safely wend their way home without apprehension of being pounced upon by malefactors. That is all they want.

The Ministry of Transport and Works has asked the Barbados Light and Power Company to install 2 000 street lights during the current Financial Year. We are doing them now so that next year nobody can claim that these lights are being done for election purposes, 2 000 street lights. They said that within the next few weeks 1 200 would be coming and we will wait to see whether their word is kept.

In the meantime the Ministry is considering installing street lights itself.

Aside.

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: I do not know how this procedure started whereby the Barbados Light and Power was given responsibility for installing street lights. But it is our public responsibility in the Ministry of Transport and Works. And the recent procrastinations and ditherings within high places and the Barbados Light and Power have demonstrated that it is an unreliable partner in this enterprise. And therefore the Ministry of Transport and Works has to look to its own resources to make sure that we do not suffer embarrassment as a result of the inefficiency elsewhere.

Asides.

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: Now this brings me to another question, another related question raised in relation to the rural electrification programme. As I indicated yesterday, one of the three components in the plantation tenantry project would include electrification. Every aiea on a plantation tenantry where roads are built will, in addition to the road, get lights as well as water. That is our contribution to the expansion of the rural electrification programme.

Apropos the financing of the tenantry road programme the Government of Barbados proposes to raise the US\$17 228 844 from external sources. When the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance concluded his last visit to Venezuela, as indeed the visit before that, there was a joint declaration by himself and President Lusinchi, later on reiterated by the New President Perez that Venezuela would give support to Barbados in the execution of this programme. Local funds will be of the order of* US\$10 796 437. And it appears as if there is a good chance that this, too, can be financed externally through 936 funds in Puerto Rico. 2.10p.m.

That is the latest information that I have had in this connection.

The next issue raised was in relation to drainage. I am not going to repeat myself again. I made a long speech in here about drainage, the causes of the problems of drainage and so on, and I do not intend to repeat that speech now. It will suffice to say that during the current year and into the next year there will be an intensification of the well digging and well cleaning programme. Our well digging and well cleaning programme did not fare well during the current financial year. It was less than efficient because the majority of the contractors who were responsible for this work had limited experience. Of the some 2500 wells that fall to the Government to be cleaned and dug every year, it is absolutely imperative to clean a thousand of them. Less than half of those wells have been cleaned this year and, therefore, it has been necessary to consider awarding the 2-year contract, part of the 2-year contract, to 5 additional well contractors. This is in progress and we hope that the well cleaning programme which is critical to flood prevention can be intensified.

, At the same time I will be bringing to this Honourable House legislation shortly to empower the Ministry of Transport and Works to enter on private lands and clear watercourses. At the present time it is possible for the Ministry of Transport and Works to enter on to private lands only after permission is granted by the owner. But we find that after we have effected improvements on this land that the owner then comes back and instead of offering the Ministry money then demands compensation and therefore

it is going to be necessary to do this. It is going to be necessary also to take a full inventory of all of the watercourses in Barbados and to see that the mechanisms are established for preventing builders from obstructing these watercourses to be carried out under much stricter surveillance than is now the case.

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

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: At the same time, this legislation will impose penalties on all of those persons like plantations owners who have had wells on their property and who have filled these wells thereby causing water to be diverted under the highway creating erosion and damage to the road surfaces and other problems of inundation elsewhere.

In so far as the other issue raised is concerned with the Transport Board, the facts are these. Effective cost measures have resulted in a substantial reduction of the deficit. The deficit for the current financial year is \$12 million. I think that is just over 1% of total expenditure. I do not know if the deficit has ever been so low in percentage terms of current expenditure in the history of the Transport Board. I do not know. I have not done the calculations, certainly not in recent times. This deficit, Mr. Chairman, is less than half of what this party inherited from the Barbados Labour Party. Twenty four point eight or \$9 million was presided over by a disaster called Vic Johnson, a disaster for reasons best known to themselves, the Government of the day could not contain or control.

Asides.

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: The disaster spread all the way to his plantation in St. Lucy. The deficit is less than half. I am barking about that fact - that incontestable fact and this coming here, Mr. Chairman, with the arrival of the buses, the thrust that I have talked about before begins for revenue and, when we begin to rake in the revenues, I do not know where it is going to go down to.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The time..... the allotted time for the reply has expired.

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 42 now stand part.

The question that Head 42 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT & WORKS -
HEAD 84

Asides.

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 84 stand part.

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

The question that Head 84 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

. HEAD 50 POST OFFICE - \$5 166 741

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 50 stand part.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: No, I am not satisfied about the way the local Post Office is run. That cannot pass. Okay.

On the motion of Hon. P. M. GREAVES, seconded by Hon. B. M. TAITT, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress to Mr. SPEAKER and asked for leave to sit again, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly. 2.20 p.m.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I move that this sitting be suspended until 3.25 p.m. this day.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly. 2.22 p.m.

ON RESUMPTION

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

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee.

The question that the sum of \$5 166 741 under Head 50 - Post Office -stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head 36 -Ministry of Health - as amended in the sum of \$81 711 633 was called.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, the Ministry of Health is one of the Ministries that spend a substantial sum of money and in this Committee of Supply we are being asked to vote under Head 36 \$81 711 633, but all of the sums of money which are spent in the provision of health, excluding^ that which is spent in the Ministry of Employment, Labour Relations and the National Assistance Board, a full \$135 million will be spent this year to provide a high quality health care service for the people of Barbados.

It is clear that over the years there has been a constant and continuing development so that we could reach the stage we have reached now where fully 15% of the Gross Domestic Product in Barbados is spent or returned to the people of Barbados for their health care. This is as it should be, for I do not consider that the sums spent in the provision of proper health care to be money spent so much as I consider it to be an investment in the country.

It is obvious and clear to all who would wish to observe what has been happening over the years that, without a good and sustained health service in Barbados, much of the development we have had in this country would not in fact have taken place in the manner in which it has taken place. The process, therefore, is not one in which any particular individual over time can lay claim to any particular kudos, and yet, Sir, in the final analysis, each one of us who has been given the high honour of being responsible for the Ministry of Health must share in the difficulties, and, perhaps in retrospect, benefit in the glories.

Mr. Chairman, the current programme of health care delivery in Barbados is being spearheaded by a philosophy which assumes and which maintains that health care is a human right and that for Barbadians it is a fundamental human right than which there is none better or higher. Secondly, it is based on the premise that there should be a proper mix of public expenditure and private expenditure in the provision of health care, and indeed, our total development during the last two years - and we intend during the next three years - will depend again on that mixture of private medicine and public medicine.

It is my concept, however, Sir, that it is the duty of the Government of the day to take the lead in the development of health and health care, and in Barbados as of now the policy which we are pursuing vigorously is a health care that is based on primary health care. The thrust is a primary health care in which preventive measures, or preventative measures, as you wish, will form the basis of ensuring a totality of the health of the individual. That is, we are not dealing only with whether a person is ill or whether a person should not become ill, but we are dealing with the wellness of the person. We are dealing with the personality, the wellness. That is the new technical term that they use to describe the kind of approach that is being - not the well-being, we are talking about the wellness. This is what the

technicians say and this is the way in which they manage to get the idea of health being something more than not being sick. Hence it is fairly easy, if you take this approach, to perceive health in the context of both mental health and physical health.

In Barbados over time we have stressed the physical health at the expense of mental health, and so as you look at the Estimates, Mr. Chairman, you will find that even although we are trying to correct the apparent imbalance, much of the funds spent in Barbados are spent on the provision of care for physical illness as opposed to mental illness; that is, physical health as opposed to mental health. However, one hopes that within the next three to five years we will see a gradual growth of interest in and commitment to mental health that will eventually bring us to the point where as we go into the 21st century all those persons living in Barbados will come to feel that a healthy person is one who is both healthy physically as well as mentally.

Mr. Chairman, you will find as we outline the details of this programme over time that there are some ancillary areas in health which have not had sustained attention over the years, which will now get sustained attention. An example of what I am talking about is the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. We have recently established a Department of Rehabilitative Medicine for the first time. I am sure the Honourable Member, the Leader of the Opposition, will be pleased to know that there is now a Department of Rehabilitative Medicine where occupational therapy, physiotherapy and all of these ancillary areas which up to now were languishing somewhere in no man's land will now become a full department in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

This kind of approach will find expression in our thrust to increase the numbers of physiotherapists, occupational therapists and other similar health workers over time. It takes a fairly long time to train them, Mr. Chairman, but over time and given the availability of resources, it is our intention that these ancillary services, of which the Rehabilitative Department is an example, will form a substantial part of the growth in medicine and health care in Barbados. So that when we go into the 21st Century we should have a quality of health care in Barbados that will be second to none. Indeed, it was that same approach which has led us to establish within the polyclinic system, or the primary health care system, a consultancy in mental health. 3.35 p.m.

There is now a consultant psychiatrist working out of the polyclinics as an extension of and a development of community mental health in Barbados, and this was based on a study that was done at one of the polyclinics, the Randall Phillips Polyclinic. That study demonstrated, Mr. Chairman, that although a number of persons, more than 60 per cent of the persons in the study, had presented, and that

is the technical term, Sir, presented is the term which the doctors use to say "arrived at and showed symptoms of. But they present at the polyclinic with physical symptoms. It was demonstrated that more than 60 per cent of the persons presented at this polyclinic within the study had in fact a root cause that could be traced to a mental health problem, mental health here not meaning that persons are stark staring crazy in the concept that used to apply to mental health, but rather recognising that stress and other related aspects of mental health now form a substantial part of the diagnosis and analysis of persons and their problems.

Mr. Chairman, the result is that we have been able to persuade the Establishments Division to allow for a consultant psychiatrist who is now functioning as part of the primary health care team rather than in the Psychiatric Hospital *per se*, but the linkage between the two will be established and I shall speak a little more specifically to this if we get to the capital parts of the Estimates.

Mr. Chairman, we have outlined the programme for the development of health care in a document which is the Development Plan for the Ministry of Health for the period 1988-93, in which the broad policy and indeed sometimes the specific policy has been committed to paper, and so for those Honourable Members who will wish to examine in some detail the proposals for our health programme over 1988-93 arrangements will be made for them to have a copy of this document since it is a public document which has been made available to large sections of the community. The programme which we outline will see us developing and expanding the primary health care system and it will see us - I don't want to be too detailed in the presentation because I am sure that Honourable Members are waiting to ask questions - but I would like to take a few moments to point out that the goal of the Government is to provide a comprehensive health care service to Barbadians at a price which the country can afford, and as I said, the emphasis will be placed on a community oriented approach to primary health care making effective use of governmental and non-governmental organisations in all aspects of care.

In addition the Government will continue to strengthen the institutional capabilities of the secondary and tertiary levels of care wherever possible. We will decentralise the primary health care services and the management, and we will anticipate a wide community participation in the promotion of health and prevention of disease, and we will have intra and inter-sectoral linkages and co-ordination, and we will have this as a promotion. These are vehicles through which some of the strategies will be accomplished.

Mr. Chairman, briefly the components of the programme will be primary health care which will continue to be brought to all areas of the nation through the polyclinics. To this end we will be constructing during this financial year a new polyclinic at Black Rock, a new

polyclinic at the Glebe, St. John, which forms part of the St. John Development Plan. The Glebe is in the area just next to the house where the voting took place - the Honourable Member will be able to check this - in the St. John by-election. It is part of the complex.

We will have a lot of emphasis on the care of the elderly because the pattern of our population profile in Barbados indicates that by the year 2009 the number of over 65s will have doubled, and so it is necessary for us to make provision now. The Honourable Member is reminding me that he will be over 65 by then, Sir. The number of over 65s will have doubled by the year 2009 and we are now in the process of making provision for the care of the elderly, and the orientation will see a decentralisation of care for the aged and we will be ensuring that old people are maintained with their families in their homes and communities with the relevant social and health services being brought to them.

The programme will see, for example, that eventually there will be two geriatric hospitals in Barbados that will be truly geriatric, the Geriatric Hospital at Beckles Road and the St. Philip Geriatric Hospital in St. Philip, and we will seek to phase out the other three geriatric institutions in Barbados which are little more at the moment than custodial centres. They are providing health care of sorts, but we believe that in a project which will come to this House in due course, we will have the two geriatric hospitals with about 300 beds each and then we should have a series of half-way houses, group homes and other kinds of institutions, if you will, for the ambulatory and the able, thus relieving those persons who come to old age who are not really ill, but who may be suffering from slight disabilities, of the difficulty of having to go into a hospital *per se*. At the same time what we will seek to do is to co-ordinate the relationship between the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the other hospitals so that we will relieve the community of the problem with which it is now afflicted where a large number of people unfortunately described in medical terms as social problems, people who go into an acute care hospital, that is to say, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and who after they have been attended to and have had the care provided, are not accepted back or do not have anywhere to go back to and hence remain in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for long periods of time waiting to get a place at one the district hospitals.

This is a very costly affair and one of the programmes which we will be able to implement will be to relieve the acute care hospital of that kind of problem while we transfer the geriatric ill to the geriatric hospital. It is in that context that the St. Joseph Hospital will be pressed into service. It is my present intention to have the St. Joseph Hospital function basically in the way that it was recommended by the broad based Committee that had done a study of the St. Joseph Hospital. The services which will be offered at the St. Joseph Hospital will include general medicine, general surgery, obstetrics and gynaecology,

paediatrics, dentistry and one or two other specialties which we are negotiating with persons.

The Hospital has 108 beds as it now stands, but one of the things which it does not have that one can discuss with any seriousness is an emergency department. It is clear that as we come to discuss the details of the St. Joseph Hospital, we will have to talk about the changes which will have to be made, but basically one of the things which the St. Joseph Hospital will be able to do is to relieve the very difficult problem which exists at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for some time, the problem of overcrowding. It is not well known or well articulated often in Barbados that overcrowding in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital has been a problem for some considerable time. It is a problem which can lead to in-hospital contamination or in-hospital cross fertilisation, Mr. Chairman. I am saying it that way deliberately. 3.45 p.m.

(Aside.)

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I was really addressing the Leader of the Opposition, who, because of his special knowledge in this field is paying special attention to see whether there are any errors made in the technical presentation and he says I am going all right so far. That is at the technical level.

The point is the possibility of getting infected in a hospital because of overcrowding. It is a serious problem throughout the world and it is a problem which we are trying to lick in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and in that way we think that the acquisition of the St. Joseph Hospital will lead towards a rationalisation of hospital beds in the country.

I will, obviously, Mr. Chairman, have to deal with that when we come to Capital. I touched on it just to include it in the broad framework. Mental Health Services I have touched on.

Services for the disabled will include the Children's Development Centre which has been now a full department of the Government and for which an advisory committee to the Ministry will shortly be announced. We are waiting to recruit some of the people. Recruitment has been going on apace for the Children's Development Centre. Finding the specialist people has proved much more difficult than one anticipated but very slowly and very surely the specialist people who will have to be taken on board are coming on board. All of the posts in the Children's Development Centre have been established and so it is now a full and complete Department of the Ministry.

Family life development, food and nutrition, secondary and tertiary care will all form part of our proposal. As I said, I will allow Honourable Members to be

able to read it and then, clearly, is the question of the health of the environment.

A substantial amount of money can be found within these subheads for the sector which we call Environmental Services. Mr. Chairman, historically, Government has been responsible for taking corrective action to change or enhance the environment. We in the Government will continue to shoulder the responsibilities in this respect through the activities carried out by the Public Health Inspectors, the Environmental Health Engineers and the Sanitary Service authorities.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that that sector of our country is the one which has recently been promulgated, projected or pushed into the limelight. It is a peculiar thing in this country that inaccuracy and information can sometimes lead to problems which themselves become greater than the original problem.

Mr. Chairman, I am bitterly disappointed that, recently, in an issue which was brought to the country in a peculiar manner, that the business people in Barbados, including those in the supermarkets, the restaurants, and all those who understood or ought to have understood what I was trying to do, that is, to say, protect the food industry from emotionalism, and to ensure its survival, did not give the public their own knowledge of these matters as if it was only the business of one Branford Taitt to do.

At least, the doctors, the nurses and those other persons have something to say when their profession is under seige, but all of the business people who knew what we were trying to do, including the poultry people, they lay silent and allowed the Minister, as they probably believed they should, to go out and be the only one who felt able to protect the industry - the speed with which Barbadians moved to find people, their own, guilty of corruption.

I worry not about myself, Mr. Speaker, but the little people whether they are policemen, security guards, bus inspectors or public health inspectors. It must be a charge against the lowly worker and not the company director, that it was malice or corruption that would drive them, the lowly worker, to put condemned food on supermarket shelves after that food had been condemned by the inspectors. It would have to be the little people who are being accused of this.

> As far as I am concerned, the media have their own agenda. When they represented me as denying that bad food was entering our food line, when I have repeatedly said only that I have put systems in place and that to say otherwise was patently untrue, that was all I have ever said. That is all I can now say. How can anyone, any reasonable person who has been at that Press Conference, who had heard the tapes, accept that I, the Minister, had denied that bad food had gone into the food line. I could not deny it.

What I denied and I now deny and what I will categorically deny is that there was no inspector placed at the particular company in the way an inspector had been placed at the other companies, but here is what happened and we have all day, Sir.

On the day after the Press Conference, *"The Nation"* newspaper which had carried an article on Friday, March 3 saying "Dead meat sales causing concern" the next day carried an article which said "Taitt denies there are dead meat sales". No way in that article does it show that Taitt denied any such thing and from then right through until today, Mr. Chairman, there has been a sustained continuation of a statement that is not true as a fact.

They have been putting it out as a fact when I have denied it. Nowhere has the denial been carried and today in the final insult, Sir, they purport to carry in their newspaper the chicken controversy. They say in their paper at page 10, "The Point At Issue" two Fridays ago - I am going to make it a document of the House, Sir - The weekend *"Nation"* carried a story stating the concerns of the Egg and Poultry Producers Association about reports.

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

I do not want to interfere with the speech. I know for sure that making the newspaper a document of the House would not be in keeping with the rules of the House. There is a specific Order in these rules about making newspapers and so on documents of the House. I cannot at this moment remember the exact rule, but I know it is in here for sure. And even though it reinforces the argument that the Honourable Minister is making, rightly so, I think that some way around that Rule should be seen. 3.55 p.m.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I understand the Honourable Member, Sir. But let me just draw to his attention that the specific ruling with regards the newspaper was a ruling by the Chair, the Speaker of the House on a previous occasion. It therefore forms part of these Rules. You will not find it in those Rules. You will find it in May's Parliamentary Procedure. And that is why, since I am going to quote from the newspaper, I will have to make it a document of the House. That is the only way I will be allowed to quote from the newspaper. You can check with your colleague the Leader of the Barbados Labour Party. But that is how we have done it in this House from time immemorial.

"In the interest of the public,"

This is what the *Nation* said on page 10, Sir.

(Asides.)

The *Nation*. The *Nation* said on page 10:

"TWO FRIDAYS AGO, The Weekend *Nation* carried a story stating the concerns of the Egg and Poultry Producers' Association about reports of alleged processing of "dead chicken" meat." They then go on to say, Sir:

"The claim was strongly refuted by Minister of Health, Branford Taitt."

That is what they say.

It is not true. It has never been true. I have never refuted it.

But I go further, Sir, in the same paper on the same page, in the first column right at the end, here is what they have David Ellis saying:

"DAVID ELLIS: Mr. Trotman never alleged that dead chickens were being processed at the plant, but somehow this twist has been added to the story."

That is what they have David Ellis saying. Look at it and see. The first column, at the bottom. You read it yourself.

But I will go further, Sir. They then purport to quote TAITT. I notice that it seemed strange. But here is what it is, Sir. My Ministry did the transcript as well. Fifteen pages of closely typed single space is what Mr. Taitt said. Beginning at page 9, Sir, is where Mr. Taitt starts to speak. They said at the bottom:

"In the interest of the public, the *Nation* has decided to reproduce the comments made on that programme in full for our readers."

There are fifteen pages here, Sir. Mr. Taitt starts on page 9, page 10, page 11, and then from the middle of page 11. They dropped out from the middle of page 11, all of page 12, all of page 13, all of page 14, all of page 15, all of page 16, all of page 17, all of page 18, all of page 19, down to two-thirds of page 20; ten pages out of 15. And they say that they are carrying in the full, in the interest of the public.

How long are we going to continue like this, Mr. Chairman? That is what they have done. Anybody who did not listen to that programme, anybody who did not hear me deny that I represented any woman in Barbados, anybody who had never heard that is bound to believe after reading what they put out today that I am a babbling idiot, a thief, a rogue, a vagabond trying to cover up.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Yes! That is what has been said about me in this country.

Well everybody in Barbados knows, everybody who wishes to know knows

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: that they cannot buy me. But they have gone and told the people that Mrs. Ram, of all people Mrs. Ram!

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Who is Mrs. Ram?

Hon. B. M. TAITT: My officials will tell you that when I went to the Ministry of Health.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I should like to say

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I withdraw the

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please do. *Asides.*

Hon. B. M. TAITT: It is the worst...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: It is my ruling

Hon. B. M. TAITT: slander....

Mr. CHAIRMAN:...that names will not be called while I am in the Chair.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: It is the worst slander.

Mr. R. P. B YER: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I should like to inform this Honourable House, based on what the Honourable Member just said that I am in keeping with the Rules. I wrote a letter to the Speaker this evening saying I am going to name the name. And I will name her.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is no point of order.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, if I am out of breath, it is because I have run out of patience.

Mr. Chairman, my integrity, when I hear people in this country talking about integrity, talking about morality, I lay claim in this country, in my public life, to have at least as much integrity as any single person who has ever participated in public life in this country.

I challenge anybody living in Barbados to come forward and say, anybody living anywhere in the thirty years I have been working for my country when I have ever taken a single cent, or anything!

When I went to the Ministry of Trade in 1971, I found a methodology where people used to get Christmas gifts. And you can check with them whether they are in the Barbados Labour Party, the Democratic Labour Party or the NDP and they will tell you that I told them, send them back!

When I went to the Ministry of Health, my officials will tell you that I made it clear on the first day that the one thing you can be certain about in this Ministry is if they send you anything, send it back.

There is not a person breathing today in Barbados, not one! There is a man and his two thugs on platforms saying that a business house in Barbados gave me \$30 000. They are afraid of him! I am not! I do not rice at him. He does not rice at me. There is no one whom I am afraid of. I do not have to kiss him because he cannot curse me with truth. Let him and all of those who go on to the political platforms who believe that they can frighten me, let them understand and beware that I have taken my position in public life because that is how I was trained.

I may be a fool, but I am not a thief! I may be a fool for being in public life....

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

Hon. B. M. TAITT: .., ...but nobody could buy me. And all my colleagues and you, the Leader of the Opposition, know better than anybody else that I cannot be bought. I will not have it.

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: No, no, no, no. Because the two of us walked together, the two of us worked together, just like the Prime Minister. All of them know. I will never have it, I will never. I will say this, now, Sir, for this Committee that I challenge them, if either one of them can bring me forth an iota of evidence that I have ever taken anything from any of those businessmen to perform any favour for them, I will resign immediately. Bring it! That is my challenge to you! Not you, because I know you would not do it. That is my challenge to Barbados. Bring it! You bring it! Take it and bring it and I will resign the next moment. That is my challenge, Mr. Chairman.

I do not have to go around holding my head down. I have said in here before, I was a Christian before I was a politician and when I stop being a politician, I will still be a

Christian. But I do not say that lightly, Mr/ Chairman, because I know how to do bad things too.

(Asides.)

Hon. B. M. TAITT: But they do not extend....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You have one minute,

(Asides.)

Hon. B. M. TAITT: to holding out my hand.

So let the record show that I am ready now to debate the Ministry of Health, including the chicken issue. Any question, I will answer it. When I do not know, I will tell you I do not know. You may even attempt to accuse me of being incompetent. If you do that, I will show that I have tried successfully so far. Wherever they put me, Sir, I have worked hard. That is a fact!

(Asides.)

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I am grateful to you because you have been indulgent.

And I therefore beg to move that this Head stand part.

Thank you, Sir.

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

Applause.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question.
4.05 p.m.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Honourable Member has been very worked up on one aspect of this matter in the debate for sometime in this Ministry. As the Honourable Member understands, he spends a considerable amount of the public funds, and therefore his responsibility to the House, Committee, and the country is a very grave one.

Now Sir, the Government has collected almost \$35 million - \$32 million is forecast in the collection of, \$32.5 million in the Health Levy. That is a very substantial sum of money coming into the coffers of the Government by this method of taxation in addition of course, Mr. Chairman, Sir, to the taxation which comes from other sources. This Ministry is spending a great slice of the public funds.

I am aware that the Government has set out in its Development Plan from 1988 onwards, the most recent Development Plan, that it sees Health as a fundamental human right. In this respect, it differs in no way from the policy which has been enunciated by the Barbados Labour

Party and obviously one of the consequences of seeing health as a fundamental human right is that we must try to provide for those persons who are most in need and who have not got the resources to answer their fundamental human rights needs.

Now, Sir, the area that concerns us particularly, is in the development and expansion of primary health care and particularly in relation to the polyclinics which is now being made the major instrument for the development of this primary health care system. One of the defects[^] that is very noticeable at present is the lack of what I would call the close patient-client, patient-doctor, if you want to put it, client-doctor relationship which is manifested, when you are dealing at the private sector level with your own private sector doctor. It seems to me in the polyclinic service at the moment as it is operated that the patients have no real choice in the doctor they see. They can go to the polyclinic from time to time and deal with whoever is on duty rather than a continuing relationship which one would want to see developed at that level.

We have in Barbados at the general practitioner level, people with several years of experience in this field. They have built up the experience over the years and it has not been possible up to now to integrate the mass of general practitioners within the framework of delivery of primary health care at the polyclinic level. I am saying that if the polyclinics are to develop as a true instrument and as an effective instrument for the delivery of health care in this country, we must not only continue with the expansion outlined in the Government Plan. It is an expansion which we too had forecast in our policy for health. But we must look at the limitations which at present confront the polyclinic service, particularly in this field.

The other area, Sir, that I have noticed in the polyclinics which calls for early attention is that they fail to deliver a proper service to the group of people who are in a disabled state at home, the elderly and the bedridden, those who cannot too easily get to the polyclinics themselves except by ambulance. It seems to me that what has happened is that there is a limitation in home visits by doctors. I understand and I would wish the Minister to either confirm or deny this, that at present if you wish a home visit and you are coming through the polyclinic that you have to make an appointment and it seems to me if this is so then that is a serious limitation on the delivery of health care at this level, primary health care to a section of the community most in need, particularly, since the primary thrust of the policy within the last few years has been to cater to those persons who are in the 65 and over as well as those who are under 16 and secondly, in particular, because of course in my view the community is becoming an older community and the larger number of the section of the people depending on health care is in the age groups 65 plus and under 16.

(Asides.)

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Well, the Honourable Member for St. Lucy said, "not in my view". He compares in the view when he looks at the demography of Barbados and, in fact, I believe that the assessment is that only 30% of those who are regular callers on the services of the medical and paramedical professions are in the in-between age group of 16 to 65. So that our services must of necessity, concentrate on those who are in the group. Because, Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the last few years in Barbados, we have had a decrease in the rate of infant mortality. If you look at the document laid in this House during this particular meeting of the House of the Registration Office statistics, you will see the figures are there. We have had an increase in life expectancy and we have had a decline in the birthrate and those basic statistics say something very poignant for the planners who deliver health care.

Now Sir, the polyclinics, therefore, must try to be much more efficient in the manner in which they are dealing with these problems. I understand that there are usually only 3 or 4 doctors* working on a shift system handling over 50,000 to 60,000 cases. I do not know if the Minister has the statistics available to him and that, therefore, these doctors are unable to look after domiciliary care efficiently and that those people who are therefore at home in a position and not able to get themselves to the polyclinic must therefore get a relative or some friend who goes to the Welfare Department. The Welfare Department then requests a visit and the Department will then send someone to the polyclinic who will issue a ticket to a doctor to make a house visit.

If my information is correct, Mr. Chairman, I am saying that that is an elaborate bureaucratic system which does not lead to the proper delivery of primary health care to persons in need. Indeed, we are near in that sense returning to the delivery of what was once referred to as the pauper medicine situation. I think that Barbados at this stage, particularly when we are being taxed to the tune of \$32.5 million, should be in a position to afford assisting those in this age group who are chronically in need of assistance.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not have the statistics on this, but I can say that arthritis is a well known and serious disease in Baibados. 4.15p.m.

Recent publications have shown that a cure for it has not yet been found, although they are well on the way to finding new ways of treating arthritic conditions. But we have our group of persons suffering from arthritis, our stroke patients and our diabetics, and certainly one of the ways of helping them is the regular care from occupational therapists.

Again, I understand that there is a shortage of occupational therapists in Barbados, that there are really only three, two of whom are in private practice, and the other of whom is employed by the Ministry of Health but who also has to render service at the Children's Development Centre and the District Hospital, and must also spend some time in community work.

I believe there used to be training for these people at the University of the West Indies, I am not sure, but I wonder what steps are being taken to encourage and to make scholarships available to a larger number of the young people who may wish to become occupational therapists in order to bring them within...

Hon. B. M. TAITT: If the Honourable Member will give way, I do not propose to interrupt him, but on this particular one the problem is not the availability of scholarships, the problem is that not many Barbadians are getting accepted in the few schools that can produce the occupational therapists. Any Barbadian who applies for, and is accepted at, an institution for occupational therapists is immediately given either a National Development scholarship, because it is one of our development areas. The physiotherapists are being trained at Jamaica, and I think two of them went up this year and two more are scheduled to go.

I am sorry to interrupt the Honourable Member, but I did not want him to waste time going down that road.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The Minister has explained in that intervention that the problem is shortage of places in other universities, in which case my strong advice is that in this field we should negotiate through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as we had to do at one stage in relation to veterinary medicine, and we had to do in relation to architecture and other specialist areas, that we should be negotiating with some of the Commonwealth countries who make scholarships available to us under the Commonwealth Scholarship Scheme, as well as other technical assistance for a certain number of places in the institutions that train these people. In my view three are not adequate enough to cater to the problems which exist.

Whilst we are on training, Sir, let me talk a bit about the University of the West Indies hospital. I think it is true to say that the Queen Elizabeth Hospital as a teaching hospital is now very well respected, and in fact in its clinical arm there are many of the students, including non-Barbadians, who yearn to come here to do their clinical and in-service training, and I think this has developed through the years. It speaks a lot for the standard of the academic staff which man this part of the programme.

My complaint, however, is with the limited number of places available in Jamaica and generally for admission of young Barbadians to the medical profession. I understand

there are something like 120 places usually available on an annual basis at the UWI, 60 of which automatically go to Jamaicans, and that Barbadians are limited to between eight to ten places. Normally the Barbadians who get preferential treatment are those obtaining a Barbados Scholarship or an Exhibition, and that, therefore, there is tremendous competition for those Barbadians who may be minded to go into medicine.

We are supporting the University of the West Indies substantially, Sir, and I believe that if there is an area of need we must begin to press the claim of Barbados at this particular time to have more of its people educated in this particular discipline. I am aware that it had been hoped that the pressure would have been relieved by the Mount Hope expansion but the figure I have got boggles the mind. I am told that it would cost over - I could not believe that this is true - TT \$1 million, not that the Trinidad dollar is equal to the Barbados dollar, a week or day or something to man the Mount Hope Hospital in Trinidad, and that therefore with the lack of funds confronting our neighbouring country there has been some hold on the expansion of the facilities in Trinidad and Tobago to cater to the needs of the Eastern Caribbean.

Once again, I must urge the Government to use the good offices of its Ministry of Foreign Affairs. These are the areas in which we should be pressing Barbados' needs with the friendly countries who are sympathetic to us, because there is even pressure, as you know, to get into these institutions within the United States of America to the extent that offshore centres for the delivery of teaching in medicine have been established. Some of them have now got worldwide recognition, including the one in Grenada which was under a cloud some years ago, but, from my readings I see that it is recognised now by the medical profession and medical teaching institutions in the United Kingdom.

I am not for one moment saying to this Committee that the route for Barbadian students to go is to Grenada, what I am saying is that there is an obvious need for additional places at the hospitals, at the schools and at the universities for Barbadians who want to follow their profession in medicine, and that there is a duty, therefore, on the Government to ensure that the University Hospital in the University College of the West Indies can deliver these services.

Now, Sir, I am told as well, and I do not want to sound critical of any friendly Caribbean country, but I am told that part of the pressure to come to Barbados for clinical training springs from the fact that for some reason the standards at the University Hospital in Jamaica have declined, whilst those here in Barbados at our teaching side of the hospital have risen.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you have signalled to me that the time is up on this segment. I will seek your leave a little later to intervene again in this debate.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, may I make a suggestion to Honourable Members that would perhaps make it easier for debate? Although we are debating one Head, I have no difficulty whatsoever if we could go down the Subheads seriatim, which would allow members to go back and forth, and I will be able to answer as we come to a block of Subheads and then respond. It is entirely up to Honourable Members, but you will recall that we changed the method of putting Heads on, otherwise all of these Subheads, would have been Heads, so that it would probably be a more orderly debate and would go a lot faster if we do that, not necessarily the first intervention, but if we could follow that. I am quite prepared to follow that. 4.25 p.m.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Mr. Chairman, earlier on a point of order which you ruled was not a point of order, I made the point that during the course of this debate, because of certain matters that had been brought to the public of Barbados and also by the Honourable Minister when he introduced the Head for debate, it was my intention in intervening in the debate and also in responding to certain matters that were raised to name a certain person. I have followed the Standing Orders of the House, in particular Rule 10 and if I may be allowed, this Rule says that no reference may be made in debate to the character or conduct of any person except in his official or public capacity, and at 10(b) it goes on to say, and this is at page 35, Sir, any Member who desires to refer in debate to the character or conduct of any person in his official capacity must deliver to the Speaker written prior notice of the proposed reference; the notice must set out the facts on which such reference will be based and must be signed by the Member giving it.

I would like to inform this Honourable House if the Chairman is not made aware of it that I delivered to the Speaker the letter. I believe maybe I should have delivered it to you because the Rules do say that in certain circumstances the Speaker should be substituted by the Chairman, but you have my assurance, Sir, that that letter was delivered.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I do not wish in any way to doubt the Honourable Member has given to His Honour the Speaker such communication, but even if I took his word on that, I am not in a position to permit the calling of names unless I can have some communication as to the reason for which we are calling names and the sort of debate that you would like to conduct in the calling of the names.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Sir, I do not pretend to understand the nature of your ruling. The rule does not command that I

should state in public or in this Chamber the reason why I want to call names.

Now, Sir, some time during the course of this session I made in a debate on immigration the point that we in Barbados should watch the tide of Asian immigration into this country. I made certain proposals in this regard and the Attorney General suitably replied. At the time I said, Sir, that if we were going to allow persons of Asian origin into Barbados that they should be persons of the highest quality not only in terms of their money value but also in keeping with the kind of contribution they could make to this community, and also in terms of their commitment.

Now we all know about the so-called chicken controversy which is a matter of health. Now let me say before I get into the body of what I want to deliver to this Honourable Chamber this afternoon that I have no quarrel with the *bona fides* of the Minister of Health, none whatsoever. If I may state it publicly, I hold him in the highest regard, not only in terms of his performance as a Minister, but in terms of his quality as a person. But having said that Sir, I would also want to say, and I have discussed this with the Minister of Health, I was slightly disappointed when he said that the debate on the chicken controversy, and I told him this no later than Thursday last week, only escalated because of one of the central figures in the issue. I said that I believed that that person is an issue in the debate because of previous conduct, and he agreed with me. At the time, given the heat of the moment, I believe that the Minister in making the statement may have made an error of judgment.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, I do not want to interrupt the Honourable Member, but since he puts it that way, I take the point of order to just make the point that the specific words published did not take account of the background. We were sitting in a luncheon situation and we were discussing the issue in precisely the terms which the Honourable Member is discussing it, but it suited somebody's purpose to publish only the words quoted.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Let me move on. The central figure in this controversy is an issue in the whole debate surrounding the chicken controversy. If I am to believe what I see in the newspaper that a writ has been filed in court and I have certain responsibilities in this Chamber to refrain from mentioning matters *sub judice*, the writ was filed in MacDonald Farms' name and not in the name of Mrs. Ram Merchandani. That is the first thing I want to deal with. She is a citizen of Barbados, I believe. I don't know what is her status under the Immigration Act, but she has some status in Barbados. She is either an immigrant, a permanent resident or a citizen of Barbados, but she is here, I believe, legally.

I remember very carefully that on one occasion the now Minister of Transport and Works had occasion to visit

one of her factories; he was then Minister of Labour, as he would put it, in a previous dispensation and he visited that factory and revealed some startling things such as labour practices, violation of the labour code and also of the Factories Act that were taking place at that time. Nothing much came of the issue as far as I can recall. As a matter of fact the Minister as far as I can recall was removed from that portfolio, and I believe he was given another portfolio. I think he was moved from Minister of Labour to Minister of Communications and Works. Why it was thought that that should happen I do not know. I was not privy to the Cabinet decision or anything like that, but it occurred to me, and at that time I was on the fringe of politics, on the mere periphery if I may say so, that some protection must have been happening in that regard. I am not accusing anybody, but from a safe distance I came to that conclusion.

There have been other occasions when this lady has been brought into public focus in relation to the way in which she conducts herself at her factory. I well remember on one occasion that the present Minister of Labour and Employment - we may have our little tiffs across the divide, but where credit is due I give credit, - went on one occasion this year to her store, the Honourable Member for the City will deal with that, and complained about the way that store was being run and the several violations under the factories code and things like that, and now we have this chicken controversy.

Two things come out of this to my mind and the first is that she is an issue in the way in which she seeks to treat people of my ethnic group. The majority of people that she employs is black people. When people hear you talking about black and white in Barbados they think you are talking race; if you talk about blacks and Indians, you are talking race and so on, but these points have got to be made. I have never shied away from discussing race in Barbados or the relationships between ethnic groups; it does not make me a racist. If I say that I want the best for my ethnic group, it does not make me a racist if I say that a person with a particular skin colour treats black people in a particular way. I will agree to some people it may sound like that, but I know in my own heart that I do not practise reverse racial discrimination. If I see a wrong being perpetrated against people of my race, I will, say so. If the person is a black person, I will say so; if the person is a white person, I will say that person is wrong, and she must be brought to heel, not in the same way as the oth^r MacDonald, but she must be brought to heel in this matter. 4.35 p.m.

When this matter is completed, when it has gone through the Courts, when it has ran its legal course and she is found wanting, I would hope that the next step is that she be given her walking papers out of Barbados. I would hope that that would be the next step.

I would think that that ought to be the next step because for too long she has been treating black people like dirt in Barbados. A lot of them try to defend her all the time. I believe it is out of fear for their jobs, They want to maintain their employment because they probably have a lot of children and other commitments. Unemployment is high. It is not always easy to get a job.

Now, I believe every word that the person now called the supervisor said, Darwin Trotman. I believe every word that he said because I know of another instance where that lady perpetrated something of similar dimensions. I know the facts, Sir, and at a later stage this House will be apprised of those facts.

When this lady perpetrated things of similar dimensions against another entity - th^t lady she is a very despicable person as far as I am concerned. She has exploited black people in this country for too long and has gotten away with it. She and all of her family have exploited black people in Barbados for too long and I think it is time that something be done with her.

This is what I meant when I was talking about the quality of persons coming into Barbados, the quality of person that we allow to come into Barbados and work in Barbados that has nothing to do with race. It has to do with decency. It has nothing to do with commitment to Barbados and it has something to do with being a person of quality. If she was a person of quality she would not perpetrate the kinds of acts against the majority of the population of this country as she has done for the time that she has been in Barbados and she should be sent back from whence she came. That is my view about it. She should be packed out of Barbados. Forty-eight hours is enough. That is my view about the whole thing.

Aside.

Mr. R. P. BYER: They are legal entities. She should be given 48 hours to get out of Barbados, enough time to come back and clean up her affairs and leave the place. She has not contributed anything to Barbados of any lasting significance. We can do without her. That is my vic^{*v} about it and I will come back at a later stage, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I was very concerned when I came in.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Could I just remind the Honourable Member for the accuracy of the records that the Chairman is in the Chair.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, when I came in the Minister was halfway through his presentation so I would have missed some of his policy outlines for the Ministry. I heard the tail end of his speech and I was very concerned with the way in which the Minister has been,

obviously, very personally and deeply pained, hurt and, indeed, shaken by the events of the last two weeks in relation to the chicken matter. It showed and you would be less than human if you were not hurt. There is no doubt that for two weeks he was under the most severe public criticism and attack especially on the call-in programmes and that could not have made for comfort or peace of mind.

I think upon sober reflection, however, the Minister may well consider that to some extent he brought it on himself or contributed to a lot of, if there is misinformation, misinformation but, certainly, contributed to a lot of the publicity that was attracted to himself on the call-in programmes.

Now, I think, Sir, I am not going to be severely critical but I want, because in the spirit in which the Minister spoke, all of us who are human and who have been in public life will have felt some empathy, if one is wronged by unfair public comment and, indeed, as the burden of his contribution today suggested, he feels that he has been deeply wronged, particularly by publications in the newspaper which were not fair to him in that there were omissions of substantial parts of whatever was quoted. I have not seen today's "Nation" yet. Mine was late this morning. It is not usually late but it was late.

The Minister is a lawyer and he knows what is fair and accurate and that there can be libel by omission as well as by insertion and I expect that he will take the necessary counsel and he will deal with that matter and that is a right that he has and if the newspaper is wrong, even though I am a shareholder, they must have insurance to cover those things.

I do not know, Sir, but if he sues he may face me when he is on the witness stand because I might have to represent the newspaper. We might tangle in a different way.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: No, but I have the company that has sued. I am in that one for the newspaper and I am looking forward to recovering substantial costs for my pocket. She is not going to get one cent in damages but we will writ for costs but I am not going to bother with her at this stage. There is something very incongruous in a woman being called "Ram" and that is all I would say about that, something very unusual and incongruous.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am going to chide the Minister, not chastise him, poor fellow, he has suffered too much.

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

He is my friend but I know he is getting ready for the rapier when you are really looking to stick in your rapiers so do not let him get there with his soft voice saying that. I 'am not hurt I am all right. 4.45 p.m.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: If the Minister is not hurt then, we will go down the wicket.

Laughter.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I was going to set him down gently. But he has asked for it.

Now, Sir, a story appeared that there was on a certain farm contaminated or dead chicken, as they call it loosely, being passed through the system and being sold for public consumption. I think around the 4th of March the Minister made his first statement. And the Minister's first statement as I recall it seemed to have been a defence of the public officer, and a warning that if people persisted in making allegations against the public officers they themselves may have been opening themselves to actions for defamation. One of the very first statements very soon after this thing hit the press.

I think perhaps the Minister ought to have waited for it to develop a bit more, do his investigations before he rushed into print. But the Minister complicated matters for himself in my submission confused the public's mind in that one of the early statements of the Minister was to the effect that people were only making a lot of noise and offering criticism because of who was the owner of the plant. That is how it came out in the newspaper. If the newspaper misquoted the Minister, perhaps the Minister will take this opportunity to say whether he said that or not.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, on a point of elucidation, since the Honourable Member said he came in after I had started, I think he missed that part in which I laid the foundation that, in fact, the whole question of the issue as it related to the Minister was the result of misrepresentation in the newspaper. I pointed out for example that the headline of the very first article...

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: ... had no relation to the text. Then the following piece which had me denouncing the NATION. I did not denounce the NATION. Then the piece about the story only being ... that language was taken out of context, even though the actual words were true, the context. If you read the other paper, you did not form that impression. If you take the same two papers. That is what happened.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Well, Sir, this is the proper place perhaps for the Minister to make all the clarification but most of us on this side could only have been informed by what we read in the press. As I said, it appeared that the Minister was saying that the attacks were only being made against MacDonalds Farm or whatever they call it because of who the controlling proprietor was.

Then the Minister sought to compare other processing plants that were not licensed. Now I think that was a reflection on the Minister's judgment. Because the Minister is responsible ultimately for the licensing of the plant as Minister of Health.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, and to set the record straight, Sir. The law gives the responsibility to the Medical Officer of Health. It is one of those areas in which the Minister does not have the discretionary power. I made that point repeatedly and it has never been carried. The law gives it to the Medical Officer of Health.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Yes, Sir, but the point I am making is that the Minister of Health, and he knows the constitutional point, Sir, the Minister of Health has ultimate responsibility for the Ministry under which the Chief Medical Officer is the supreme operative and functionary. So that if anything is wrong even at the level of the Chief Medical Officer, the Minister ultimately constitutionally is responsible.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: No, Sir.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Surely, Sir.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, on a point of order, if anyone else had said that, Sir, I would let it pass. But the Honourable Member is seized of the very fine point that, where the statute is specific in the technical situation, the statute here, the Regulation, in fact it is a Regulation, specifically gives the licensing power to the Medical Officer of Health because it is on a matter that does not extend to the discretion of the Minister, the Minister may give general policy but here, the actual licensing is the responsibility clear and without more of the Medical Officer of Health. So that I cannot direct the Medical Officer of Health to give a licence. I in fact would be acting outside the purview of my responsibility within the Constitution. This is one of the few areas, and the Honourable Member is familiar with discretionary power that cannot be delegated.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Alright, Sir, well if there is a very fine line being drawn, I will accept the Minister's position because he is more familiar with the Act and its ramifications than I am, since he has to deal with it on a day to day basis. If that is so, let it be clarified for public consumption because it is very akin therefore to the relationship between Attorney-General and Commissioner

of Police in operational matters. The Attorney-General cannot give any direction to the Commissioner of Police in operational matters. He can set broad parameters of policy But...

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Yes. When we were in Government that side then in Opposition pummelled the then Attorney-General, now Leader of the Barbados Labour Party, for making that fine distinction, as you would have it, between his role and that of the Commissioner of Police in the Pele business, Sir.

But to give the impression, Sir, that there were a number of other farms or processing plants operating without licence was, I think, to give the public a basis for concern because surely the inference would be that the Minister was behaving, if not in a callous way. Sir, in an indifferent manner. That is why I say, Sir, I think the Minister by his various statements attracted opprobrium to himself.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, I do not like interrupting my colleague on a point of elucidation. But the matter is sufficiently delicate and what hangs on it requires that we do this. It is precisely the argument that I have had, that I took the trouble on the occasion of the very first press conference to explain that even in the circumstances - and the only reference to others was to point out that whereas I as an individual and as a Minister had reservations about whether companies should or should not operate without a licence - that the explanation given by the Medical Officer of Health who was responsible was acceptable to me, as it had been to all the other Ministers of Health in the past. That is the point of issue that I had made at the press conference.

Now I agree that it may have been too subtle for those who covered the press conference. I do not say that pejoratively. Perhaps I ought to have described it more carefully. The fact is that all of the other Ministers of Health had, and I think correctly in the context of Barbados agreed with the advice they had got from the Medical Officers of Health whom they could not direct to do otherwise anyhow. But the press had not carried that. That has been my complaint, not that anything or that my judgment was perfect or any of those things, simply that the press did not give the public the opportunity to make the choice which I am now giving the Honourable Member.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am grateful for the intervention. I think the Honourable Minister would understand that, on sober reflection, as I keep saying, part of the problem is his penchant - is that the word? - for talking too much to often. Hold down a little and wait. Take some lessons from the Prime Minister day before yesterday. Hold and wait.

Laughter.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am not saying any more than that. Sir, it has been our experience as recently as 1985 October, I am going to get the date for you, Sir, July, 1985 the debate for July 9, 1985, Sir, in relation to an amendment to the Health Services Act, it was called the Health Services (Amendment) No. 2 Act, 1985, one of the reasons for the introduction of that piece of legislation was to assign and to give the Minister the power to assign public health inspectors to food processing plants. It passed, but it passed over the sternest objections of the then Opposition.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The late Mr. Barrow...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You have two minutes to conclude.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: What, Sir?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Two minutes to conclude.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Alright. I will come again. and the now Attorney-General, Sir, were two who were most vociferous in their condemnation of that legislation. But I need to read it into the record because Mr. St. John introduced the legislation and pointed out, Sir, at Page 2773: 4.55 p.m.

"In other countries, as I said before, food regulations have a requirement that you have to have staff of a certain quality to the satisfaction of what they call County Analysts, or something like that, in the United Kingdom, before you can become a food manufacturing establishment."

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I gave him the information

"We are gradually building up that quality control as an integral part of food manufacturing. If we were to say that you could not be in food manufacturing without having them, you would hear a big outcry that the Government is preventing the small man from manufacturing. When we have now adapted the machinery in the interest of ensuring that the public does not catch certain diseases because of certain manufacturing processes, we are now hearing that we are taking away the powers of the Public Service Commission. You cannot win either way."

My minute has expired, Sir. I have to come back and develop other things.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Bridgetown.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, my intervention will follow on from that of the intervention of the Honourable Member for St. George South. Let me from the very outset make something very clear for those persons who want to play politics with something I think is a very serious matter. The National Democratic Party...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have lost your comment.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: I said - let me make something very clear from the outset particularly for those people who believe that a matter as serious as this is something to play politics with. The National Democratic Party in its pledge has already stated clearly that we will always be on the lookout for anyone who wants to perpetrate injustices on underprivileged people. We made it clear and it does not matter what race that person comes from. So what I have to say now, take it in that light. I believe that the Honourable Members particularly for St. Andrew, St. Joseph and St. John should have something to say on this matter, too, because a large number of employees at these operations that were mentioned by the Member for St. George South come from those constituencies, in case they did not know that.

The question that we are dealing with here goes beyond any so-called chicken incident or chicken controversy. It goes beyond any question of licensing. It has a lot to do with what the Honourable Member for St. George South was saying. It cannot be good enough for us as political leaders on the one hand to be indignant about one person coming in to do whatever they want to do, no matter what the wishes of the Government or the people of Barbados are, and it is good for us to be so sanctimonious about that and then, when we have a similar situation in here now, that we stay silent on this. We need to talk about this, Sir.

I do not believe, contrary to what the Honourable Minister said, that anyone in the public domain is blaming any little people or any workers in the factory for putting bad meat on the market. I do not agree with that, Sir. The public is blaming the owners and management. Nobody in their right mind blames the workers for what comes out of a business place or what happens at a business place. The final responsibility must rest with the management and the owners, and people understand that only too well.

Why I said this whole question raises much more serious points goes back to something that was said by the Honourable Member for St. George South. We said not so long ago, and the Honourable Leader of the House said we were at one on this, he said so and it was true that we will not tolerate persons, no matter who they are, whatever

ethnic background they come from, or where they come from, to come into this country and impose themselves and do things that we as a people or the Government who are supposed to be representing the people and looking after the people's interest would not want. The same thing applies in this case. It does not matter whether it is a question that you do not have enough laws or authority to deal with the issue from that point of view or licences. It has to do with whether people understand that they are going to have to do what we as Barbadians want done.

We in this party talk about a better Barbados for all Barbadians. Those we invite to come here, those who become citizens who become Barbadians, must understand that we are talking about all of us and not a few or one or two doing what they feel like doing.

The Honourable Minister of Employment would know about this very well and, as the Honourable Member for St. George South said before, he saw first hand the kind of operation these same people like to carry on no matter what they get into. It is the same type of operation. The Honourable Minister visited a business place downtown and saw how unhealthy the conditions were for the workers and he was justifiably annoyed. He told me this himself. This is not something I heard by the way. He told me himself that he was justifiably annoyed and I believe, in fairness to him, at least I hope the only thing that is stopping him from taking some corrective action is that maybe there are some regulations or laws that need changing to deal with the matter. I would hope that is the only thing that is stopping him. Because he was very, very annoyed and all Honourable Members in here know the Honourable Minister of Labour and know when he gets annoyed he can get real annoyed, and he was very annoyed and justifiably so because he saw the kind of conditions. We cannot continue to turn a blind eye to these things. We cannot allow these kinds of people to take advantage of unfortunate people, people who only have the misfortune to need a job in a situation where unemployment is running high. So do not let us start talking nonsense about why people go and work with her in the first place. Well, how many choices do they have? It is an injustice that is being perpetrated on these unfortunate unemployed people, and look around and see what these people look like and see the kind of conditions and background they have to come from. Neither you nor I, Sir, would work there. We know that. We do not have to.

* Look, we are supposed to be out here looking after these people's interest and if we continue to say, as the calypsonian says "we continue with all the lip service" that we are looking after the underprivileged people's interest and continue to do nothing, to show them that we are looking after their interest then we will only continue to breed the kind of cynicism that the public already has with regard to politicians in general. The Honourable Member for St. John said the other day that soon the people will start

pelting rocks. Those were his words. I do not know who they are going to pelt the rocks at - not me I am sure. That same store, and if the Honourable Minister does not know it yet, I will inform him now and he can check on it, the Sanitation Department has tried over and over to stop them from putting out commercial garbage, for which I as a businessman can pay a fee for removal, on a public car park day after day. Would you believe that someone from the Sanitation Department put up a sign and the sign has on it I believe something to do with health regulations, quoting the Act, and everything, and they put the garbage around the sign? 5.05 p.m.

Nobody seems to be able to stop them from doing it. The sewerage people told that same owner that they had to stop an operation a year ago because of the non-connection or bad connection to the sewerage system. They ignored that too and went on to lease the place to a company with the full knowledge that they were not hooked up.

These are the kind of people we were talking about when we were saying...

Aside.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Do you want me to name the company? I may have to name other places, so do not let me get into that. Stay out of that one, hear? This could get a little rough.

There are members on that side who were very loud in saying you cannot let these people come about here and tell the Government what to do. You have to stop them. Well, let us do that.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central and the Honourable Minister of Trade know about this one. There was a factory owned by the same people again, in Wildey. I heard the Honourable Member for St. George allude to it, but he did not go into the details, and the details are important. The Barbados Workers's Union, after the Honourable Minister of Transport when he was Minister of Labour exposed the unhealthy conditions under which workers had to work in that factory, and as someone said I think he lost his pick after he did that, after he exposed that the Barbados Workers' Union went up there to let the people who work in that plant know what their rights are, to let them know that they can join the Union and the Union can ask for better working conditions for them, like those that obtain in my plant, and that the Union can ask for better wages. I believe that factory pays the lowest wages of any factory, I can be corrected if I am wrong, and they were virtually ordered out of the place and instructions were given that those workers who had decided to go outside to talk to the Union should not come back. When the Union set up a P.A. system so that they could at least talk outside and let the workers hear what was going on, they were

threatened that the police would be brought to move them off the property.

Aside.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, that is a registered limited liability company.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has two minutes.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I am being advised by Honourable Members to declare an interest. I have a minority share in a company that rents property from the same lady in question. I do not know what interest that could be. What interest is that? You will be hearing a lot more about that too because that is the same place that is not hooked up to the sewerage, and I and my legal attorney will deal with that too, because I will tell you one thing. I do not care who they are, the Honourable Minister of Health said he does not get frightened for anybody. Let me join him and say that I do not get frightened for anybody too, and I do not care how powerful anybody in this Honourable House or outside thinks that any individual is in Barbados. When it comes to perpetrating injustices, particularly on under privileged people and unfortunate people, I as a member of this party - and I can only speak for this party, the rest can get up and talk for themselves - any time I see it or hear about it, I do not care whose friend they are, I am exposing it.

Thank you, Sir.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: In my first 15 minutes, Mr. Chairman, I was suggesting that perhaps the reason for the severe attacks on the Minister in the last two weeks was because of the vast number of statements that came out from the Minister. I think he appeared in the Press twice one day. I remember seeing this, the Minister on television one night and his last statement was to the effect that there had been declines in sales of chicken, and immediately as that news item finished CBC broadcast that there were no declines. They had checked with the fast food operations and so on, suggesting that the Minister was a liar or did not have the facts.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You love to talk. Come and talk again.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: That is true, that will work. Mr.

CHAIRMAN: On what has the Minister risen?

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I had got the information from the Ministry of Agriculture.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On what have you risen?

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I beg your pardon. On a point of order, Sir. I had got the information from the Ministry of Agriculture which had asked me to try and see what we can do, because we are in trouble, but the CBC and the Nation the next day called round and asked the few fast foods. What do you expect the fast food people to say? Yes? And stop other people from coming? But they published, and CBC was up front right after. They do it all the time to me, but they have an agenda.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: There was once a man called Jimmy Hatlo that used to be on the back page of the Advocate, "They'll Do It Every Time," but you were once responsible as Minister for Information. You see, Sir, it is that kind of public comment that led to a lack of confidence in the Minister.

There is no doubt, Sir, that the farm was producing chicken that was not of the requisite quality for human consumption. Sunday's Sunday Sun, front page, "Kentucky sent back 1159 pounds." If it was good, would they have sent it back? Why is the public saying was it necessary for the Minister to seek to give the impression of a defence of the company, when obviously there was information just waiting to come out and the newspapers were doing their research and so on? I have to blame the Minister, as I say, for the several statements. I told the Minister himself day before yesterday in the dining room that he contributed - he must have been set up - to some of the attacks on himself.

In an interview last Sunday the Minister asked the question of the interviewer, "do you believe that I am on the take?" Meaning "do you believe that I am corrupt? Would I take money?" I do not think he should have done it, that is my subjective view, because that presents a platform for mischief making, presents a platform for people to run about on a grape vine and make the suggestion. I do not think you should have sown that seed of suspicion in the public mind.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I had not heard it. Do not forget I had the flu one week so I was not in circulation. 5.15 p.m.

I want to deal now, Sir, with public health inspectors. I do not like criticising public officers. I have seldom ever done it, but I have a living example of carelessness, foolishness at the level of public health inspectors. Listen for the facts. There is a company called Montrose Poultry Farm. They have one establishment in Ealing Grove or Ealing Park, but in Montrose itself, the Attorney General's constituency, less than eight feet from the house of a citizen of Barbados - I cannot call the name because I did not give you notice - is a set of fowl runs. The smells are offensive.

They are here and my client is there, less than eight feet away. When the birds start flying about in the run, all the feathers come in the man's house; - the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works would like this one - all the malodorous effluvia enter and pollute the atmosphere of my client.

Mr. Chairman, I wrote and complained about it. A request is made by the lawyers for Montrose through the Chief Public Health Officer to investigate this complaint because we have an action for nuisance there just waiting. Do you know what they reply to say, Sir? That the Ministry and the Public Health Department from time to time carry out inspections at Haling Grove and everything is going well up there. But we did not write them about Ealing Grove. We are not complaining about Ealing Grove; we are complaining about Montrose below Water Street, and they reply about something completely different and sent it. Now if that is not inefficiency that is worthy of public criticism, tell me what is? So when there is all of this confusion as to whether public health officers ought to be reported to the Public Service Commission after the Minister's initial defence ... he defended them first thing, and I warn the public not to say too much about them because they may end up in court in an action for slander, and after that he has shifted gear, changed down and said that something like it was really wrong down there.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir, he is a lawyer. When he is putting something in the records, he does it quietly, but he does it, Sir, driving it in against the public health inspectors.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What is your point?

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, any self-respecting Minister has a responsibility to defend the public officers that fall within his department if they are right, therefore when someone makes a statement against them that on the face of it appears to be slanderous, they are not in a position to respond in the first place. It is subsequently when the investigator publishes a statement which in my view requires some discussion with the legal profession, then it is my duty to draw to the attention of the Chief Public Officer in my Ministry, the Permanent Secretary, that this is a statement that if not touched will have the following inference, and therefore this whole circumstance should be reported to the Public Service Commission. That is what I said and I think my action here today would be proper because that now moves outside the realm of the Minister and into the realm of the Public Service Commission.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Don't fault him on his constitutional analysis. He is right. What we are saying still comes down to the same question of talking too much, because earlier on he came out and defended them and said, according to the newspaper, as I have a duty to do, or words

to that effect, and then by last Sunday on the Point at Issue programme, it appeared again to the public as though he had shifted his ground and was about to let them go from ministerial support.

Sir, there are further matters of concern in relation to this chicken business, but the general public I think had a right to express its dissent about what was going on. If one of my groups in St. Thomas is going to hold a street fair, we have to apply and go through all kinds of rigmarole with the department down at Hometown, pay \$20 or whatever it is to get a public health certificate to sell a couple of fish cakes and some rice and stew. The small fellow, a small man holding a dance - you see them in the newspapers every Friday, Bite Muh and Boo and the lot of them that are holding dances - they are two people; one named "Bite Muh" and the other name "Boo", but they hold dances together every August. Now, Sir, they have to apply for this permission that they come within the health sen/ices regulations and are free from any communicable disease and so on, and they feel upset that they have to go through this rigmarole, and here it is a concern of some substantial worth is able to run free and break the law with impunity. You give them targets and say you must do these various things and comply with these requests, they do some and leave the others, and they can still turn out the chicken and then Bite Muh and Boo still have to go and buy the chicken from them. You know that I like to dramatise things so that they stick in the consciousness. That is the reality and that is also part of the problem, and that is why by last Thursday there was a call for the closure of the plant and indeed I feel that the plant ought to have been closed there and then. Once you were satisfied and you must have had an investigation which would have pointed out the outlets receiving bad chicken, once you had had that information, then you had a public duty in my submission to order the closure of the plant for the time being.

You have now given them thirty days or something. You should asked the Chief Medical Officer as a matter of policy to close it because the public health of Barbadians is involved. That was a matter of policy. I do not believe that that is necessarily a day to day operational matter. As a matter of policy, there is a matter of pressing moment, public moment; Chief Medical Officer who do you think? This is where the investigations are pointing; do you think that we ought to close this plant? And if he or she says "yes", then do what you think is right, and that is not a direction. That is a matter of suasion. 5.25 p.m.

That is a little hint as to how to proceed.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: That is Government but I will have some more things to say but I must remind the

Minister, as much as we genuinely feel sorry for him about the allegations.....

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You do not feel sorry for him?

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: My friend on my left does not feel sorry for him. I feel sorry for him for the blows that he took last week. They threw some blows in him but I feel sorry, not because it may have appeared as though the Minister was incompetent, from time to time that happens. I feel sorry for him when he is telling me today in all seriousness that there was a strong rumour in the community that he was discharging his duties with less than honour or that he was corrupt.

Now, he feels pain, very great pain today and if that is an unfair suggestion, as I believe it is, the corruption element of it, then, none of us can condone it because we have warned in this party that it is all too easy to make the nasty allegations.

We know what we felt in the Barbados Labour Party in the week of the 4th of October 1985 when they had a nasty scandal sheet all through this country saying that people in the Labour Party - they called my name in all saying the police searched my house and all - were involved in drugs. Now, you know how it feels and the late Errol Barrow told me on the Britannia when the Queen was here the time before the last he had nothing to do with that and he has told the people in his party, "today for them, next week or next time we get into Government it could be for us".

(Certain remarks made by Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS were ordered expunged from the records by Mr. CHAIRMAN).

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Now you see how people feel when untruths are told.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The time for this intervention has expired.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Thank you very much for this time.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I am going to respond to a couple of the matters now because I think it is important that we do so.

First of all, the Honourable Member who just sat down must have known that the last name he referred to is involved in a matter that is *subjudice*.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I did not think of it at the time, Sir. I will speak about how Mr. Craig felt about the allegations about him. That is not *sub judice*. That is finished.

Aside.[^]

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Even when it appears that I may need a little, I still remember to draw

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I want to respond to the last Honourable Member and to say to him that the recommendation that he has made on the floor of the House is precisely in exactitude how the Minister proceeded.

It was proceed with before today. Immediately the matter was raised the Minister, in fact, called all of the Medical Officers of Health and the Chief Public Health Inspectors, and the Chief Public Health Officer and directed that, as a matter of policy, all - because there are 120 - of them should now be given a specific set of conditions to be met, that there should be a reinspection and that they should advise me what they found and what they recommended. They found and they recommended and the policy was made and I announced that policy that all the 120, but beginning with those that manufacture and process large quantities of birds, would be given a specific time to satisfy the requirements so that as of today, the Barbados Marketing Corporation has been served, the Pine Hill Dairy has been served, BARPAC has been served, Montrose has been served, McDonalds was the first to be served, Chick Growers who I had said had no problems except for a few slight things.

In other words, the policy of management which you would expect a strong Minister to follow were followed and is being followed. Super Poultry will get their licence because they have always been good and will, no doubt continue to be good.

There are companies in Barbados that did not have this problem but it must be pointed out that it was since 1969.....

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The point that has to be made and has to be put on record in response to the Honourable Member is that from 1969 to the present, the methodology which the Honourable Member just described has been going on. In other words, these regulations have been on the books since 1969.

One company was prosecuted in 1979 and they had a fine of \$500 and there was a conviction, reprimand and discharge so that the message which came to the Public

Health Inspectors in 1979 was that it is no point bringing these to the Courts because if you carry a company to the Courts and the Magistrate put on \$500 in a situation like this, is not sending any big heavy message and, therefore, Medical Officers of Health and Public Health Inspectors in 1979 and subsequently paid attention to the economic situation in the country, paid attention to the social situation in the country.

They decided, as I said before, they explained and one who is not unreasonable will understand why previous Ministers accepted their explanation. What they said was that the food that was coming out of the various institutions was wholesome food even though in the opinion of the people who were exercising the discretionary power the people could not be licensed so that the Pine Hill Dairy had no licence last year but it did not mean that the Pine Hill Dairy milk was bad because the milk was tested in a laboratory as well as the Medical Officer of Health would have been on the premises and it has to be said that if the regulations that can be found under the Health Services Act Cap. 44 are carried out with the stringency which recent weeks suggest they should be carried out, then a substantial number of current businesses in Barbados would have to come to a halt.

Aside.

It is easy to say close them down. The Honourable Member for the City would not join you in that. He is talking about closing them down. The Honourable Member for the City is not getting involved in that and even the fledgling business that starts but what we can say is this. As a result of having these regulations there are a number of companies, and I am calling the names for description, Hanschell Inniss, Super Poultry, Chick Growers, and, to a large extent, BARPAC, these are companies that have reached the standard. The Pine Hill Dairy has always reached the standard except for last year and they explained that they are doing renovations. In other words, by having these standards the people have reached them and they have had licences. 5.35 p.m.

There are a number of hotels in Barbados.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: You finally got one. There are a number of hotels in Barbados. Again to give this information is not to excuse. But it is important that the country understands. There are a number of hotels in Barbados whose kitchens have not always met the requirements of the Medical Officer of Health. Yet to have shut them down would have put a tremendous squeeze on the revenues of the country at the time. What was required to be done was not sufficient to render the particular kitchens dangerous to the public.

The restaurants...

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: ... the factories and shops. There are factories in Barbados, all the factories in Barbados under the Factories Act.

In other words, moving from a pastoral community to an industrialized community has required us to implement what we have to implement in a manner and a judicious manner. It has to be recalled that this Minister was the one who introduced the Barbados National Standards Institution. This is the Minister that sought to have mandatory standards. This is the Minister who has been trying to get a clean environment. How can we get a clean environment on one hand and condone unlicensed operations that are dangerous to health on the other?

What we are trying to do is to bring the entire community into the twenty-first Century. But since the requirement was called for, we have in fact given, what in fact will happen is a very simple matter. All of the agencies have been directed that as a matter of policy. The long-term 20 year policy has been changed. We are now in a second gear or a third gear, and it will now be necessary for those institutions, for example, all the nursing homes in Barbados will have to meet the standards required under the law. All the hairdressing establishments will have to meet the standards required under the law, the barber shops.

In other words, what we are going to do is as quickly as possible - we are not going to become unreasonable, because the same people who are saying «hut them down are the same people who will come back and say, how could you be so unreasonable? - but within the requirements of the standards we are going to deal with the law the way it is required to be dealt with. There is no more discussion, there is no more time, there will be a question of implementation within the framework of the law. But we have to do it humanely because the Constitution of Barbados envisaged that it would be enforced humanely. We have a situation where most of the business people in Barbados are small business people. Most of the operations in Barbados that require these kinds of things are small people. And therefore if we are true to what we all say about the economic development of the country and the social development of the country and giving the small man an opportunity, we have to exercise the law judiciously. We will do that. That is the policy. There is no difficulty.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church West raised the question concerning the polyclinics. But I believe other Members will want to raise questions. I am going to reply since I am on my feet.

On the question of building up a relationship between the polyclinic doctor and the patient, it is perfectly possible.

The process described by the Honourable Member of how you get a home visit from the polyclinic is how you get into the system. But once into the system, your visits are then automatic and your polyclinic doctor is almost like your personal doctor. The appointment system is designed to relieve pressure on the polyclinics, but the appointment system does not extend to those who are bedridden. We have a team concept in which the health visitor and all of the other persons participating in the community, will report the bedridden and other people to the polyclinic and the system is designed, I am not prepared to say that all of this is happening the way it should happen, but the system is designed for those who are visiting to come back in and to report on what is happening in the particular catchment area and hence the doctors will be going out there.

But in recent times we have been spending a lot of time trying to get the team concept embedded in the minds of all those who work in the polyclinics delivering primary health care. One of the problems we have is in fact because when the system was started, this had not been spelt out in such clear terms. There is some reluctance on the part of some of the health personnel to do the amount of visiting that is necessary. This has changed and is changing and I believe within a relatively short time, we will have the visiting in such a way as to have the cohesion which the Honourable Member would be asking for.

In addition, there will be a census of all the bedridden patients in Barbados which will be done under the aegis of the Geriatric Hospital, where for the first time in living memory, a geriatrician, a consultant geriatrician has now been added to the establishment, or rather added to the staff. The geriatrician is based at the St. Michael Geriatric Hospital with consulting privileges in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, and he will be responsible - he started in March of this year - and he will be responsible for directing the geriatric services in Barbados under the aegis of the Chief Medical Officer and the Senior Medical Officer of Health. Already they have started the process of getting a census so that the visiting of persons who are bedridden, especially the indigent who are bedridden, will form part - a comprehensive part - of the health care delivery system. This we will also do in conjunction with the National Assistance Board in its Home Help programme. There will be an interlocking with the Home Help programme which will ensure that all of those persons who are in their homes bedridden will have access to proper health care.

On the question of education and the UWI places, this is a matter that is engaging the attention of both the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health. The Mount Hope Complex has not yet come on stream because, built as it was at a cost of \$600 million, it will take a tremendous portion...

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Six hundred million dollars... of the Trinidad and Tobago national resources to run the Mount Hope Complex as it was designed to be run. However, the Minister of Health has assured me that he intends to bring it on stream. While I have not been able to see how he will be able to reconcile his intention with the real situation of the finances I know that some portions of the Project, Mount Hope, have gone into operation.

I believe that the educational part will begin from this October. I think at a figure of \$1 million a day, it is the largest conglomeration of buildings anywhere in the Caribbean. It is a few miles long. It is spread out in all directions. It has the state of the art equipment in every single area of health care. It has all the machinery in place. What it does not have are the human resources and the other resources to run it. There are sections that have been opened, but the teaching part is likely to open in this 1989.

There is one aspect of the education here at Barbados that is important. We receive the second, third and final year students here in Barbados and many of them are finding some difficulty because of the devaluation of the Trinidad dollar. It is proving difficult for some of the East Caribbean students who have been coming here to do their clinical work to exist in Barbados *vis-a-vis* existence in Trinidad and Tobago.

This is a matter which is engaging our attention. There are certain incentives which we may have to offer. Consultations are going on now. The Faculty of Medical Sciences at the UWI has in fact been making this whole question of the throughput of Barbadians and other West Indians in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital a major aspect of their policy study. We shall shortly be able to make a clearer and cleaner statement on where we propose to go. 5.45 p.m.

So far as the number of Barbadians who will be able to get in, the problem at U.W.I. Jamaica is one which has been going on for a fairly long time. It has to do with the amount of resources which each country puts into the total running of the university and the problem does not apply only to the Medical Faculty, but it is part of all the services that are provided in Jamaica. The arrangement and agreement called for certain quotas. The same thing applies to the Law Faculty as the Honourable Member knows. Here in Barbados the numbers are determined by a formula which has been set out before. I suspect, however, that with the coming of the new administration in Jamaica, the Manley administration, which has a slightly different orientation in their approach to these regional matters - I suspect that an accommodation to take account of additional Barbadian students going into U.W.I. Jamaica will follow after the initial discussions which are going on. Already signals are going between the 2 Governments which suggest there will be a posture of

accommodation in Jamaica which may not in fact have existed prior to the coming of the Manley Administration. I will answer other questions as we go along, Sir.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, it is always somewhat entertaining to listen to the Minister as he switches very freely from reality to, if I may say, areas of figment. But I do not want to respond to anything that he has said in the latter part of his speech except to say that that whole Mount Hope business I recall, I think it was in 1971, when the idea of building a medical facility in Trinidad first arose, I happened to be representing the Barbados Government along with the Permanent Secretary in Education, at a meeting in Jamaica and I did ask the question - when you have produced your first 800 doctors what are you going to do with the Medical School? No one responded to that. But, however, we have six hundred million or whatever you like in Trinidad at the moment. That fundamental question was never ever answered. But that falls into the area of Tertiary Health Care. We also have Secondary Health Care in the Caribbean and Barbados. We have primary health care and much of the debate which occupied this House in the past 20 years has centered around some area of primary, secondary or tertiary health care and that is because we all have recognized that the very foundation of all health in Barbados is that area of public health.

We have reached a point in this country where we no longer happen to be discussing mosquitoes. In fact, the last debate I heard in this House on mosquitoes was how to bring to an end the programme related to mosquitoes. But we had taken it for granted down the years that, having built up a significant super structure of primary, secondary, and tertiary health, our public health infrastructure was in order. It now, Sir, Mr. Chairman, must be as grave a blow to the Minister as it was to me and to the stomachs of all Barbadians to learn that we are faced with the case in Barbados of the chicken cadaver that was plucked and quartered and sold.... The chicken cadaver that was plucked and quartered and sold.

Asides.

Mr. R. P. B YER: Say it again.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: The chicken cadaver that was plucked and quartered and sold. I addressed this matter a little while ago in this Honourable House but I could not find a form of words to describe it. I found myself talking about slaughtering dead chickens or slaughtering deceased chickens. So I thought that to be absolutely accurate that this is the only form of words that will precisely put in capsule form exactly what I was talking about.

Now I have no doubt that this kind of thing has been going on for sometime and I will tell you why. If you listen very carefully to the reasons given by one of the fast-food

outlets for returning chickens, they said they were looking for discoloured chickens and they were looking for chickens with evidence of blood clots. Mr. Chairman, I am not a Vet, but I would like to suggest this, that the circumstances in which fast-food outlets will be put on alert to look for discoloured chickens with clotted blood, will be circumstances in which the cadaver of the chicken was quartered. In other words, it has to be a dead chicken that was quartered.

Laughter.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: A dead chicken that was cut up post mortem, after death. Now that is very significant because, in the context of the human body, such discoloration and clotting would take place in a post mortem situation.

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Never mind. I just want to make it clear that is one of the indices that they have been applying. Now I will say this that this represents a major breakdown in the public health surveillance in this country. Make no mistake about it. We have heard from the Minister some extenuating circumstances of an economic and social nature which I think we can all sympathise with. If people are striving to make an end product a healthy product but if the equipment and the processes are not up to the standard required by the Chief Medical Officer to obtain a licence, well that is a subsidiary question. When it comes to the question of selling chickens that were known to be certifiably dead or selling chickens that were obviously diseased, I think that that is a moral fundamental matter and I do not think that any of us can feel happy about the goings on in that area, and I will tell you why,

I remember sometime in the late 1950s or 1960s, and now it is not only for the Barbados population. You see, you might think that you may be protecting, not as an individual - do not get me wrong - the interest of certain fledgling industries or however you may describe it, but I recall that the entire tourist industry of the small town of Zermatt, if you may recall, was virtually wiped out for several years over a similar type of negligence in a matter of typhoid fever in which several people died. We cannot afford these kinds of lapses in our public health surveillance. 5.55 p.m.

Indeed, I do not think that anything since 1958 - and in a sense that was a mixture of public health and secondary health - when there were charges of rats eating babies in the old General Hospital. I do not think that anything has happened in health that has disturbed the population of Barbados as much as this episode with these chickens, and I will tell you why.

In recent years, Barbadians, I think it is fair to say, have switched their dietary habits. A lot of them have gone on to what they call the white meats. They have gone on to the fish and the poultry, and today there is a shortage of fish and they cannot eat chicken. Even if they want to eat the chicken, their stomachs will not allow them to eat it. I have a problem. I feel a little nauseated when I see it. This is my problem, it all depends on the sensitivity of the particular person in these matters.

It is a serious matter, and I think myself that there is a case for dealing with an offence, if proven to be correct, which relates to the marketing of dead and diseased chickens, as distinct from the other problems which relate to discretionary powers by professional staff in relation to licensing requirements and so on, I believe, because it would seem to me that the element of negligence - or should I say I do not think that this is a matter of negligence, this has gone beyond negligence - I think that if the charges are correct, I would think that this reaches certainly a level of social criminality.

I cannot believe, Mr. Chairman, that there are many people whom I would have met in my lifetime who would have behaved in this manner for a dollar or two, and there are some things that we have to be straight about. I think I have spent too much of my lifetime involved in the practice of medicine where our public health systems or where our primary systems failed. I will say our record in public health over the years is second to none in the Third World, and it is not by chance that the officer in this country, down the ages who has the highest authority in relation to the health of Barbados has always been the Chief Medical Officer, who has always had a training in public health. He or she exercises considerable power and authority over the rest of the profession, and rightly so. There was a time when I felt, wrongly so, not for the reason advanced by the Honourable Leader of the Barbados Labour Party, I thought wrongly so because I held the view at the time, that probably the heads of curative institutions should have more power of an advisory nature, particularly in areas like appointments and so on, which in any event still have to go to the Chief Medical Officer.

I say this, Sir, is a very unfortunate thing to happen. If I were a Minister and this happened to me I would be in a very difficult spot. There is no question about it. It is a very difficult thing for a Minister to have to cope with. I am not at this stage going to comment on the adequacy or inadequacies of his responses, but I do feel that more serious action should be taken, apart from lumping all those institutions who may be in breach of the licensing arrangements, but not necessarily in breach of the final objective of providing clean and healthy food for Barbadians. I do not think what is being described here as cadaverous chicken can match that kind, that you would treat the others who are in default of regulations because of other circumstances but at the end of the day have been

striving or have actually provided good, clean food in the same way as you treat someone who has produced food which they knew to be unclean and unhealthy for the public of Barbados.

You know, some people boil chicken, and they might be safe. Some grill chicken, some fry chicken, and when you get near to the bone, the meat is not always cooked. As a Bajan, I like to bite on the bone.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: In two minutes?

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: The point I am making is, as you know, Bajans have a habit, not only of eating the chicken, but when they get down they have this idea, which I think is correct, that the closer to the bone, the sweeter is the meat, and then they like to bite and suck on the bone. Seventy-five times out of 100, the marrow of that bone is not thoroughly cooked. Am I right or wrong? It is not thoroughly cooked. If it is boiled, yes. If it is fried, this does not usually happen.

So that I would urge the Government to look at those incidents that might fall into the categories described by me in a completely different light from those that might well not just qualify for a licence because of one or two, not necessarily infringements, but by failures to meet one or two standards which may not be immediately critical. I am not saying that the licences should not be treated adequately, I am saying that these ones should be treated more severely, because I feel that it is an assault on the public health of Barbados that this kind of thing should happen, and it should be condemned by all of us in this Honourable House. Persons must understand that they cannot put the public health of Barbados at risk, and worse than that, everything we are voting here today, all this money we are voting, will be a useless vote if you have two or three major public health epidemics in Barbados because of the behaviour of people of that nature.

I am very sorry, Mr. Chairman, that is the way we feel about it in the NDP. Thank you very much.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I was reserving some of my comments for later in the debate, but I thought that after the very dramatic presentation by the Leader of the Opposition, I was forced to my feet.

We in this country, as responsible people, and especially we who are trained in the medical profession, if we love our country well, have to be careful of the kind of extravagant lengths and the kind of language which we use at times in order, not necessarily to present our point, but possibly to impress people. 6.05 p.m.

Barbados is a small community and I rise not to defend anybody. I rise I think in defence of my country that

I love very much. Anyone who is guilty of the infringement of anything that has to do with health, should be brought to justice, but those of us especially in the medical profession, have to be careful how we send some very serious signals through this country that can damage the country. Barbados is a society that is based primarily on tourism, and if we give the impression that we are producing meat in this country, that can exterminate the country, we are doing this country an injustice if we do not have the solid basic facts.

I do not know what facts the Honourable Leader of the Opposition has with respect to the kind of diseased chickens that are sold or were in the market. I do not have the facts, but I feel that we owe it to this country to use moderated terms when we make certain statements. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition was careful to dramatise some small village where there was an outbreak of some disease where the population was exterminated.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, this is a constant problem that everybody has with the Honourable Member. I said there was an outbreak of typhoid which killed a few people which damaged the tourist industry for several years. Those were my precise words. I never used the word "exterminated" at all.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: If I misquoted the Honourable Member, I apologise. But the point I am making is that we can make our point, and I understand the point made by the Honourable Minister of Health. We must set standards, we must adhere to standards. Those of us who have lived in other countries know, as the Honourable Minister of Health said, that there are small business people, there are medium sized business people and there are large business people in all countries who at times cannot meet the regulations that are stipulated, but there are time intervals and there must be some flexibility within the system to allow that system to operate properly. As a matter of fact, we do a lot of importation of our meat, and I would dare say that we do not know in this country what health standards are set, and we are in no authority to set the health standards or to know what kind of inspections go on in those countries. That is not to say that we in this country must accept lax standards, or that any time at all that we find that there is contamination of any kind of food that we should not move in and put a stop to it.

That is not the point I am making. The point I am making is that as we did with the grapes yesterday... I read in this morning's paper that Barbados banned all grapes from entry into Barbados from Chile because of traces of cyanide found in Chilean grapes in the United States. Like the Minister of Health, I am aware of the extent to which - the newspapers in this country go. I do not live in oblivion. I am part of this society, and I know what happens in the newspapers in this country. I too, have been a target of constant attack on Call-in programmes in this country, and when the constituents of my constituency write the

newspapers in defence of me, they refuse to publish the letters. I travel with copies of them in my bag, so I know what I am talking about. They know what they want to publish, and they know what agenda they have. Let us not be foolish about that.

The Honourable Leader of the Opposition as a physician in this country knows that the problem of dead chicken did not start last week; it has been something going on all the time. That is not to say it should not be arrested and corrected.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I would just like to make it clear to this Honourable House that I have never heard of any dead chicken incidents in Barbados in my entire life apart from what I observed as a boy when during the crop season a truck would knock down a chicken, knock off its head and somebody would come and grab the chicken right away and pluck it and cook it. That is my sole knowledge of any dead chickens in Barbados.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, the point I am making is this: that whether we are on this side or whether we are on that side, we have a responsibility to our country, we must always be critical, but we have to be careful of the level of extravagant language that we use that may send the wrong signals. That is all I am saying. I have had long experiences with some of the Honourable Members in this Chamber, and I know the way in which they operate and I know the signals that they send and why they send the signals, and that is why I know it is my bounden duty when I see certain signals go out that I must get up and defend my country and my party. I know the plan; I am not paranoid, but when we dig deeply into this chicken issue, it is not a simple issue, it may well be a chicken issue covered by politics. It is not to say that the issue is not there. The over-playing of the issue and the whole setting up of the issue may well be coloured by politics.

Asides.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: I know. I know I am sick, because you see some people think that residing in their head is the only brain that exists, that nobody else can understand intrigue. Again, I say I am not saying it is not a real issue, but why is it that the Minister of Health is constantly and deliberately misrepresented in what he says? Why is it that when they published the whole text of the programme Point at Issue, ten pages are left out. Is all of that an accident? Am I to expect that people day after day can misrepresent an issue and it boils down to simply an accident? I will not accept that. There must be more in the mortar than the pestle.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: On a point of order, I am getting a little confused, Sir, because I want to know if the Honourable Member means that I have misrepresented

anything that the Honourable Minister has said, because I have spoken on this issue too. The Honourable Member did say "said" not "wrote".

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order!

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to make that point. Later I will come back to give some of my personal impressions of some of the questions raised by the Honourable Member for Christ Church West with respect to the polyclinics, with respect to doctor-patient relationship, with respect to home visits et cetera. I thought it my duty at this time just to raise that one issue. 6.15p.m.

Thank you.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Before the Honourable Member speaks I just want to reply to one point as I go along.

The Honourable Member, the Leader of the Opposition spoke about the public health system in this country and a breakdown. I want to say to him that the same public health personnel are in place that have been in place for the last 14 years almost. There has been no breakdown in the public health system.

I am answering you specifically because when the word goes out, if a doctor says something about health it usually is taken as gospel. I want to say that the Public Health Officers, Inspectors, the Chief Medical Officer, Acting, the Senior Medical Officer and all the Medical Officers of Health are the same ones that were there for the last ten years.

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

Quite clearly the specific incident represents a breakdown in respect of that particular incident and in the context of which I spoke. That is what I was speaking about. There must be a breakdown for this to have happened in this particular matter.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Out of an abundance of caution, I am clearing up any impressions that may have misrepresented what you said. What the Honourable Member said might be misrepresented. They might get the wrong impression. I do not want anybody to get any wrong impressions about the public health sector. I know when the Honourable Member speaks the impressions that go out might be wrong. I want to be clear.

The same Public Health Officer, the Senior Medical Officer of Health, all of them are in place and the point that has been made continuously, the point has been made continuously, you have to be able to rely on the Chief Public Health Officer who has been in office long before I came there and long before you left us.

He went to the plant and there is a man called -1 have to call his name - a Public Health Officer called Gittens who was trained specifically in poultry who has been at that plant and who has been at Montrose. There was a Public Health Inspector at that plant from August 1988 every day so that the impression given was that there might have been a post mortem with the chicken cadaver that was plucked, quartered and sold. I cannot vouch for any chicken or other cadavers.

I do not deal in dead meat nor do I deal in any cadavers. I deal with live Public Health Inspectors. I like my meat as live as possible but I know my colleague over there has been highlighted by the Labour Party as preferring impressions to facts. They have highlighted him and I know that when he speaks with the measured tones that 11 kinds of impressions may go out so I want to clear the air now and say that there has been no breakdown as far as I am aware in the public health system in Barbados and the Director of Veterinary Health in Barbados who is over 70 years old is the same Director of Veterinary Health that has been functioning and the Honourable Leader of the Opposition knows of the capability of the Medical Officers of Health who are functioning now. So I want to establish that if there is any contaminated food being sold in Barbados that is suggesting that the Medical Officers and the Public Health Inspectors are not doing their jobs - if the public health system had broken down, we would not have had the greatest health.

If the system had broken down all of the shrimp that is condemned on an ongoing basis, all the food that is condemned on an ongoing basis in Barbados would not be condemned. Before this debate is finished, if necessary, I will spell out every single pound.

In 1988 five per cent of all of the chicken inspected in Barbados was condemned and if a fast food operation sends back chicken, that is no indication that the public health system has broken down. The fast food operation indicated, and I have no doubt will indicate, what their standards are. I am not going to define them or the sellers of chicken. I am defending the system that I have found.

It is the same system that was here for 20 years. It is the same public health system. The water is potable. The food is eatable. I still eat the chicken because I believe the system is working and if one person has sold dead chicken, I do not know about it. It is not a matter that I am going to allow to engulf me, to overwhelm me, or surround me because it simply is not so. What has occurred, if it has occurred, has occurred beyond the pale. It is not the norm.

If the Honourable Member as a medical practitioner has evidence of the sale of what he called cadavers that have been plucked, although I believe his word, if he has evidence of that, then he has a public duty. He is a constitutional officer. He is the Leader of the Opposition.

He has a duty as the Leader of the Opposition. He has an additional duty as a medical practitioner of long practice and sound repute. There is no doubt about that, therefore, he has a duty to come to the Minister of Health or if he does not trust the Minister of Health, the Chief Medical Officer, his colleague. This is not a request, this is his bounden duty as a citizen to tell the public or he can even get his fledgling Shadow Minister of Health to announce it but he must tell the public. He cannot hide behind any impressions. He has to give us the facts.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On what point have you risen?

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I am going to speak for only three minutes. I will speak.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Has the Honourable Minister given way? You have finished your discourse?

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Are you finished or not?

Hon. B. M. TAITT: No. I am not finished.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I will wait until you are finished. I will reply when you are finished.

It is a technique that we know well.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN stands.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central is on a point of order.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: No, I am not finished. How could I be finished? I was making the point that it is your public duty if you have information. This is no joke because we may laugh but if, in fact, you look at what Rayside had said that this chicken was delivered to a fast food operation on the South Coast all of the fast food operations in Barbados are on the South Coast and until one was named, even in here I will not call its name, and then I saw an advertisement from Kentucky Fried Chicken saying that they sent back chicken. Until that advertisement came out no one knew which fast food operation and I want to say

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: "The INVESTIGATOR" named Kentucky Fried Chicken.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Now I am hearing that the Honourable Member is defending Kentucky Fried Chicken against "The INVESTIGATOR". 6.25 p.m.

Well see there now. Mr. Chairman, the point I am making is that the chicken industry in Barbados does not reside in the breast of Super Poultry Farms or Chick Growers. It is the other 115 people who are making an honest living. If the chicken industry in Barbados starts to crumble the economy in Barbados will start to crumble because it is one of the things where we can see there is an importation of raw material, it is turned into feed, that feed is turned into chicken, that chicken is put into people's stomachs and all along the way it is one of the few industries that we have in Barbados that is an indigenous industry. Therefore its effect on the economy of this country is fundamental, as my colleague from St. Peter would say. It is fundamental.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: So that let those who wish bury the chickens now. Let them bury the chickens and the small chicken farmers. I feel it is my duty, it is my bounden duty to defend them because, if I do not defend them, I am not defending any individual, I am defending a principle. I say this, it is the kind of principle on which a public life could come to an end. But let that be, if it must be! I will not resign from my position because it is unpopular! Let no one - the Honourable Leader of the Opposition knows better than that. He knows better than that.

The chicken industry is fundamental. If this were hot sauce, I would take the same position.

Laughter.

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I will respond to other queries. But it is important when the Honourable Member who knows the art of getting the headlines, I am not saying he is seeking to do that now, but when the Honourable Member who knows the art of getting the headlines comes

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I hope that the Honourable...

Aside.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: ... Minister is not trying now, in his way now to give impressions or send impressions abroad that there is something wrong with pepper sauce in Barbados.

Laughter.

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: No, Sir. We are not going to put any pepper sauce on this chicken.

Laughter.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: We are going to deal with this raw.

We are saying, Sir, that the Honourable Member is not without a facility for getting headlines. He has a capacity which I understand very well, having been there at his birth. So we understand how one gets the headlines. I am not suggesting, Mr. Chairman, that...

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I mean his political birth. He is older than I am The Honourable Member was seeking headlines.

But it is important that the record be cleared as we go along, least anyone should forget.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member had better understand that it is not my responding to the sale of dead chicken that will destroy the chicken industry. It is whoever sold the dead chickens. I believe now that probably - I did not wish to get into this area at all - Anyhow I will leave that.

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Let us put it this way. I believe...

Asides.

Laughter.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, order.

Aside.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order.

Laughter.

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I will leave it at that for the time being. Just let it be clear, it is not a legislator responding to the problem, but the person who sold the dead chickens, person or persons who would be destroying the industry. Get that straight.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Yes. If in fact, if anyone has done so I will join, in fact I will lead in the condemnation. What I will not lead in is any peripheral discussion that leaves the wrong impression.

However, Sir, I will respond again, as necessary.

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

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Mr. Chairman, I believe that this issue of the chickens is a very serious one in spite of the levity that we are getting, whether it is forced levity or other levity.

I think one of the problems is that there is a certain complication that we have to examine carefully in this issue. We are trained as trade unionists to be hard on the issue and to be soft on the persons involved, the personalities involved, which does not mean that you do not understand the people differ, that fundamentally if you have a problem, you target the problem. You try to deal with the issue and solve that problem. The problem is sometimes not distinct from the personality involved. Sometimes they overlap. I believe that one of the major problems in this particular issue has not to do only with the fact that there are allegations that dead chickens were being sold for public consumption in a way that would be unacceptable to us.

Asides.

Laughter.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Do not anticipate me. Wait until I finish the sentence.

Aside.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: But you understand what I said. In a way that is not acceptable.

Aside.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Right. I tied in my point though. I know what I am saying. I can handle language.

Laughter.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: It is not only that problem, because I believe that that is the fundamental problem to be discussed. And that needs to be addressed in the light of whether that happened at A farm or B farm or C farm. I am saying that perhaps the personality involved is helping to cloud the issue. You know like chicken licken walking about to find out when the sky is going to fall on his head? That is part of the problem, the fact that the lady involved is part of the issue, Mrs. Ram Merchandani, or whatever. The

name was called in here by the Member for St. George South, who gave a letter to the Speaker, as I understand it

Aside.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: I can call the name. The name has been called.

Aside.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: No problem. It is because of the reputation that the person has in this country that I think the issue has got the kind of coverage that it has got.

Let us separate the issue, the issue of whether or not a particular farm in Barbados, practices that are inimical to the health of the consumers of this country, have been carried on, whether first of all that is demonstrably true. That is the first issue. The second issue is that, if it were done, that it was done with the knowledge and consent of the management of that farm.

The third issue is, if it were not done with the consent of the knowledge of the management of that farm, but it was done by workers at that farm without the knowledge and consent of those who are in control.

These are issues that to me are vitally important, in terms of getting the information first. I will not speak to these issues unless I have that kind of information to guide me. I am very careful about these matters.

If it is true that that practice was being carried out at that farm or any other farm, then we have a cause for concern in the country, a serious cause for concern in the country.

If, as what we have been reading in the newspaper, the person who was the Supervisor discovered this practice or was aware of this practice and felt that his first duty was to call a newspaper, rather than to call the public health authorities, then we still have another problem in this country!

Asides.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: If the person felt that, armed with that knowledge, the first person to call is a newspaper, we have another problem in this country. It is a growing problem.

There is a belief by persons that newspapers are the first place to ventilate problems that can be very serious, and that could have very serious ramifications in this country. We are encouraging a lot of foolishness in making some newspaper editors, owners, producers and publishers feel that they have the answers to things in this country.

Call the press on every issue. Set up accounts for people who call the press. Let us not cheapen this country.

If there is a health problem, the first person you call cannot be the press! It has to be the health authorities. If you know anything about murder, do not call the press, call the police. Let us be very clear. I understand the role of the press and I appreciate it. I believe in human rights. I believe in the freedom of the Press. I will not surrender certain areas of authority, certain areas of knowledge to any Press in this country. We have to be very, very careful. The Press that we have - the ones we have to live with I guess, and this is no reflection on the people in the Press boxes, I am talking generally about the institution - is concerned with making money. I have seen some developments recently in this country that frighten me in terms of what the Press means. The Press is not very concerned about what the micro-impact of this kind of debate can have on the country's stability or anything else. They want headlines. 6.35 p.m.

Asides.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: The Minister says he never stole yet. He was never corrupt and then an article will come back and say now in the Editorial "Methinks he doth protest too much." It is a set-up down the line, one article coming after another. Another one will be saying, "The Honourable Member for St. George South says Mrs. Ram must be out in 48 hours" and then someone will be coming back "This country is getting real racist now. People who have their good money to invest cannot come into this country." I understand what is happening and sometimes I think we became so emotional, quite frankly not separating the issues from the persons, that we talk so much and we go down the streets and then we are soiry afterwards. Because, remember, the agenda of the Press is not necessarily...

Asides.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Pardon me. Oh, you see her as an issue.

Asides.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: You see her as an issue. Okay. That is how you see it. All I am telling you - the point that I am making.

Asides.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Right. Okay ... Once you follow the point that I am making because sometimes we feel that we are all in one chicken coop. These papers do not stay in Barbados. They go all over the world. People read and they form impressions of small countries like our own. This whole thing about one farm that had bad practices - factory farm whatever - has now led to revelations that out of how

many ever operations there are, so many only have licences. You will soon hear that other farms had the same problem. You get the ramifications down the line. Nobody is upholding bad standards. We just want to know why if this thing was happening day after day, week after week all the time all of a sudden how does it become an issue? Look, you have bought flying fish like me from day boats. After they brought in the fish, they did not go anywhere near refrigeration for hours. You bought them. You carried them home and you fried them or steam them or whatever with all the bacteria on them.

Asides.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: I am talking about disease or health standards on the whole. The occasion for that particular problem will lead to a certain health standard. But I am talking about food that is not of the quality that you want can be occasioned in more than one way. It could be because something was already dead and then quartered and sold. That will be a health problem because what you are looking at is the health problem. Because if that was dead, quartered, and sold and it would not cause a problem. It would not be talked about. You are talking really about exposing people to sickness from the use of food and it comes in many different ways.

But the second thing that I find very disturbing about this incident - the truth is, that the Honourable Minister of Health has been out there speaking on the issue, because, as he said, he had a perception that the ramifications in terms of the industry - the whole question of licensing and so on - would go into the public domain and cause problems. So he was trying to stave it off by using his position as a Minister in fighting institutions that can be bigger than any Minister. That is one of the problems, especially if they are not used in furtherance of the same aims and objectives that you have. I hope this issue does not become now a political issue about the DLP Administration and dead chickens. This has nothing to do with party politics. I want to be very clear about this. There is no issue about party politics. This[^] is about a particular business place and the public of this country. I want to be very clear about this. This is no political anything although I know Barbados too and I understand how people would try to use these things to create a certain amount of ferment and problems in a country and then say it is during a particular Administration. So the Administration is saddled with these kinds of problems.

I just want to say that I believe we must look at the problem and the problem is a problem of the public health. That is the basic problem - the public health. The occasion is an allegation about chicken at a particular place and all of that, not that the person involved might be a problem. We have had to deal with the problem from a trade union point of view in organizing the Merchandani Enterprises and so on. We negotiate and try to get better conditions and so on.

We have had difficulties at Montrose Poultry Farms. I remember when we organized Montrose Poultry Farms, I remember the owner went on television and said that, as long as he is living, he does not want anybody from a trade union to be associated with his particular place. This is Barbados. The man has freedom to say what he wants to say and if he does not like trade unions he does not like trade unions.

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

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: He took a particular position. We certainly did not go witchhunting behind him even though we might have heard that he had the same kind of dead chicken situation. We did not go witchhunting to highlight him. We will deal with him in an industrial relations way.

Asides.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: That is nothing to do with what you are saying. As a matter of fact, I am learning today from the Press that he supposed to be coming into my constituency - that chickens are coming to Balls....

Laughter.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: That is a reverse. Balls happens to be very near to some big residential areas like Newton and Lodge Road and so on. I know when you had the problem with smoke coming from Four Square Factory you can get certain controls over smoke. But I have never heard of any controls over chicken smells. Chicken smells are horrible and I hope that everything is done right to make sure that, if Montrose Poultry Farm goes into Balls, they do not bring a serious pollution problem to the residents in the nearby area much as the one that the Honourable Member for St. Thomas was talking about in relation to Montrose.

Mr. Chairman, I want to come back on some parochial matters at another time but I will hold at this point.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Chairman, I need just a couple of minutes on this topic because the Ministry of Agriculture has responsibility for the health of all animals and poultry in this country. The matter that we are discussing is an extremely important one to the industry on the whole and the responsibilities are divided in that the Ministry of Agriculture takes care of the health of the birds right up until the time that they go to the processors and the Ministry of Health is responsible for them thereafter. As a matter of interest, the health of the poultry industry in Barbados is extremely good. We start at the Veterinarian Diagnostic Lab as a matter of interest.

The service offered to the poultry industry starts at the hatcheries where a monthly health and sanitation programme ensures that high quality baby chicks are

offered for sale. You will notice recently that the hatcheries presented the VD Lab with certain equipment to enable them to test and that at all of the hatcheries we make sure that the sanitation is excellent and we do a test of at least one-third of all of the birds that leave the hatchery to make sure that they are in good health. From there onwards there is very close cooperation between the lab, our pathologist and the private vets. The latest report available to me is the 1987 Report which shows that 1480 poultry post mortems were done and these represented sick birds from flocks in which a total of over 1,211,433 birds were at risk and that the lab is extremely well patronised by poultry farmers. 6.45 p.m.

In that year as well there was an average mortality of 6% of the industry as a whole in respect of the broilers, and the peak mortality occurred during the first two weeks, and again about five and a half weeks, so by the time the birds are ready for market, about seven to eight weeks, they have well passed the two critical mortality dates.

We in the Ministry are trying our best to reduce it to 4% over the next couple of years. Obviously the industry is growing very fast and about 60% of the time in the lab is taken with the health of the poultry industry in Barbados, and there is an extremely close working relationship between the private vets and our labs in Barbados.

This year we have three major projects which we are going to look at, and that is a study on fungal toxins in poultry, and we are going to carry out a survey this year on viral poultry diseases, as well as we are going to have a look at the heat stress in poultry which is one of the major problems of mortality in poultry, in that during the time when they get very hot they usually die from heat stress, and this is what we find is the major cause of mortality in the poultry industry in Barbados.

In summary I just want to say that the health of the poultry industry in Barbados is extremely good. As a matter of interest, that is one of the reasons that the broiler egg project we had down in St. Lucy was shelved. The reason it was shelved was that the Poultry Association in Barbados felt that if the hygiene at that plant was not of the very highest standard, it was likely that in producing those eggs we could have introduced a disease into Barbados, and as a result the Ministry, after very long consideration, decided that we would abandon the project, because we now have three or four sources where we import eggs from - America, Holland and the U.K. - and our vet insists that these eggs must come with a certificate that they have been tested, that they are disease free, *et cetera*. From the time they arrive in Barbados, at the hatchery stage, we get involved where we do a test to make sure that healthy chicks are delivered and then we follow it very closely with a complete check of all the diseases.

There is a big list here of all the checks that have been carried out. It does not really mean a lot unless you are technically inclined. I just rose to assure this House and Barbados that in the poultry industry, which has been a success, the health of those birds is watched extremely carefully in Barbados from the time those eggs arrive in Barbados until such time as they are presented to the processing plants, and it is at this stage that the Ministry of Health takes over by having stationed at those processing plants the necessary health inspectors.

I want to give the assurance that this Ministry of Agriculture, together with the Ministry of Health, has done and will continue to do everything humanly possible to make sure that the poultry is in excellent condition, and like you, if at any time I know of anybody who is guilty of what we are discussing here, this Minister of Agriculture will lead the fight, together with the Minister of Health, against that individual or individuals.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I just want to make a very brief point, and it is this. The Honourable Minister of Health, my good friend - and this is not shadow boxing - as you know, I take public affairs very seriously, and despite our friendship, if I felt that he personally had been associated or guilty in any way in this manner, I would not have concluded my speech without calling for his resignation from office. I regard it with such seriousness. Let that be clear. Where I think that he was in error is that he should not have got into the debate at the stage at which he got into the debate.

The Chief Medical Officer of this country is a very formidable lady, she is well trained. I can vouch for that. She is formerly one of my students. She is very well trained, and I believe that the political directorate should not have got into it at the stage in which they got into it. I think that you were in error. I really do think so, and there is no point, because the more you speak the more trouble you have got into and it would be wise at this stage not even to bother to respond to me, because for sure, Mr. Chairman, he is going to get into more trouble as he gets further involved in this matter. There can be no two ways about it.

One final point. I am going to give you enough time to speak. In fact, I should not if I want to protect you, but since I have no duty to protect you I am going to give you some time to speak. But to try to accuse anyone of making a broad sweep that there is a breakdown in public health, I did say that the incident, obviously, intrinsically, represents a breakdown in whatever public health arrangements there are in relation to chickens.

To the Honourable Minister of Agriculture I will say this. The statistics that you gave related to 1987, which are not relevant to the discussion at the moment, but assuming the same conditions exist in 1989, those figures are relevant

up to the point that the chicken departs from this world, up to the time that the chicken departs for Hades, crosses the Styx. The problem we are dealing with is what happens to the chicken after he has crossed the other side and how he has crossed the other side. So that they really do not advance the particular argument, although it does say something for the chicken industry. 6.55 p.m.

I want to leave enough time for the Minister to respond, and please, don't get yourself into anymore trouble.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I am grateful to the Honourable Member who is able to look in some direction and say who was his student. Sometimes the student has to inform the teacher, so if the Honourable Member feels that I acted prematurely, that would be another case of the student informing the teacher, but if he were the Minister and he had seen an article which said, and I quote: "The local Egg and Poultry Producers' Association is extremely concerned over charges that a local chicken producer is selling dead chicken meat to restaurants. The Association's President" - and they call his name - "has called on the Ministry of Health to thoroughly investigate the claims that this operation has been slaughtering and processing dead chickens." They call the man's name again and he went on "said he heard the allegations on the popular radio call-in-programme Getting Down to Basics, and that the matter had also been reported to the Association."

They are quoting him now. He goes on to say: "Our investigations reveal that the chicken processor is not a leading one" he told the week-end Nation. They call his name again. "Rayside said it had also been reported to them that chickens from this particular plant was seen being delivered to a Christ Church fast food outlet late one Saturday night with a lot of bloody water and in insanitary bags."

Now, first thing, if they were cadavers there should not have been any bloody water, but that is by the way. He said, and this is the part: "He said he also understood that health officials who visit this operation do little or nothing to stop the unsavoury practice." Listen for him Mr. Chairman. "This is not the first time we have heard of such charges of unsanitary procedures at the plant and we are very concerned that if they are any cases of food poisoning arising from chicken, it will have serious repercussions for the industry." They quote him again. "This industry produces some seven million chickens yearly and we cannot afford to have processing plants operating under unsanitary conditions and without a licence as is the case with the particular one. This cannot be right for the industry nor for the unsuspecting public who go to fast food outlets."

And this is the last paragraph. "The President pointed out that the three leading processors had health inspectors

stationed at them daily to condemn chickens that died or that were not fit for processing. In the case of this "maverick" operation, he noted that there were no health inspectors stationed there."

If you were the Minister of Health and that appeared in the leading newspaper and you order an investigation and you are told and you are shown that in fact - a health inspector had been stationed at the plant from August 1988, in the face of the President, this is not an ordinary person, this is the President who said that health officials who go there don't do anything, and when you check and find that the President never at any time reported a single word to the Ministry of Health, never at any time called the Chief Medical Officer, never at any time called anybody from the Ministry of Health, if you are the Minister of Health and you discover that these things are not what is said in this, you seek to get them done.

The facts are that I called the public relations officer and said, you must respond to this. And then we had on that Friday a meeting here in this House, and before I left to come to the meeting I got an indication that a reporter from the Nation Newspaper wanted to speak to me concerning this issue, I said "no problem". The House finished early and as I was going out the other reporters converged on me at the door and said it is unfair if you are going to see a reporter from that place, you should see all of us. That is the error of judgment that I will confess to, but I don't feel I was wrong when I said "okay". On the Saturday morning at the Ministry of Health, including one reporter who is new to the country went down to my office and I sat and waited and I had with me the Chief Public Health Officer, the Senior Officer of Health for the Environment who is responsible for all of these matters, the Director of Veterinary Health in Barbados, Dr. Vaughan, the Permanent Secretary, those are the people and we sat down and we discussed the entire issue broadly.

We backgrounded the issue for the reporters because we perceived not that we were in any trouble, we wanted the reporters to be fully seized of how the system works. They questioned all of us, but the following day this is the headline: "Taitt denies there are dead meat sales" and then they publish a dead chicken with the feathers on. That is what happened. The Advocate did not do this; but since the Nation had broken the story I understand that they had a responsibility to keep the story going. But when you publish a dead chicken, if you look at it carefully you will see that a man was holding up the chicken, and if you check and the Chief Public Health Officer tells you that he did not go there himself alone. He went there with Mr. O'Neal Gittens who is the man we sent to the United States to be trained in poultry inspection, he is the foremost expert in Barbados in poultry inspection, and there is another Mr. Gittens who is a senior officer in meat inspection. Those were the three public health officers that were at the plant and they said - I never said this before, Mr. Chairman, that

this bird was outside the plant, and you are telling me that I acted in an error of judgment, trying to save the poultry industry in this country in the face of that kind of thing.

I never accused the Nation of anything until I came in this House, because I feel I owe it to you, the Honourable Members in this House, to give you those facts. Even when I spoke to the Managing Director of the Nation I did not draw to his attention that my officials had told me that this bird was outside. Let me tell you something, Mr. Chairman, the report which my officials gave me said, - and let me give you the facts; this is the official report which was sent on Saturday, February 25 - the Minister received a telephone call in which the caller stated that the workers at MacDonald Poultry Processing Plant were slaughtering dead chickens and that these would eventually reach the consumer. The Minister tried to reach the Chief Medical Officer acting, and the Senior Medical Officer of Health responsible for the environmental division and was unsuccessful. He subsequently called the Deputy Permanent Secretary and requested her to get in touch with a public * health officer and she got in touch with the Chief Public Health Officer and arranged for an inspector to visit the plant and investigate the report.

The Chief Public Health Officer himself visited the plant and was joined by Mr. O'Neal Gittens, Public Health Inspector who is currently acting as Superintendent of Markets. On arrival at the plant Mr. Brown who is the Chief Public Health Officer ordered a halt to the processing operations and carried out an inspection. He inspected chicken livers, necks and gizzards and saw no signs of defects or disease, but condemned, seized and destroyed them because there was no ice available and these items deteriorate quickly. On inspecting the chickens on the preparation tables he found no evidence of cold slaughter; that is what they call the cadaver plucking. I want to repeat that. On inspecting the chickens on the preparation tables he found no evidence of cold slaughter - he arrived at 5.15 p.m., I had the call at 3.15 p.m. - and permitted the operation to resume. He also instructed the manager of the operation to purchase ice for chilling. Those are the material facts that have not been given because I did not wish to seem to be looking for excuses.

Sir, these are the circumstances surrounding which these circumstances were made known to the Press who were at the press conference. They were made known in the presence of all the officials I just described. We answered every question they asked. They asked the doctor questions about what constituted disease of a chicken. He explained, I didn't know why. The young lady who is from this paper asked him if a chicken has a broken leg if it would be condemned. I recall his saying "no, that you wouldn't normally condemn a chicken for a broken leg." She asked if the chicken had sores if it would be condemned. He is the Director of Veterinary Health; I have to presume he knows more about it than I do. She asked

him, if you see a chicken with sores on it, would it be condemned? He said, not necessarily, it would depend on what kind of sores because chickens get sores from all kinds of things. That is what he said, not me. That was not published in the form in which it was asked; but there was a tape of the entire proceedings. The public officers who were there, the technical officers explained in great detail. It is my contention that if you are discussing a matter as fundamental and serious to this country as the chicken industry and you have these experts, let us assume that you don't want to deal with the public health officers, surely the Medical Officers and the Veterinary Director are people that you can ask them all of these questions. But there was an attitude of "we gotcha!" That was the attitude. "We gotcha!" 7.05 p.m.

But I saw that attitude after the publication and you know what happened, Mr. Chairman, the next publication is the clincher. After we said "Taitt Denies There are Dead Meat Sales" and there is no story about dead meat sales and then what "The Sun" team saw at the poultry plant and the dead bird with the feathers on, there is no man, woman or child who saw the dead bird who did not immediately have a picture of nothing but dead birds all over the place going through like how you would see canes and the scrambler going through to make syrup and then Taitt denying this dead bird here. That is the impression that was given. You would understand these impressions.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I hope they have chicken out there to eat. I have eaten chicken continuously but you know what? Another paper was there and you see the difference? That other paper did not have anything at stake. It had to be the one that broke the story so they did not have to make the case.

I have nothing against the newspaper that made the case if they had outlined it properly, if they had done the detail and even the publishing of the chicken would not have caused me great pain - when I heard from my officials that there were only four dead birds within the precincts of the place and that in the opinion of the man I just named as the Chief Meat Inspector that they seemed to have died from heat stress, whatever that is.

I do not know anything about any heat stress in birds unless it is one lying on the beach. I know nothing about heat stress. That is what they told me that they had four birds dead and they wanted me to go to the public and say that this bird was outside and I refused to go to the public and say that because I believe that there is such a thing as - noblesse oblige in journalism and politics even if you are at the wrong end.

I did not believe that I needed to go out because I could not confirm it myself. I do not need anyone "to feel sorry for me". I do not plead guilty to any error or judgement.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAUT: Yes, that is why I am saying it. They are my friends. It is your friends. What it is the Prime Minister said? "Lord help me to know my friends".

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAUT: Mr. Chairman, let me make my position clear. I have wintered and summered in politics with the Honourable Leader of the Opposition. The two of us have gone into every political nook and cranny that is possible. We know each other well when it comes to the political wicket and so when you see him rise to his full height, and look serious, knit his brow, hunch his back, and start to tell me in deep, serious tones that I must be careful, I understand.

There is a part of that that is genuine concern. He is signalling that he is genuinely concerned but there is another part which we understand and that other part is making sure that no-one suggests in anyway that he did not take this issue as seriously as he should.

Everyone recognise that you took it seriously and I accept that if the Honourable Member had any indication that I was guilty of anything, I accept that the Honourable Member would have been thundering like a mighty cloud as he called for my resignation and had he anything that he could demonstrate that I was guilty of anything except what he calls error, I would have given that recognition. That is where we are.

Let no one confuse himself about this chicken, Mr. Chairman. I believe we can now proceed and eat some chicken and come back and discuss it further. I rest.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, tomorrow these Estimates must come to an end and we have not got very far at all and it was, I repeat was my intention to move further consideration of this Head be postponed unless we had been able to pass it. We could then move on to the Minister of Finance's Heads but, Sir, less anyone might get the impression that we are running away from this debate, this debate will continue after dinner.

Aside.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: It is up to you all. You can say anything you want to say. It is entirely up to the members of the Opposition. It is up to you. If you want us to come back on it we will come back on it.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: At this point, Mr. Chairman I move that you report progress to His Honour the Speaker, and ask for leave to sit again.

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

The question that Mr. CHAIRMAN report progress to His Honour the SPEAKER, and ask for leave to sit again was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

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

The question that the sitting be suspended until 8.15 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the House accordingly. 7.15p.m.

ON RESUMPTION

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee of Supply. The Member for St. George South.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Mr. Chairman, when I made my first intervention, I tried to point out to this Committee what I thought was one of the central issues in this matter. I shall move away from that because I believe that that issue has been fully canvassed, as I saw it, as the Member for the City saw it as well. I was very heartened when the Member for Christ Church East Central sought to put what I said in some perspective, and tried to make sure that the press did not misrepresent what I said.

I would want just to state that I was not in any way indulging in any racial attacks on anyone and I was merely trying to make the point that the person in question was an issue in this matter. I perceive wrong doing being perpetrated against persons of any colour, or race, I shall endeavour to make a stand on the side of the wrong party. That is the point that I was trying to make, particularly when I perceive any wrongdoing being perpetrated against anyone of my skin colour, I will hasten to represent that person, whoever is perpetrating the wrong. Not at all, Mr. Chairman, not you.

Now I was very glad to hear the Minister say that an effort will now be made to enforce the Regulations, albeit in a humane manner. It was a good thing to hear him say that because even though the Member for St. Michael South East said that we have got to be careful of the signals we are sending abroad. That is true. But at the same time, we have got to look at the competing interest involved in this whole affair.

Now you have the interest of the consumer to be balanced against the interest of the producer. The Minister of Health said that it is in our interest, I believe, I hope I am making the point clearly, it is in our interest to make sure the chicken industry in Barbados is not wiped out. That is true. But at the same time, you have the competing claims of the consumer. Producers in Barbados are more organized than consumers are. You do not have any consumer associations per se.

So that when we as Parliamentarians perceive a wrongdoing, albeit on evidence that has not been fully ventilated and canvassed, one has still got to make certain points. This is why it is important that the interest of the consumer be also represented in this matter.

Now there is also a further interest which is the interest of the health of the nation, insofar as the protection of the tourist industry is concerned. This is the point that the Member for St. Michael South East was making when he said that signals sent abroad, if they are not couched in proper language, might tend to as it were, in some way promote damage to the tourist industry. That is true I would say. But at the same time, one must not promote that interest and claim to any higher level than the interest of the consumer or for that matter, the interest of the producer. So that it is a question of the correct balance that one must strike in these circumstances, if one must move away from the area of contention in these matters.

Now I well remember the case, there was a case in England sometime recently, when the Junior Minister of, I think she was a Junior Minister of Health, made certain claims in relation to the egg industry in England. It had to do with the likelihood of Salmonella poisoning in the egg industry in England. It was something she had to resign over.

Now the point that was made there was that she had misrepresented the position and within our system of democracy, she had to resign.

Aside.

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Mr. R. P. BYER: Right. One of the issues that was canvassed there was the interest of the consumer as against the interest of the producer. That is the only parallel I am drawing. I am not in any way calling for the resignation of the Minister of Health. I merely said, and I would remain

here steadfast, that as far as I was concerned I just thought that he escalated the debate in this issue when he said that the issue had gone to such heights because of the lady involved in the matter.

But I would want to go a little further. This is why I said I was very heartened when the Minister said that there would be a specific effort to enforce the Health Regulations, insofar as the handling of food in Barbados is concerned. I took a cursory glance at these Regulations and they are very detailed. They are some very stiff Regulations. I could very well imagine if all of these Regulations had to be implemented the difficulty that people would have in operating.

Aside.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Yes. But you see, it goes a step further. There is a matter I raised with the Minister yesterday, and I am merely raising it now for public ventilation, he knows what I am talking about. These are statutory duties imposed on the Chief Medical Officer, very heavy statutory duties. One can very well imagine what would have happened if, out of that occurrence, we have had a case of Salmonella outbreak in Barbados.

The Government of Barbados might very well have been inundated with claims for damages because an officer with a statutory duty had breached that duty.

Asides.

Mr. R. P. BYER: There could have been a breach, a serious breach of statutory duty, if the Chief Medical Officer had been perceived, in the instance that I gave, if she had been perceived to have breached that duty imposed on her by statute.

So that it is very important that these Regulations be enforced, even though at the same time one or two people involved in the food industry in Barbados, the handling of food and the processing of food in Barbados, might be caused to be closed. It is very, very important that the stringencies of statutory duties in the case of public officers be brought to the attention of the public. Because it is alright to say, as the Member for St. Thomas said, for example, that the law requires, if some person is having a dance, that the persons who are going to handle food be licensed for that purpose and for that occasion. But it is something that has got to be enforced. Even though the public might justifiably become annoyed because they perceive a difference in treatment between the person who has applied for a licence to handle food at a dance and food processors, that requirement must be enforced insofar as those persons are concerned. That requirement must be enforced.

And I would be very.

Aside.

Mr. R. P. BYER:..... very glad if certain.

Aside.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Now you see the Member for St. Lucy apparently does not appreciate the seriousness of what I am saying here. 8.25 p.m.

I have gone beyond chickens now. I am merely saying - I am broadening into a higher sphere of argument - and I hope he can follow about the serious responsibilities that are on the Chief Medical Officer in relation to those duties in the statute. I would hope that attempts are made to enforce these regulations even if one or two of the food producers in Barbados have to cease operations.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Bridgetown.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, as the Honourable Member who just took his seat said and as the Minister has pointed out himself, we know that those regulations are very stringent and I have often said that they are even more stringent than some I have had to deal with in larger developed countries in food processing. This is true. I believe that.....,

Asides.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Man why do you not let me debate trade so that we can talk about that properly. I believe that we have dealt with this chicken issue - I have for my part - and we have dealt with it in the way that we thought that it should have been dealt with. We did not side-step the issue. We did not side-step the ramifications. We dealt with the issue thoroughly. You want to talk about chickens you said. You have a chicken farm in St. John?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the Honourable Member address the Chair?

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: No, I did not mean you had a farm in St. John, Sir. I was just asking the Honourable Member for St. John.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Well, you could not really. Mr.

P. J. M. MILLER: I do not know. *Laughter.*

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Anyhow, Sir, on a more serious note, after the levity with the Member for St. John, court jester. All standards I believe, Sir, as the Minister was saying before, he knows well about the Barbados National

Standards Institute. I believe the Minister also knows just as well that when I was in the Barbados Manufacturers Association it was a constant call that we made to make standards mandatory, but not only to make them mandatory because there are some mandatory standards already but to put together^ sort of policing arm to ensure that they are adhered to. When I talk about this, I mean that this should not only apply to locally produced goods but to goods that we import. Let us not fool ourselves and the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East just briefly touched on something, maybe he did not want to go too much further into it but I will.

We sometimes, through the operations of unscrupulous business people in this country, get some nuisances dumped on us that if the officers were not vigilant a lot of it would get in here and even although they are vigilant because of a lot of constraints some still get through. One only has to listen to some of the call-in programmes and hear people call in and complain about that all of the time. We get goods that come in here when the expiry date is long gone and they still come in here and find their way on the shelves. But everytime you hear people in authority who should know better get up and talk about substandard goods, they seem to think that the manufacturers in Barbados have a monopoly on substandard goods.

So I am saying that standards have to be made mandatory and that we have to look at giving the people at the Barbados National Standards Institute some assistance by way of putting people in place to police these standards and to make sure that they are adhered to. That brings me to another point. One recognises or one should recognise - I know the Honourable Minister of Trade likes to cut in and say that the manufacturers seem to want the Government to do everything for them. I do not know what he calls everything. I do not know if he understands what the Government's responsibility is in this whole exercise. It is supposed to be a symbiosis between the public and private sector if we are going to make this whole thing work.

Asides.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: I know it is a good word. But Sir, if we then say as the Honourable Member I believe for Christ Church East Central said, many small business people will be hard pressed to be able to get themselves organised.

Asides.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Save me, Mr. Chairman. I know the Honourable Members over there recognise that we are discussing serious business but a little levity does not hurt anyhow. So if they call in the A Team when they know that it is the B Team, no problem. No B - as in BLP. What is the problem? - B's.

The whole question of these small business people being able to bring themselves up to the kind of standard, to bring their operation up to standard, is a serious question and the Honourable Member, whoever it was on that side who raised it, was right that that is something we have to pay attention to. But we also have to recognise that it is incumbent on the said Government to provide institutions or within the very institution that exists the kind of assistance that is necessary to assist these small people. Because you cannot continue to say that you recognise the role that small business people are playing, particularly as it relates to employment generation or their significant contribution to the economy on the whole, and then when you know that they need help to bring them up to the standard that all of us would desire, then you tell me that they should go out and find a way to help themselves. There is nowhere to help themselves. They will need help. So plan and prepare to give them some help to get to that level.

I heard the Honourable Minister say that there are some 100 odd number of small processors. Those are the ones that will need help. I have one in my constituency in Hall's Road. I think it is a very good friend of the Honourable Prime Minister. She will need help. I do not want to see them close her down. I want to see them give her help so she can get to the level that we keep speaking of.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael South East had said that we had no way of controlling the standards. I hope that I am quoting correctly, the standards used to slaughter meat abroad that was imported into Barbados. I believe that I have quoted you correctly. But my argument to that is that I would not even try to use that as an argument to even, should I say, justify what is going on. I would not like to use that word but I am trying to think of a better word - to try to turn us away from the seriousness of what we were discussing. Because again there must be people in place to inspect the meat that is coming in to Barbados. So certainly that meat that is imported must at least meet our standards if it is not meeting the standards of the place that it left. If it does not meet our standards, then our standards are substandard. So we will need to look at the standards. If the Member has a concern about the meat that is coming into Barbados or in fact to use the words of another Minister, if the Member feels that he knows that there is a problem with meat coming into Barbados, I think as the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central said - instead of letting it get out to the Press tonight he had better inform the Minister of Health, if he knows there is a problem with meat coming into Barbados and that there is something wrong with the standards from the countries from which we import the meat. You see you cannot say one thing now and then do something else after, because that is part of the whole reason why I am over here now.

I also would like to say, Mr. Chairman, that I do not think that it is really fair or right to use the Rose Mont

operation as an example when in fact Government knows that the said Rose Mont is in the process of putting up a new plant. So to use that as an example to say there is another one like it when you know the other one that we were talking about before has not been putting up any new plant, as I know about, unless it is something that I do not know about and to use the Rose Mont situation to compare and say well there is another one like it when in fact you know that Rose Mont is trying to correct the problem. 8.35 p.m.

As the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central said, he knows that he is trying to correct the problem, because he said he knows that he is bringing the plant in his constituency, so I do not think that was quite fair. I am not saying that it was intended to be used in that way, but that is how it came across.

We keep talking about impressions and the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East has a big problem with impressions, so I think we should clean the glass windows over there before we start dealing with the ones over here. If you have a problem with impressions, I know that there are other people in the Democratic Labour Party, just as well, who are very good at putting out impressions too. So if you have a problem with impressions and you feel that the NDP has a monopoly on impressions, start checking among your ranks first.

One of the things you have to understand, while they were talking about impressions, they were at the same time trying to send abroad an impression that all this party is about is impressions. Is not that interesting? The same people! Then when I talk about morality and integrity, I now know why they have a problem with those words.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I said earlier that the Honourable Leader of the Barbados Labour Party had made some very interesting philosophical points about health care in Barbados and I wanted to say a few words about some of the things that he raised.

One of the questions had to do with the doctor/patient relationship at the polyclinics, and it is a very, very valid point. I think he stated that the closeness that you normally see in a private situation is lacking at the polyclinic. But this is true not only of the polyclinic situation, it is true of any organisation, whether it be in Barbados, the United States or England, where there is a public service where people go *en masse* and it is very, very difficult to build up a one-to-one relationship in that kind of setting. Part of it also has to do with the individual doctor as well as the individual patient, the training of the doctor and the philosophy in which the whole delivery of health care takes

place. There are several factors that determine this intimacy.

He also went on to make another valid point about the fact that when patients go to a polyclinic it is difficult to see the same doctor. The polyclinics in Barbados deliver a service to a lot of people and it is impossible on a mathematical basis to have one patient see the doctor every time he returns. It is impossible for that particular doctor to be there to see that patient, and this is one of the constraints that we have when we deliver that kind of care.

As a matter of fact, when the concept of the National Health Service was being brought in, one of the factors that the Medical Association had a very hard look at was the possibility of the breakdown of the doctor/patient relationship within that kind of setting, because you have another factor where, if a doctor or indeed a patient feels that a Government service is imposed upon them, that they must go to a particular doctor, not necessarily the doctor of their choice but the doctor that the Government says they must go to, and if indeed the doctor feels that he must see the patient because the Government sends you, then you will find that the kind of one to one relationship may not be the kind of ideal relationship that should exist.

In the National Health Service in England this has been one of the major complaints, and you will find that a lot of West Indians, especially Barbadians, those who come home regularly, will establish a doctor relationship at home, because they will come into the office and say "I can sit down and talk to you, but when I go to my doctor in England it is as though he is just trying to get rid of me when I get there." So we have to understand the constraints under which we are working when we operate services like polyclinics, et cetera. That is not to say that we should not strive to improve the service and to give optimum care to the people we are seeing.

He also mentioned the concept of trying to get doctors in private practice to work, I guess on a sessional basis, in the polyclinic service, which again is a very, very good concept. I would say that my feeling is that one area where we should try to integrate the doctors in private practice, firstly into the public service, is in the area of emergency service. I think that the Casualty Department is probably the first area where we should try to involve doctors in private practice who of course are willing to get involved in that kind of setting, because that also is a setback, because even if you issue the invitation to doctors to work in these settings, some doctors' hands are so filled already that they really do not have the time to get involved in that kind of setting, but I would think that one of the main areas we should try to involve them in is the emergency service.

The emergency service is an area where decisions have to be made very quickly and it is an area where people generally have to spend more time than they would spend.

Let us say, if they go to a polyclinic, and this is true not only of Barbados. I was trained in the United States and I spent a lot of my time doing what we call moonlighting in the emergency rooms making extra money to pay bills, and in that country which is supposed to have the best level of health care in the world people sit sometimes for a couple of days in the emergency room before they get care. That is not to justify that we should treat our own people like this, but the point is that once you have a ratio of patients to doctors that is very great, somebody has got to wait, somebody has got to make a decision as to what the acute emergencies are and take care of them first, and the lesser emergencies will have to come up on a rotation basis.

I think that we in Barbados would find it very difficult, since we have so many polyclinics, to find enough doctors in Barbados who have got in years' service in the community to attract them into the service, but I think it is a programme that is worth looking at.

I want to say something about Barbados and Health care in Barbados. Barbados is a very interesting country in terms of health care, and I think those of us who live in Barbados are not aware of the very high level of health standards and health care that we have. Barbados is, in terms of health care, certainly not a developing country. We have an infant mortality rate that is below 10 per thousand, and we have a life expectancy that is between the ages of 72 and 75, and as the Honourable Member for Christ Church West said, it is a problem that we have to look at very, very seriously, because it means that we are now finding ourselves in a situation where the developed countries find themselves, where we have to look at the care of the elderly. 8.45 p.m.

I want to take this opportunity to give praise to the Ministry of Health for employing a gerontologist to make the first inputs into what is going to be a very serious problem in Barbados, that is, taking care of the elderly in this country. I would say that we need to do some social research as well into the area of geriatrics because if there is one problem that we have in Barbados, a mental problem, is that people when they reach the age of 60 or 65 consider that they are no longer useful, and with a lot of them their main problem is what I would refer to as house sickness. There is nothing wrong with them, but they feel that they must be confined to the house and that they cannot make meaningful contributions to the society, and this happens especially among the lower socio-economic group. It is very unfortunate and I think it is an area that we need to look at very, very carefully.

This brings us to the other point that the same Honourable Member mentioned about home visits and home care because I think that coming out of the society that we come out of, we have not been mentally and psychologically geared for taking care of the aged and the

handicapped. The whole concept of home visits when you look at it in Barbados from a historical and social point of view, we have to analyse it very carefully because Barbados was a country where when there was no proper transportation, when the facilities were not as good as they are, the doctor made the house visits. I don't think that many people analyse and recognise that the house visit more often than not can bring less benefits to the patient than if the patient is moved to the area where there is a centre set up so to speak, because if you go into the house to examine the patient, it is difficult to take along your whole office with you, and therefore some of the things that need to be done on the spot, and if that patient can be moved to the area where the care is delivered, very often it is more advantageous. As a matter of fact there is a theory which says that if the patient cannot come to the doctor's office, then you need to be in the hospital. The point I am making is that when you have the resources you train people who deliver emergency care and they spend a lot of their time travelling back and forth; you are wasting time in the delivery of the care if that patient or the patients could be brought to the centre, because every time you get in your car or any means of transport to move from where you are to go to a spot to which you probably did not have to go, that is time wasted in terms of delivery of health care. That is an aspect that we need to look at. Maybe what we need to look at in terms of the elderly, and I think the Minister of Health outlined this very carefully, is that they are analysing and they have put in place or they were supposed to have put in place a team which will visit the elderly or the handicapped and determine the level of health care that needs to be delivered, and I think this is the right road that we should go down. We have to get out of this concept of the old time house call.

I have made a few house calls and I try not to make them because I find that most of the time when you make a house call the patient either greets you at the door or is willing to offer you a drink after the house call, and in most cases it is a social visit rather than a significant medical visit. If the patient is really sick you have to end up sending him to the hospital anyhow; so I think we have to understand. In a society where this sort of concept is ingrained, it takes little time for people to drink in some of these facts and to accept them, but we have scarce medical resources and we have to use these medical resources to the optimum.

I thought I would just spend a few moments looking at some of the areas which the Leader of the Barbados Labour Party Opposition has raised just to give my views on those aspects. I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, obviously the Honourable Member who has just spoken has spoken from his experience as a doctor and particularly on the last point on which he spoke would have been referring to circumstances as they existed in other countries, but the

reality here about the old and the elderly particularly those that are chronic and who are seriously disabled is that many of them prefer to remain within their home setting and somehow they look at the psychological effect and benefit which they gain from visits by their own doctors as well. Whilst I can understand that it is a strain sometimes on the medical profession, yet I think it is important that one has to bear in mind that there is a contribution to the welfare of those persons.

However I do not propose in this intervention to really reply on that particular point. I have not been speaking, Mr. Chairman, on the issue of the chicken debate, but there are a few comments I wish to make. I was surprised in a way at the manner in which the Honourable Minister lost his cool. Normally he is a very restrained person and whenever he loses his cool in play acting in here, he really is coming to either provoke the Opposition or to put the position for the Government.

In this debate I think towards the end of his speech when he led off on this Head of the Estimates. I have never seen the Honourable Member come so near to having a heart attack as the Minister obviously was coming, and in fact I turned to my colleagues on the left and said I was concerned as to whether we should not somehow summon immediately the ambulance emergency services. The Minister must have felt considerably weighted down by the debate which has taken place within the public domain in the last couple of weeks on what has become known as the chicken issue, and obviously, Mr. Chairman, the public concern must not be lightly attributed solely to the manner in which the media may have handled the issue, and I had got the impression at the end of the day that the gravamen of the Minister's charge is that the press misrepresented the issue to the degree to which he therefore felt that he had to put on the display that he has given us here this evening. But I detected within the public domain a genuine concern at the standards which were being violated by the particular operator; and I say that not lightly because I don't want to get into matters that are *sub judice* but from the Minister's speech there are three areas that are a cause of tremendous concern to the Barbados Labour Party, and I am going to state them simply, Sir. One is that when the Public Health Inspector did go there, we now know from what the Minister of Health has said, on his direction on the Saturday I believe it was, it appeared that this operator was operating on a day that is normally one on which the public health inspector is not present.

Now we know that a public health inspector was stationed there, and I accept the Minister's word, from August 1988, but there must be something absolutely wrong with the administrative arrangements by which an inspector is not there on a Saturday, and yet the operator has been operating in that way on a Saturday. Now that would give me cause for concern, and I would either have to say that the problem here is that the system was not being

policed adequately because one should have detected the fact that this operator was carrying on this operation outside of the hours in which there could have been a public health detection system, or the public health detection system was deficient in that it was not discovered before this particular event that the operator had been operating as it was. 8.55 p.m.

I do not believe that that situation can be laid at the door of the Press or can be blamed on the Press or, indeed, for that matter, can be blamed solely on the operator. There must be something wrong with the system if the persons with primary responsibility for public health could not before the position reached the crisis as seen by the public have detected this defect.

The second area which caused us tremendous concern is the fact that even when the Public Health Inspector in the person of the Chief, not only the Public Health Inspector, but the Chief responsible in the Ministry responsible for this operation is present with the Chief Public Health Inspector, that part of the operation was being carried out in such a way as to have led to some condemnation on the spot.

Now, Sir, these are facts, and I am taking them as coming from the Minister, so that we know that not only were they breaching the process of operating on a day on which there is normally no inspection, but they were operating in such a way that part of the operation led to the penalty clauses and action for condemnation.

Now, that is a very serious matter and although the Minister said there was an absence of ice on the chicken parts, the particular parts, one knows would soon be contaminated, yet you must ask yourself for how long was this process going on and whether the process had been going on in such a way that the end result was that some was coming in within the public system.

The third area that gives me cause for concern, Sir, is the fact that there are obviously other defects which the Minister and the officials are satisfied on. There are other defects which caused this operator to be not licensed or registerable under the Act and the Regulations made thereon.

Now, the Minister has not told us what are the particular defects still existing at the plant. What he has said is that the plant has been given, like other plants, a period of time, I think I have seen somewhere in the Press it is 30 days, within which to get its act together, but we would want to know what are those defects because if some of those defects are not of a nature relating to machinery, or having the amount of floor space, or processing area, and there are more substantial defects. One wants to know why have these things been allowed to persist and how long have these defects existed.

Now, I accept the Minister on his word when he says that the absence of a licence does not by itself mean that every operation which ought to get a licence has been operating in a manner in which the end product to the public should be condemned and I accept him on his word when he says that although Pine Hill may not have had a licence, its product has still been acceptable on public health standard. There may be technical reasons for this but there is a vast difference between that sort of situation and the situation where now we know that this particular operator was obviously not complying fully with all of the health standards and those minimum health standards that one would consider acceptable if the food was being sold within the public domain.

Now, those are the serious matters, I believe, that have obviously affected the public. It is not simply the fact that "The Nation" or any other newspaper may show a dead chicken. We are in a realm of journalism, Sir, where, obviously, now-a-day the two major newspapers are competing, like the major political parties are competing for notice and, obviously, how you sell yourself to the public, the headlines you get may commend you at times to quit readership, although not to lasting permanent effect on the minds of the public.

What I am saying here, Sir, is we have to find out how long have these things been happening, why they have been happening, what is the nature of the defects existing at this particular plant and I do not believe that it is only the fact that the major shareholder of the plant may be a person of controversy and a person whose business practices are not always liked by the public of Barbados, that these were not the only reasons why the public were concerned.

Sir, this brings me back to the other areas. The Minister said that there are other organisations, both poultry processing plants and other food manufacturers as well as people who sell food who have not been complying with the regulations.

I think the public demands to know the areas and we are not on any witch hunt here, Sir. The areas in which the regulations are not being complied with and how serious are the existing breaches that prevent licences being granted and I assume that a licence is granted and that the standards laid down in the Act are minimum standards that we will find acceptable and reasonable standards in the context of Barbados as a developing country which is now trying to develop its own manufacturing and agro-industrial sector.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has two minutes.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Now, Sir, the question that I really believe has given me great difficulty with the Minister's role in the matter is this one. First, I think on the basis of responsibility that if the officers in his Ministry,

and I am not only talking about the Chief Medical Officer who has the responsibility under the Act, but if the other officers in his Ministry have not noticed, and in my view they ought to have noticed, that this operator was operating not only without a licence, but, also, outside the regulations and a period of, certainly, 7, 8 months had gone by without this being noticed, then I say that that is a defect for which the Minister does not take personal responsibility in the sense that it is he who is liable. But as to the concept that we operate a ministerial responsibility it is a defect in his Ministry and to that extent he had to take responsibility for that.

The second is I agree with Honourable Members that the Minister erred in the way in which he himself dealt with some of the issues that arose.

I do not believe that it was necessary for the Minister to rely on the fact that other operators did not have licences too and I think in one case, if he was quoted correctly, he said that he knows of one operator who was even operating in a worse manner than this particular operator. I think to admit that, if it is true, seem to me that already the public alarm would have been widened. 9.05 p.m.

I say this, Sir, because recently in England there was a case of the disease which is supposed to have been affecting the egg industry...

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE:...the Salmonella disease. And Edwina Currie, a Junior Minister in the Thatcher Government, made a statement about this and she was forced to resign her job and the industry itself held itself at risk and the Government had to offer the industry compensation. These are matters, Sir, if you would just let me wind up this part, that must be handled with the greatest amount of sensitivity and care, both on the part of the Minister particularly where, as the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East said, we are trying to maintain a certain equilibrium and helping the industry and must also handle with a degree of care in circumstances where, as in this instance, the public obviously had a vested interest. The Labour Party has watched this matter with great care and we have been consulting on it at times. We have not issued a statement but our responsibility demanded that we should have been in consultation as we were checking on various operators ourselves and monitoring the position in the public's interest as we will continue to do on this particular issue, Sir.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I want to respond on this particular issue, Mr. Chairman, because the question raised need response, lest there be further debate in that direction.

First of all, one of the reasons why I am not going to bother with the cosmetic parts of the Honourable Member's statement about the performance. The reason why there was grave disquiet on my part that there had been the absence of ten pages of fifteen of the press release or the press handling of the matter today is precisely because of what the Honourable Member has just said.

In the POINT AT ISSUE programme, we had in fact detailed the 19 points, the 19 matters which were outstanding at MacDonald Farms. And the fact that the press today left out that aspect of the POINT AT ISSUE gives rise to the questions raised by the Leader of the Barbados Labour Party. We did in fact publicly state what the 19 areas of concern were. Indeed, on the question of the issue with the MacDonald Farms processing on a Saturday, that question was left out as well. David Ellis asked this question and he said:

"Let's focus a little bit mo/e on the MacDonald's issue here because the most serious allegation that has come here, is that this particular plant has been processing what has been described as 'dead meat' on Saturdays and at times when no inspector was available to ensure that a particular standard was met. What is your response to that?"

That was putting the issue promptly, dearly into the public domain. My response which was broadcast three times on VOB was as follows:

"My response to that is that that was contrary to the spirit of the Legislation. The Legislation sets out under Cap. 44...that the Minister may designate a Public Health Inspector to be present at a private business, and the hours are specified under the Regulations to be from 8.15 to 4.30 in the afternoon, between Monday and Friday, from Monday to Friday. Therefore any company that processes chicken on a Saturday is clearly setting out to go around those Regulations, and what I have done is to direct that in the future any company who wishes to process outside of those specified hours must notify the Ministry in advance and failing to notify the Ministry in advance will mean that all meat processed during the specified period outside of the notified period will be condemned."

Now I am sure that if the Honourable Member had had the opportunity to read that in what is purported to be a full disclosure, he would not have taken the point which he took about the Minister and the question of being outside.

But I think that one has to recognize, having made the point that I agree that the spirit of the legislation envisaged that, where a Public Health Inspector is placed at a private plant, that the legislation envisages that the private plant will not process when a Public Health Inspector is not there

to give direction and to inspect. But the law does not require that there be a Public Health Inspector. Section 7 of Cap. 44 says that:

"The Minister may designate..."

I think Section 10 or Section 11 determines what hours the Minister may designate. For example, there is no Public Health Inspector stationed permanently at Hanschell Inniss, because in the opinion of the public health community, the Medical Officer of Health and the Public Health Inspectors who inspect this plant on a daily basis, every time they have inspected this plant, they have found it to be complying with all of the requirements and regulations of proper processing, proper public health. So they have not informed the Minister. They have not notified the Minister that, in the opinion of the technical people to wit the Medical Officer of the Public Health Inspector, the practices at Hanschell Inniss require that a Public Health Inspector be designated on a full-time basis. The plant meets certain specifications. So there was no requirement, there is no mandatory requirement to have a Public Health Inspector continuously. The reason why there was one at the poultry plants is precisely because in 1984, when the Honourable Member's Government was in office, there was a problem with chicken at the School Meals Department. All of that was mentioned in the interview I did with David Ellis. It was at that time that it was decided that there would be a permanent Public Health Inspector placed at a particular company, 1984. Because it was realized that poultry processing fell into a special category so far as Barbados was concerned.

I must, therefore, say that when the Honourable Member seeks to suggest that there is some deficiency in the Ministry because the system did not have a Public Health Inspector on Saturday that that was the system that had been going on continuously during his time, as the Government. There is not a Public Health Inspector placed at the other plants on Saturdays either. There had not been. So that the system assumed a certain level of operation in the various plants. The Public Health Inspectors do daily visits to the other plants. I am told that visits on Saturdays when there was going to be processing on Saturdays formed part of the methodology. But I will accept the strictures. That is why immediately after it became apparent that MacDonald's was prepared or even remotely appeared to be willing to go against the spirit of the legislation that the Minister caused the Senior Medical Officer of Health to send a communication to all the processors saying to anyone who from that moment forward processed chicken in the absence of an Inspector without informing the Ministry would have that meat processed condemned. So that all that should have been done was done and the strictures therefore by the Honourable Member cannot be said to be valid.

And he asked the question:

"For how long were the processors going on in the manner they were going on?"

My answer is that:

"They may have been going on from the time chicken processing was going on in Barbados. Certainly in this plant they could have been going on from 1987 or 1988 when they sought to get a licence and did not get one."

And the answer to the reason why they did not get a licence. Again, I will repeat for the Record:

"To complete rodent proofing of building, to complete fly proofing, to provide adequate lighting, to replace damaged tiles where necessary, to plaster walls and overhead structures where necessary, to provide drill for waste outlet drain, to introduce line system including bleeding pit to plaster cavities on top of wells in eviscerating area, to plaster floor and tile same with gradient for easy run of waste water, to provide hot-water system in packaging room; to provide sanitise equipment in packaging room; to install hand-washing facilities in the packaging room; to repair or replace the icemaker; to repair the blast freezer and service the existing freezer; to provide a storage area for the freezer coats; to connect outlet waste pipes of the bath facilities; to provide 4" or 4' walks or splash area around the building with rodent bait stations and to provide the adequate lockers for workers." 9.15p.m.

Those are the 19 areas which are required by that particular plant. If the Honourable Member or any other Member wishes, I will outline the other requirements of the other plants that have been given their direction by the Medical Officer of Health. What this suggest is that the Health Inspectors who go into the plants, and I think that perhaps I should mention some of the others, because basically there are these kinds of things which are housekeeping matters and that is why one has an inspector on the spot to check the actual chicken or the actual milk, or the actual food that is coming out, when the Honourable Member said that we should not have mentioned other plants, one mentioned the other plant because it is necessary to show that the areas which caused the plant not to get a licence will not necessarily affect the quality of the food as inspected by the inspectors and tested in the laboratories which come out of the plant even though they have fallen short of various requirements. That is why one mentioned Montrose. One mentioned Montrose but one went on to say in the interview that even though the list of Montrose infringements if you will was much longer that the chicken coming out of Montrose was wholesome - was deemed to be wholesome by those of the Public Health people whose responsibility it

is to deem it wholesome and similarly with all of the other plants.

It follows therefore that the giving of 30 days was considered reasonable in all the circumstances, 30 days for all of the plants. The Barbados Marketing Corporation had a large number of infringements to rectify. I am told that they believe that they will be able to rectify them in the 30 days. So be it. But these constitute the same kinds of problems which a Public Health Inspector will find as he goes into most of the plants that are not licensed where they virtually have not reached the level of physical requirements in order to meet the standards set by the Medical Officer of Health. The 2 requirements, therefore, are to be producing wholesome food in a wholesome plant.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: What tends to happen in some or what was happening and will no longer happen is that some were producing wholesome food in a not so wholesome * plant.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I advised the Minister on the last occasion that I spoke that sometimes silence is a virtue.

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: When we came back into the House after dinner, the Honourable Member for St. Lucy in a *sotto voce* remark said that everything had been stripped off the chicken, feathers and all. But quite clearly everything has not been stripped off the chicken and it is appropriate of course that chickens should be thoroughly analyzed in Parliament in these circumstances because, in fact, you know Barbadians over the years have eaten most of the chicken - chicken head, chicken head soup, neck, chicken backs and wings, legs, chicken feet soup used to be good for measles and so on I was told, livers and gizzards, and I think all exclusive of the bowel. So I think that is perhaps why Barbadians are so concerned over these chickens.

But I became a little more concerned when I heard and when the Minister in fact quoted from the information of the Public Health Officers that visited that plant on that day, because they could only have been dealing with what they saw when they arrived there. They would not have known what had gone before and indeed, as has been pointed out, some of the stuff that was being processed had to be dumped and I think you did say that they only saw only 4 dead chickens...

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: They reported - and that must be a matter of concern. Now I knew...

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On the question of the 4 chickens, on a point of order. Actually in this if he gives way - in the Committee if he gives way. On the 4 dead chickens, I am told that in the processing of the chickens at any of the plants the Public Health Inspectors do not consider if they find 4 chickens among 100 or 5 chickens among 50 dead - they may be dead from stress or handling, so they do not consider that a matter for alarm - but they have indicated they found 4 - they only saw 4 dead chickens outside of the plant, not in the processing part of the plant. That is what they reported to me. That is all I am saying.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: So that basically it has also been admitted that the processing took place frequently outside of the time when the Public Officers were there. That is on Saturday.

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a Saturday - yes. So, therefore, and I have heard this outside, and this is why I say that I am a little more concerned now, before I came into this Honourable House today, in fact, I was given some information which I did not use because I would wish to have it verified further, and I was told on several occasions outside of this House that it was on Saturdays that these diseased and cadaverous chickens were actually processed. So that it would appear to me that the reports of the Public Health Officers really could not substantiate or deny what took place. So it does raise the question whether or not the operator was not getting around a loophole in the regulations and actually processing those chickens complained of on the day when the Public Officers were not there.

I want to say this about persons in this Honourable House - the second point that I want to make. Sometimes matters of some sensitivity arise for public discussion in Parliament. It is the duty of Parliamentarians to discuss those matters and discuss them in the public forum*because that is perhaps the only way that in the long run one will be able to restore appropriate levels of public confidence. Therefore, when I hear people talking about we must be careful not to send this signal and that signal here and there, I think that that particular Member might not fully recognise what his responsibilities are in this Honourable House, because emerging out of this debate today the public should feel more confident than when the debate started that they should know that something has been done and will be done and that this matter will not happen in the future. We must not be seen in this Chamber under any circumstances to be any part of any cover-up in this matter. 9.25 p.m.

I have stated my position in relation to the Minister. I have told him that I thought there was an error in the way in which he responded in these matters - let there be a difference of opinion - and that I did not think from what I

can gather so far in the debate that his level of responsibility, although he is responsible, he must not renege on that element of responsibility that is not so severe that would warrant a call for his resignation. I have said that before and I think that is reasonable in the circumstances.

I think that there are further grounds for concern. Something is going wrong in the administration of these licences and the response of the Ministry of Health to it. I know of another poultry plant located in another parish. There are two owners of that poultry plant. One is most upset over the conditions under which the plant is operating. He considers it to be unhygienic and hazardous to the public health. The second owner who has a half share in the same plant does not agree with his view on the matter. Those living in the immediate environs are considerably disturbed by the stench and the smell and they are satisfied that the goings-on at that poultry plant cannot be in the public interest.

The public spirited person who owns a half share in the poultry plant has taken the trouble of going to his lawyers, has taken the trouble of going to the Public Health Inspectorate and reporting the matter, was informed by the Public Health Inspector that the company did not have a licence to operate; asked the Public Health Inspector what action would be taken and no action has been taken. I believe it must now be four weeks since that intervention by one of the shareholders and I believe that the plans to go and see his lawyer again to see what steps he can take in order to dispose of his shareholding or any element of responsibility in the matter.

This would seem to me to be a very odd situation. Here you have two owners of a plant, half and half. One, a public spirited person, says what is going on here is not right, it is not fair to the public that they should be getting chickens which he does not consider to be in the interest of the consumers, or up to a standard that the consumers should have. He has brought the matter to the attention of the Ministry of Health, in a wider sense, the Public Health Officers, and he cannot get any action done, so he now has to try to dissociate himself from that by going to his lawyer to see what steps he can take to get himself out of that operation without total sacrifice of whatever little equity he might still have in it. I will let you have the name in due course.

It would seem to me that in these circumstances here a highly responsible and respectable farmer in this country, with a considerable history in the chicken industry and in related industries, is not being taken seriously, and what he is setting out to do is to salvage the reputation of himself and his family, and he has taken all the steps which a responsible citizen should take, even to the extent that he is prepared to sacrifice his financial interest in the matter, and so far he has been unable to get that matter dealt with.

I believe that there needs to be a very close look at the operation of the licensing system, because this would seem to me to be the kind of case that should have an immediate response from the Ministry of Health.

However, I am not prepared to continue any further with this "issue of the chickens. I believe that the NDP has done its duty in this particular matter and I would hope that not only would appropriate action be taken, but, in due course, the Ministry would take such steps, public relations wise and so on, so that the public can be once more assured that their favourite chicken dishes will be available to them once again, because many people have withdrawn from the white meats because of this, as I have told you in the past.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: It is a fact. There are some people who have stopped eating chicken and stopped eating fish because they are concerned.

Another accusation that I did not like at all. You expect a Government when it is on the defensive always to accuse an Opposition of trying to destroy the economy, trying to undermine confidence, trying to destroy the very fabric of which this society was built for hundreds of years. All the worst things they accuse the Opposition of.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The member has two minutes.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Let me tell you something. The best thing you can do to restore confidence in the industry is to have a public debate of this nature and let the information come out, deal with the persons who are guilty of the offences charged and, in addition to that, make sure that you inform the public that the industry has been set on a new path. If you do that, that is the way you will restore confidence in the industry and stop any breakdown in the agro-industrial process as it relates to chicken. The worst thing you can do is to allow rumours to continue, not deal with it front on, allow the consumers to have doubt. That will do more to undermine the industry than anything else, and I believe that the NDP has today performed yet another sterling task in the interest of public confidence and helping to build this society and launch it along new paths and new heights of morality and integrity.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I heard how the Leader of the Opposition finished and I have been hearing him on this matter this evening quite a lot. Two interventions before he was telling us about his culinary experience. The Leader of the Opposition has come a long way in dealing with chicken, Sir. He knows that I know that when he was a student in Edinburgh and I was one in London the story was told that he who then did not have much experience in the culinary field went into a

supermarket in Edinburgh, saw a chicken wrapped in cellophane with a tag "Oven Ready Chicken." 9.35 p.m.

He went back to his flat and put it just as he bought it straight in the oven, cellophane and all. Ask him if that is not so, Sir. Anything he tells you about chicken after all these twenty odd years you can believe now.

Mr. Chairman, since the chicken that is processed at these plants finds itself from time to time in public institutions, we will wish to hear from the Minister whether he has any information as a result of the investigation over the last few weeks as to whether any of this - when it reaches the shop it is dead chicken so you can't call it dead chicken - cadaver chicken, cold slaughter chicken, has reached any of the institutions. I say this because I know, for example, that from time to time Government awards contracts to various suppliers for the school meals service and the hospital, and indeed, I am concerned about the contract which is awarded to the Shamrock group of companies. I understand Shamrock is not a chicken grower or chicken processor. Chicken processors tendered for the supply of chicken to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. These chicken processors' tenders were unsuccessful, but the contract has now been awarded to the Shamrock group of people who now have to turn around and buy the chicken from the processors.

There is further unhappiness in the industry and I believe that even though there may be a respite with Easter coming up, the Minister may well run into some more lashes in relation to how that matter has been handled.

Now, Sir, I had half an hour this evening in relation to the chicken and I am not going to pursue it anymore.

I want to make a couple of general points, before we close off, for the next five minutes. First of all everyone of us in here recognises that the Minister of Health has been under tremendous pressure as a result of this incident involving the chicken in the last two weeks and a half. I believe that all of us who spoke today were restrained, I mean except the Minister, and were moderate in what we had to say.

The CHAIRMAN ordered that certain remarks made by the Honourable Member for St. Thomas be struck from the record.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The two Honourable Members called for moderation from the Opposition benches. The NDP did not - issue a statement until the Sunday, a very short one at the top right hand corner of the Sunday Sun by the lady Senator. The Barbados Labour Party was prepared to issue a statement, the Minister can have a look at it, dated 9th March and we decided to hold because it seemed to us that there was an area of confusion,

writs were being threatened and the House was going to meet on Monday for a whole week and that this was the proper place to ventilate all the concerns, and we have held, as it were, our fire until this week. The way v/e have spoken today has been with the utmost restraint, and it does not lie in the mouths of those two Honourable Members to accuse the Opposition parties of trying to create confusion and tarnish the name of Barbados overseas.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central said that newspapers go all over the world - I made a careful note of it. In the light of the conduct of the Opposition parties in relation to this issue, it does not lie in their mouths to allege that we were less than moderate and responsible. Further, Sir, I find it from this side of the Opposition rather incongruous to hear such a call when I recall the attacks, the rumours and the gossip that were put abroad of this country with the utmost venom against the Barbados Labour Party and its politicians in relation to drugs, in relation to Pele. The NDP was then part of the DLP, you were hip and thigh; you are now the child. You were then in the parent party.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman for the record I wish to make it clear that the NDP never conducted itself in that way.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The NDP has promised not to conduct itself in that way and not ever again to slip and call anybody a white mouthed fowl in Black Rock by implication. Sir, we read and we have the Vancouver Sun where the late Rt. Honourable Member for St. John went to Vancouver and accused Tom Adams of being involved in cocaine. We did not hear any call for moderation and restraint. 9.45 p.m.

Look, do not let me have to go down the wicket. That is why I am not satisfied that they really had a conviction in what they were saying given their previous history and their association with the rumours.

Sir, I just want, since we have to wind up now, to ask the Minister between tonight and tomorrow to check and explain to the House if it is a fact that within the last six weeks there were days on which the surgery could not be used again because it was infested with nimbles.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Things called nimbles, chinks, lice, something like that, of that genus. If it is a fact that the dust from construction in and about the hospital, with the extension that is going on, has been finding itself also into the surgery. If it is a fact that in the surgery there is the appearance of chaos. There are things all over the Surgery, boxes. I have that information from someone who underwent an operation in there.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: They say it. They had not gone to sleep yet. Every time you go into the Surgery they put you to sleep? Everytime?

Aside.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Time? Maybe I will carry on tomorrow, Sir.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am going to answer the questions very quickly because the reporters are tired.

First of all the answer about the bird lice or by whatever name called, the answer is "No."

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I am not a surgeon. You ask me a question. I tell you the answer that I have received is "No" and you tell me that is not true? Neither one of us go into the Operating Theatre so we have to take the word of the officials. You are going to break down public administration in this country if you do not allow the officials to tell you the truth.

There was a time when there were nimbles in a surgery.....

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman my information is that that is not so. I promise the Honourable Member if I find lice of any kind, nimbles, crabs or whatever in the surgery I will let him know, or chinks, but my information to that is not so.

On the question of dust from construction, before a surgery is used it has to be what is called carbolised. The carbolisation requires a complete detoxification and the removal of all manner of potential infection from the surgery and it becomes sterile. In those circumstances, a patient who insisted that he saw rubbish in a surgery was hallucinating. It is a very simple matter.

Mr. R. P. B YER: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order.

I wonder if the Minister of Health intended a pun in the word "hallucination".

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, this English language defies a lot of people to use it. If I am punning I would never find myself in that situation. No, Sir, I did not intend to pun.

If he said, therefore, that any other room inside the Operating Theatre - I am sure the Leader of the Opposition would not even consider believing any such foolishness that dust was in the Operating Theatre while an operation was about to go on, not with the quality of surgeons which the Leader of the Barbados Labour Party discussed today. He said the University of the West Indies teaching at the QEH is at the highest level, higher than Jamaica and now you come talking about dust in the surgery? Do not confuse the issue with foolishness.

On the question of whether any of this chicken found its way into the public institutions the answer is "No" and I would like the Honourable Member for St. Thomas to tell Ian Bishop that the answer is "No."

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Who is he?

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I am telling him to tell Ian Bishop. That is a phantom person, Sir.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order. He is no phantom. He is a real man and the Minister is afraid of him. He has not answered all of the questions that were put by the same Mr. Bishop on Sunday yet. Answer all seven of them.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, the questions that were asked on Sunday are not questions worthy of a response. Once upon a time I used to say that we could never have too many lawyers in Barbados because everybody who studied law would be able, even if they did not practise at the Bar, to be able to understand logic in the way that lawyers understood. That was before I started reading this column, Sir. I now have a different view on the matter but now is not the time for that.

In so far as the awarding of contracts in the Ministry of Health, the Constitution allows anybody, not a processor, to bid for a contract to supply food. R. L. Seale, Shamrock and the Barbados Marketing Corporation on this occasion, this last financial year, bid for the supply of certain of the supplies to the institutions in the Ministry of Health. They are three of a large number of merchants and stockists and others who bid for the various supplies but, specifically, the chicken, they were included with the other processors.

First of all, we cannot stop them from bidding. Secondly, I am not a Member of the Tenders Committee and, therefore, unless I have varied the tenders Award then the matter does not arise for the Minister. The award is the award of the Tenders Committee. That is what the Tenders Committee recommended. This was not one that was decided by the Cabinet. The Tenders Committee awarded to Shamrock. They awarded to BMC.

The Ministry of Agriculture has asked on occasions that the Barbados Marketing Corporation be allowed to

tender because they represent all of the small suppliers who otherwise should not be able to participate in the supply to the institutions so the BMC tenders and they buy and pick up from all the small producers in Barbados.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAUT: But they process. That is the key. They are able to process at Super Poultry Farm and bid and get a price lower than Super Poultry Farms. Now, if you are buying from somewhere, taking it to Super Poultry Farms to get it processed, and you can still bid cheaper than Super Poultry Farms, it would be strange if you did not get the contract and there are no imbalances to be redressed.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The Government? The Government has an interest in everybody.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: But the financial interest in Super Poultry is not transmitted to the Chairman of the Tenders Committee. The Tenders Committee does not operate on any direction from anybody as the Honourable Members know.

But the point has some validity in it. I am not going to dodge. We discovered that the possibility exist. We do not know it to be so and, again, one of the reasons why I behaved so bad today about the omission is because this was mentioned too in the programme. This was left out of the Press to date but I mention it that we discovered that one of the companies that bid successfully may, in fact, have been purchasing from a company that was unable to bid because it did not have a licence because after 1984 when one of the companies delivered some meat to the School Meals, which was in danger of poisoning the children, it was condemned wholesale. 9.55 p.m.

These problems were going on long before the Democratic Labour Party Government came in. It was determined that no company that was without a licence could bid, there was a disqualification. So we find a little back door work was happening. So this year, and that is how I know that being a lawyer does not make you sensible. This article here...

Laughter.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member is not referring to any of the lawyers in this House.....

Hon. B. M. TAITT: No, Sir.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS:...other than himself. Today he said, Sir, I may be a fool, but I am not a thief.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: That is true. That is true.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Ah.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Ah. But the Honourable Member knows the difference between, the Honourable Member as a lawyer knows the difference between may and shall. To say I may be is not to say that I am. Now I state categorically that I am not a fool.

Laughter.

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Well it is after hearing you all that I realize I could not be a fool.

Laughter.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I am finishing now, Sir. This same question that is asked. This is a main question asked in the series here. It was to do with the contract. We discovered in the Ministry that this was possible. So it is this year that we have included in the Tender Notice that the supplier must guarantee that the supply is coming from a farm that is licensed. Now you can see that that has some other difficult problems. Because the Barbados Marketing Corporation might have a little difficulty because not necessarily each farm that it was buying from in the past will be a licensed farm.

I want to give the assurance in the context of policy we have determined with the Medical Officer of Health that what would be required for a Super Poultry Farm or a Montrose or a MacDonald would not necessarily be required by a smaller operation somewhere in St. Thomas. But we will need standards. Different courses for different horses. So that the small people will be able to get an opportunity once they meet certain basic, minimum standards.

Now I want to give the Honourable Member, the Leader of the Opposition, the assurance that as soon as he gives us the name of the company - there is no evidence that we can identify the company he spoke about - as soon as he gives us the name, we will take an immediate step to deal with the matter in the manner he recommended.

I hope I have answered all the questions. I therefore am going to stop at this point and allow the progress to be reported, Sir.

LEAVE TO SIT AGAIN

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that you do now report progress to His Honour the Speaker and ask for leave to sit again.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question was put and was resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress to Mr. SPEAKER and asked for leave to sit again. Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I move that the sitting be now suspended until 10.00 o'clock on the morning of the 17th March, 1989.

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

The question was put and was resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly at 10.05 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

Mr. SPEAKER: When the Suspension was taken, the House was in Committee of Supply. To that it shall revert.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and Mr. CHAIRMAN resumed the Chair.

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

Mr. R. P. BYER: Mr. Chairman, I want to look at one other matter under this Head, just an enquiry I want to make from the Minister and it concerns the Pulverisation Plant at Workmans in St. George which is within my constituency.

I had, along with the residents of the surrounding areas, those areas that surround the Pulverisation Plant, brought to the attention of the Minister certain concerns that the residents of those districts had expressed. Those districts are Workmans, The Hope, Fairview Heights, Jordans and Jericho.

Some of the districts are in St. George North and some are in St. George South because the Plant is built on the border of the present boundaries of the two constituencies but it is within the constituency of St. George South.

For some time now the residents of those districts have been complaining about certain odours emanating

from the plant and we had brought it to the attention of the Minister by way of letter. He had responded and he had actually toured the plant to see and investigate first hand the nature of those complaints. Efforts were made to correct the problems that were complained about but the residents are not as yet satisfied that everything has been done in terms of correcting those complaints. .

There have been complaints about the disposal of raw garbage on the site of the plant and I should also say that the disposal of garbage is in a way not contemplated by the design of the plant and I would want the Minister to spend some time to bring us up-to-date as to the present situation in that regard.

I know that residents have been calling for the closure of the plant, whether that is possible or not, I do not know but I believe that, as a long term plan, Government will have to address that as an urgent matter because if the plant is going to be used in a way not contemplated, then, certainly, much discomfort would be caused to the residents of the districts that I mentioned.

The plant is situated at the edge of what is called the Old Workman's Quarry and aback of that quarry is a residential district called Fairview Heights and there are some properties that lie right close to the Sewage Treatment Plant. Even though I believe that the residents of those districts might be able to bring an action against Government to force closure of the plant, I am certain that this is not something that they would want done because, once again, we have to balance those interests that I spoke about yesterday, Government's interest as against the public's interests as well and those are the interests that have to be balanced and we must look for that at the point of balance.

That plant, in some respects, constitutes a nuisance and I would want that Government do something about it. There is nothing controversial as yet. There is nothing contentious about the matter. The Minister and myself have collaborated against it. The Minister and the residents of the district have collaborated against it. He has gone there. He has looked at it along with other officials of the Ministry of Health so I just want to say that I do not think that we can play politics with the Nation's health.

It is a matter upon which there should be no political divide and these are matters that we can address in a very amicable way without any blood spilling or anything like that and I would like the Minister at some time during the course of his summing up to give me some idea of the present position in relation to the Workman's Pulverisation Plant.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are a few other items under this Head of Government Business of the Health portfolio to which I would like to advert.

As you know, Sir, before we demitted office, that is, the Barbados Labour Party, in May 1986, we had started the expansion programme at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and, specifically, I think we were spending some \$11 million for the expansion of the theatres and certain other additional facilities including a new Casualty.

I myself have seen the physical work going on there and I believe that the Surgeries and some other facilities are finished although work is still continuing on the expansion of the Casualty of the Hospital.

I am told that, in the meantime, there is continuing pressure on the Casualty Department and waits of upwards to 12 hours are still a regular feature of that department. I have had occasion to pass through the hospital very frequently over the last 9 to 10 months since because of my family I have had to make frequent use myself for my son of the services available in the Ward C-8, I think it is, the Infants Section and, therefore, I pass through Casualty very frequently and when I make the observation that there are long waits, it is not based merely on hearsay but on conversations with some of the people waiting around the Casualty Department. Really what I want to know is there still a shortage of doctors in this area and what is the rotation schedule for them.

Some years we brought, and still have, I believe, at the Casualty a very distinguished Barbadian doctor, Dr. Branker, who is very well qualified and trained in this field and, I believe, the intention was to expand the Casualty Services so that they can respond to genuine emergency situations.

At the same time it was envisaged that with the expansion of the polyclinics, particularly the Sir Winston Scott Polyclinic near the hospital, that non-emergency cases which could be handled at the level of the polyclinics would be handled at that level and, therefore, relieve the pressure on the Casualty Department. I wish the Minister would tell me what are the problems, if any, if my observations and the information reaching me have any basis, in fact, and what are the steps being taken to improve the position there.

Now, Sir, essential to any primary health care system is the expansion of not only the hospital services but special referral clinics, laboratory and X-ray services. At present it is my understanding that a patient is referred to a specialist clinic at the hospital through the polyclinic service but there is a bottleneck and the patient sometimes has, if you are going for a specialist referral, to wait for 3 to 4 months for an appointment and when, at long last you are seen and it is recommended that you have to do an operation or surgery, that the waiting period can be still upwards to a year and sometimes patients turn up and I know of a couple of these

cases for operations after waiting several months and then are referred back one, two, and in one case, I know on three occasions before the operation can be performed. 10.15a.m.

This happens usually with the category of persons who have not got the money themselves to go to the specialist to possibly buy the space in the pay ward or, if it is an operation where the service is available at one of the private clinics, to obtain those services there. It seems to me that with the physical expansion which has taken place at the QEH we should be in a position now to be bringing on stream many more operating theatres. I trust that the necessary human resources have also been provided by now to have got rid of the bottlenecks of which I just spoke.

The other area, Sir, that I have some concern about is the X-ray services. It is my understanding that there has been an increase in the number of persons who have been referred and who need to use the X-ray facilities whether it is for Barium study or ultra sound or Mamogram, and again that there is a long waiting period occurring in this particular department. I also understand, Sir, I do not know whether it has been repaired yet, that the CATSCAN which was bought at a tremendous cost was destroyed partially out of operation because a rat or rats destroyed the wire.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: You dealt with that. I understand that despite the fact that a French technician came down to repair the service that the bit of the machine is still not in full operation. I wonder whether the Minister could respond and say, if this is so, what is the problem that has occurred here.

I also was told, Sir, and I have to seek the Minister's explanation on this, that there was a long wait for uniforms for some hospital staff, particularly nurses, and that between the period of October 1986 and up to a month ago, no additional nursing uniforms were available. Is this really so? The information should be within the Ministry and could the Minister say why, because this Committee of Supply has voted supplies and there should be no reason why this problem should have occurred unless the problem has occurred because of inefficiency in Central Purchasing or whoever had responsibility for getting the uniforms in place. I am told that the same comments which I have made about uniforms apply likewise in other hospital supplies and that this problem has occurred in relation to linen and bed sheets and other hospital supplies that are necessary. In fact, Sir, it seems that part of the problem is because of the tendering system, not at the door of the Ministry of Health. But again I must ask whether this is so. I myself do not like to on the floor of the House raise matters unless I myself have the relevant information. But I am concerned, Sir, when I receive letters from people and hear statements from persons about some of the allegations surrounding the

purchasing of hospital supplies. I understand, and the Minister could put me right if it is not correct, I think he should take the opportunity to either confirm or deny it, that there is some problem about the ordering of supplies which include videos and microwaves, microwave ovens ostensibly ordered and without any authority and unclaimed. That therefore no person has claimed this because it seemed that it was not ordered for the hospital although it turned up

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Microwaves. Ovens and videos although it turned up on the hospital premises. I am asking the Minister to let us know whether that is correct. I think sometimes it is necessary to defuse the public's minds of what turned out to be information which is being peddled. Very frequently when you get information on these matters, I think it is necessary that we should get the truth about them.

The other area to which I want to advert is the crematorium. The Minister has gone on record as saying that the Government is giving consideration to the construction of a crematorium. Indeed in the Development Plan 1988-1993 there is a brief mention of, almost in identical words, of the Government giving consideration to the establishment of a crematorium. I have heard that the area being looked at is the Bushy Park Cemetery.

Now, Sir, we have on the Statute Book legislation as long ago I think as the 1920s and I believe that that legislation was repeated in the 1941 Edition of the Laws of Barbados and probably updated then allowing the establishment of a crematorium and setting out the working conditions, setting out the regulatory framework....

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: - The 1940s I think in which from a public health point of view the Ministry or the Government would have some control over the establishment of a crematorium in Barbados. It seems to me that it is an area in which the funeral establishments in particular should have a vital interest.

I understand that there is one and possibly two private sector persons who have had a long association in the funeral business who are interested in expending the necessary funds for the establishment of a crematorium. In fact, it is my understanding as well that applications have been made to the Town and Country Planning Department and that, in the case of one applicant, the land was actually identified. Unfortunately no decision was given in time to permit that transaction to go through. Instead it seems that the Government itself wants to be involved in this enterprise.

Now I hold the view, Sir, that it is an enterprise in which the Government can satisfactorily defend the public interest by existing legislation, updating existing legislation without itself having to take over responsibility for the operation of such an enterprise. If private citizens in - Barbados, Barbadian citizens and particularly those connected with the funeral business for several years, that if those persons have an interest in developing - thank you, Sir - this enterprise, it seems to me that the role of the Government and the role of the Ministry is not to invest public funds in something that obviously can be carried on without any detriment to the public's interest but to ensure that the Government has adequate legislation in place in order to defend the public interest either from the position of public health or from the position of misuse of the facilities in any discriminatory way. In that way, the Government would have performed its role properly and the Government would not have to put at risk public funds or in fact public endeavour and extending state enterprise along these lines. The Government may be unhappy that one particular funeral establishment one or two may be the persons primarily interested. 10.25 a.m.

But it seems to me that the Government, again, on such a venture can take the initiative in bringing in all of the funeral establishments to operate a genuine cooperative for this purpose and allow them, therefore, to be the persons taking the main initiative in this regard. I think that we should have a clear statement of the Minister's and the Ministry's position on this matter. It is a matter I believe, Sir, where the public would like to hear the Ministry's final word on this issue. I think my time has expired, Sir.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, whenever there is any debate or discussion on the processing of raw sewage, I believe that in most people's mind the whole question of the protection of the environment should come sharply into focus. I know that a study has been done and the Minister had pointed out that there are consultants and work is being done on the South Coast Sewerage Project. I do not think that it could have been more timely because of the large numbers of visitors who are concentrated in that area which is a relatively small area, and the same obtains on the west coast, and they have provided those persons who have to deal with this matter with a very serious challenge. The proliferation of those large plants, hotels and apartments - when I say plants, I mean hotels and apartments - pose some very serious environmental problems. Because we all know, and it has been ventilated in more than one forum, where many of these people are practising methods of disposal of the raw sewage in ways that none of us would prefer, but because of the lack of a system and maybe the lack of the ability to properly police what is happening there or the lack of any kind of legislation that will be necessary to deal with them, we have been having this problem. The protection of the environment along the coast then, Sir, has become a very

critical issue. Damage is being done first of all to the sea water in the area, the area for bathing, and areas where Barbadians and visitors alike enjoy or used to enjoy their sea bathing. We now have a situation where in some areas there are foul smells and only recently I read in the newspaper and to some extent I had a first hand experience of some very bad pollution in the Brighton area where people actually were affected with swollen eyes and itching skin. Obviously, it was something that would have created that problem in the water at that time.

The marine life, as is pretty well known, has been severely damaged. Much of the algae along the shore-line which forms food for a lot of marine life and small fish has been destroyed and to a large extent a lot of it has virtually disappeared in most areas. I believe then if only for those reasons there is obviously urgent need to take positive action and, therefore, I was very heartened to hear that the much talked about West Coast-South Coast Sewerage Project has at least started even only at the stages of doing the consultative work, because, Sir, the necessity cannot be stressed too much.

I have spoken to my colleague on my left whom the Minister of Agriculture calls an expert and he told me that, contrary to reports, you can see a return of some of this marine life if this matter is dealt with now. He is of the opinion that this will not happen in our lifetime. I am hoping that he is wrong and that the other experts are in fact correct, that we can see a return of this marine life once the system is in place and, more importantly, the properties are hooked up. Maybe the Minister can give us some information on this. Part of the problem of the Bridgetown Sewerage Project is that it appears that a large number of properties are not hooked up. I do not know what the number is like now, but I know a few months ago there was a lot of talk about properties not hooked up and some of them not hooked up properly, some of them causing the sewerage plant itself serious problems. But I will get to that plant a little later.

I believe the problem that comes into focus as a result of our concentrating on this sewage problem leads us to believe that there is a need for more long term plans for the general care of the environment. We need to create, in my opinion, a sort of environmental protection agency with the attendant teeth to enforce the laws and regulations that govern the protection of the very environment.

* You see, Sir, we continue to hear of the dangers of illegal dumping of garbage. I know the Honourable Minister has been at pains to appeal to people to desist from this illegal dumping of garbage all over the countryside, not only just spoiling our beautiful countryside and lovely gullies, and I know the Member for St. Michael South East shares this opinion with me about the position of gullies in Barbados. We both think they are some very beautiful areas. It not only spoils those beautiful gullies but in a lot of

cases we have some very dangerous garbage in areas where we say are a zone for water and one does not have to stretch one's imagination too far to understand the kind of serious problems we can get from toxic waste, and I use the term "toxic" broadly. I do not want to bring out connotations of nuclear waste. I am talking about toxic broadly - seeping in to the water table.

We have heard in this debate so far the talk about weedicides and pesticides and the danger they pose to the marine life. I want to go further and say that there are some weedicides, I am told, that are allowed in and that are used in Barbados that are banned in other developed countries. I believe the Honourable Minister of Health in collaboration with the Minister of Agriculture can give us some information on that. But some of them I am told are heavy and do not disappear in the atmosphere - the excess - and some of them tend to sink into the soil and the information I get is this can be a very dangerous thing.

I think then, Sir, that in 1989 we really should have a serious environmental protection agency to deal with a lot of these areas and to deal with the persons who intend to turn a deaf ear to all the pleas of the Ministry of Health to deal with them in a serious manner.

Now Sir, I got from what I read that it is envisaged that the greater Bridgetown area will also be serviced by the existing plant at Lakes Folly. It is envisaged that this will be done with the addition of 2 pumping stations or what were called trickling filters, whatever those are. But, Sir, I have some very, very serious concerns about that happening because I am already concerned about the existing plant in Lakes Folly and successive Ministers of Health know of my concern and the people in that area are concerned about the plant. The Minister of Trade knows first hand what happens to that plant, because if the air conditioner goes and he has to open the window at the Ministry down there he knows first hand the kind of stench that comes from that plant. I have been told by many of the persons down there that it is a problem that occurs occasionally. But the occasionally that I get from the residents is that it is daily almost. I do not call that occasionally at all. I was present one Sunday in a resident's home and it was almost difficult to breathe. You could almost taste it. You know there are some stenchs that you could almost taste. You have never drunk kerosene oil but you know it has a smell that you can almost taste. So the whole problem of the plant whether it can be solved, whether it cannot be solved, whether they are dumping the wrong kind of sewage in it and whether they are not - these are problems that will have to be sorted out because they are causing unnecessary aggravation, to put it mildly, to the persons who have to live in the vicinity. 10.35 a.m.

That problem with that plant, Mr. Chairman, seems to be an ongoing problem. I am told by residents in the area that, prior to 1976, when it was envisaged that a former

Democratic Labour Party administration would put a plant in that area, that meetings were held with the residents. The Honourable Deputy Prime Minister, the Leader of the House, was present at one of those meetings - he is not in his seat now - and the then Minister of Health, and it was explained to the people in the area that they would all be moved out of the immediate area where the plant would be, and a certain distance beyond the perimeter fence of the plant would be what I would call a buffer zone, a no man's land, nobody would live there, the houses would be moved. Needless to say, Sir, the Democratic Labour Party lost office and the Barbados Labour Party came in after promising the people during the election campaign - and these are the words I am getting from the residents - that they would not be moved, they came into office, continued with the programme of putting up the sewerage plant, moved some of the people, mostly the ones who were immediately on the site where the plant would be, left most of them around the perimeter fence and some time just coming up to the 1986 election a few more were moved. There are people living almost touching the perimeter fence of this plant, and they remain there to suffer the discomforts.

This Democratic Labour Party administration has been in office now for almost three years - another two months or so and it will be three years - and a large number of these people still have not been moved.

The Honourable Minister of Housing went with me, I think it was September 1986, on his insistence, and he spoke himself with the residents who are affected and who should have been moved, and back then he promised and assured them that they would be resited. From time to time, in speaking with him about it he explained to me that there were certain difficulties in securing sites and other technical difficulties which he was trying to overcome. The last thing I heard was that the people were told by a man purporting to be from the Ministry of Housing - I put it that way because when I asked about it I was told that they did not send anybody - went and saw the residents, measured their properties and told them they would be moved to Passage Road. I then saw a report in the newspaper, which I have never seen refuted by the Minister of Housing, that the people in Chapman Lane would be moved to Passage Road. This has not happened. As a matter of fact, what I am being told now is that the site in Passage Road where the people thought they were going to be moved is now earmarked for a playing field. It is not in my constituency, it is in the constituency of the Honourable Minister of Health.

I believe, Sir, that on this matter - and I will not say much more about this now - the requests of these people are more than reasonable. They have been suffering and waiting for as long as that plant was there. Two successive administrations promised to move them and they are still there. I hope they do not have to wait until the NDP gets Government to move them, but my feeling is that if this

Democratic Labour Party administration really wants to demonstrate that they care about under privileged people and poor people, and the masses and all these things I hear them saying, for God's sake move the people from behind the sewerage plant.

Thank you, Sir.

Mr. E. BOURNE: Mr. Chairman, just a few words on this item. Sir, the evidence is there that there is raw sewage destroying our reefs. This in turn is leading to a depletion of fish and marine life and as a result of this reef destruction serious erosion of our beaches is the result. The reefs serve as a barrier against high waves and heavy currents which impinge on sandy coasts, and if this continues we will be a country without beaches.

Now, about the sewerage treatment plant which is slated for the south coast. Our experience with the present plant at Lakes Folly is not a happy one and I would like an assurance from the Minister that the south coast plant would be more efficient and that the foul odours will not be emitted from this plant which will make our environment unbearable and uninhabitable, because these conditions will greatly effect our tourist industry.

The last speaker was talking about a buffer zone around the Lakes Folly plant. There was a time when I lived near a sewerage treatment plant in Toronto, and that nearness was something like almost half a mile, and this plant was fitted with a very, very tall stack or chimney and there was a particular time every year when nothing could contain the smell coming from that plant. I would hope that our new plant would not be something like what I have experienced in Toronto or what the people in Lakes Folly are experiencing now.

Turning to the issue of garbage dumping. I remember a short while ago this garbage dumping was discussed and the Minister was pleading with all and sundry to desist from such a practice. We in Barbados like to talk about more education, more education, more education, but I think that the time is now when we should police these areas and fine these people quite heavily. I think as a means of punishment people caught breaking these laws should have their names and pictures plastered all over the place as an example. 10.45 a.m.

I think this will cause them to employ better hygienic practices.

There is a lot to be done in garbage pick-up around the country, especially in my constituency. For months now I have been looking at piles and piles of broken and rotten lumber, old fridges and stoves and beds heaped up on several streets, and I was told that the public health inspectors asked the people to put them there and they

would be taken away. There are cases where these things have been there now for well over six months, and I would like to know from the Minister if and when there would be an improvement in garbage collection in this area of the country.

Now we talk a lot about garbage, we talk a lot about soil pollution, but we never talk about air pollution. A human being can live for some time without food, he can live for a few days without water, but only a few minutes without air; but yet in all our deliberations we seem to forget this fact. I want to know when something will be done about the heavy pollutants in our air. Pollutants come from the various machinery travelling the highway, diesel trucks, buses, cars and the like. The carbon which comes from these vehicles in time causes respiratory problems in humans, and it has been proven in Japan that too much exposure to diesel odours and fumes will cause cancer. I would like to know from the Minister if and when something will be done about air pollution. I thank you.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, before the Minister responds, I again would like to advert to the number of environmental problems confronting Barbados and indeed the environmental problems now confronting the world which are impacting on our own environment within the Caribbean.

Honourable Members have spoken about a couple of these problems and particularly about the problem of sewage and garbage, and I particularly wish to in my fifteen minutes advert to the special problems of the south as it is envisaged that the south coast sewerage project will probably impact more heavily on my own constituency than for any other, although the constituency of the Honourable Member for Christ Church West Central, the Attorney General, will also feel the impact of this development. I will explain to you in a minute what I mean by impact. The Honourable Member to your right can explain even more graphically than I can.

Let me say that there is an increasing interest by the ordinary citizen in Barbados in the question of the environment. Unfortunately that interest is not always manifested in a restraint of a few reckless people who misuse the environment and the conditions of our country to destroy the reasonable environmental conditions which are necessary for our health. The increasing interest has manifested itself as well in international institutions like the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank which funds projects in Barbados and in the Third World, now insisting that projects be examined for their environmental impact, and I think the Minister understands that word now and is prepared to ensure that there are funds available to minimise any adverse effects which may come from physical planning in these countries.

Now the Barbados Labour Party was quick to recognise even ahead of its re-election to office in 1976 the hope that these issues affecting the environment had to be dealt with properly. Within the Ministry they would find my own notes in which I took the initiative in urging the establishment of a department of the environment following up on the party's manifesto, and they would find a lot of thinking and suggestions having gone into the matter, and in this regard, Sir, if you would permit me, I wish to commend the Permanent Secretary who was then in the particular Ministry, Mr. Chessie Thompson, now retired, for the very concrete and useful proposals which he put leading to first the establishment of the department of the environment and finally the recognition that environmental matters merited its own Ministry. I say, Sir, that when we are re-elected, we intend to promote environmental matters as a very important part of managing the affairs of the country and to have a full Ministry of the environment again.

Now, Sir, Honourable Members adverted to the question of garbage, and although the sanitation service has the primary responsibility for this, I am yet disappointed myself in the way in which we have been treating garbage in this country. There are still those who willy-nilly and despite the presence on the statute book of regulations and laws forbidding and prohibiting the wanton littering of our streets and of our environment, go about in a cavalier fashion and destroy the environment by throwing litter anywhere. It is not only commercial houses who persist in this practice, not all commercial houses, some of them, but some of our own citizens who do this as well. Sir.

Now that adds to the problems of the Sanitation Department and it is not only an eye sore for those of us who like to see cleanliness along our highways and streets, but it is also a dangerous practice which invites the rodent population to spread their poison among our households. The same goes for sewage, Sir. The Bridgetown Sewage Project has been a beneficial project although there are still one or two problems occurring for people who are near the plant. Already one can detect within the inner Careenage that life has returned and some of the aqua marine objects can be seen thriving once more, and therefore I would like to say that, in executing that project, I believe that the Barbados Labour Party administration has performed a service to this country. 10.55a.m.

Yet, Sir, we recognize as well that the South Coast calls for immediate action and we organized the funding for the scheme and this Government, in a continuum is now proceeding with the final planning stages of the South Coast Scheme and we have started initial discussions and pre-feasibility studies in relation to the West Coast Scheme as well.

The density of the population of our island is seen in Christ Church and St. Michael, and to a lesser extent in St. Philip and in St. James, and I think it is very important that the whole of the coastline stretching from St. Philip right up to the North should have proper sewage schemes and that we should ensure that these are in place, if possible, before the year 2000.

Now, the Honourable Member for Christ Church West Central and myself have the problem that the outfall is being planned to be in his constituency and this was the original planning unless it is now being taken out to sea and we have had our strong reservations about some of the proposals for the Graeme Hall area.

A large number of my constituents live down stream of the wind and a large number of the Honourable Member's constituents, likewise, downstream and we want to be assured that everything is going to be done to eradicate - the Honourable Leader of the Opposition is a constituent of mine and I guarantee, Sir, that I will protect him in here whether it is from the other side, whether it is from garbage or anything else. I give him my assurance he will get protection.

But we have to be certain that in carrying out physical planning of this nature that we do not get the sort of consequential adverse effects of which the Honourable Member for the City spoke and I agree that Governments have to rely on their consultants to a large extent and to their experts but sometimes we take them at their word and we allow the requirements of the international institutions to drive our commonsense out of the window and although I recognize that it is probably much more expensive to have the plant somewhere else in the long run, let us learn from the experience of Bridgetown and, possibly, go forward to taking up that expense now and making sure that those who come 20, 30 years after carry part of the expense of the national debt.

I do not want, again, to see that we have as in Bridgetown a plant that does not cater adequately to the large volume of waste that is taken there and that in itself is creating a problem. I think if we could relieve that problem the residents around that plant would not suffer as much so I am entering a plea, Sir.

I am sure the Honourable Member for Christ Church West Central and myself would wish the Ministry to be as open and candid with us and at all stages allow us to know what is happening. He is within the Cabinet and he would, at least, see some of the paper, if not all of the papers as they come to the Cabinet. I am not there but I am going to demand on the floor of the House that I be privy and I wish the officials to understand that I will be following them up, not only the Minister, relentlessly on behalf of the people of

Christ Church West and of the surrounding areas to ensure that everything is possibly done to minimize any fall out.

Now, Sir, I am concerned as well about the effect of what the Honourable Member for Christ Church East referred to as the pollution from smells in this country and not only from sewage and garbage but the pollution from the type of gasoline that we continue to use.

We have moved to a stage now that we only have lead-free petrol because it has been proven that a good deal of the diseases, whether they are respiratory or cancer, can result from the fumes that come out of the vehicles that we use and Barbados is a country that has a high number in relation to our population. We have about one motorcar for 4 persons in our population.

Asides.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: We really have a developed country profile in this regard but we have not yet put in place measures to restrict the pollution that results from that type of situation.

Now, Sir, I also want to advert to the question not only of the destruction of our reefs, but the continuing destruction of our trees. On the Statute Book there is provision where the Government will pay people who plant certain types of trees. I do not know that many applications have been made to the Ministry of Agriculture recently in this regard. It is not only fruit trees. I believe at one stage it was extended to mahogany trees and what's not but I see we cut down trees, it has happened under our administration, it continues to happen under this administration.

I adverted yesterday in committee to the destruction taking place going towards Paddock Road by the National Union of Public Workers where mature mahogany trees are slated for destruction. Now, I agree that sometimes one is going to have, perhaps, in the interest of development, to get rid of some trees but there must be an undertaking to replant and I am not seeing much of this happening. In fact, I hope that the green belt which formerly existed will no further be destroyed in Barbados.

As you now drive to the countryside you wonder where agriculture or the green belt begins and the City ends because all of our Heights are coming up. We are getting the new Heights but in the process you are seeing concrete everywhere and we are not.....

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The Honourable Member for St. John says except St. John, Sir. He and I have a good sense to have close connection with that parish.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has two minutes.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Yes, Sir.

I would wish to see that the Town Planning Department in particular try to maintain a part of the green belt and, in any event, that a condition of planning be that one restores and replants trees as well.

The last point I want to advert to if you will allow me in one minute not only affects Barbados but it affects the world at large. As a citizen of the world, I am deeply disturbed about the threat to the ozone layer and the destruction and the impact of the continual destruction of the tropical rain forest in Brazil.

I believe that the voice of this country, small though we are, must be raised as loud as we can and as unremittedly as we should in defence of the ozone layer because we are nearer than even some of the European countries are. We are nearer to the Tropical Zone and, in my view, the first impact, if not the immediate impact, is going to be to the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and I hope that as we speak in international organizations, whether it be the World Health, PAHO, or whatever, that our Ministers feel it our bounden duty to lend their strong support to those of us who are environmentalists fighting in defence of keeping the universe for those of us who now populate it and those to come in the future.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I should like to begin by saying that I enjoyed listening to the presentation by the Leader of the Barbados Labour Party about aspects of the environment and so on and I should like to concentrate more on the parochial aspect although I would join with him in what, perhaps, may be his wider call for the voice of Barbados in the international forum with respect to issues relating to the environment, the ozone layer and other issues that would affect the future of life on earth in which I hope to have a rosy and bright future which other young people would like to have a rosy and bright future. 11.05a.m.

Now, Sir, the first thing that I wish to say is

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: No. If I raise my voice I would not be able to speak for more than two minutes, and the Minister would like that because he is anxious, I am certain, to wrap it up.

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I should like to start by saying that the last time we were here for the Estimates Debate, or if it was not the Estimates it was shortly after the Estimates, the question of the Health Ministry came up and the Minister gave a very firm undertaking after my own reminders that the polyclinic in St. John would be completed in this Financial Year. My first worry was that he would perhaps have considered putting something back on that site in Gall Hill which I think would have been a disaster, or certainly at least as disastrous as the location is to the present users. There are two major problems, one relates to flooding and the other one relates, I think, to the asbestos roof which has caused a particular problem for the Welfare Department which has had to move and, as I understand, it, will be building a new office or using one of the existing structures as its new office. I understand that the Ministry might be taking a decision to go to a new location. If I am correct in that understanding, this polyclinic will be one of the most beautiful polyclinics, it would even rival the location of the one in St. Peter and it will have a commanding view of the East Coast. Therefore I think that the location of a polyclinic in that area speaks a lot to health generally.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: No, not Martin's Bay on this occasion. When you all have the opportunity you can escort me down in Martin's Bay and I will tell you about that. But the polyclinic location that is being presented I think is ideal and I do not know if I can speak about it. But I am certain the Minister would not mind. He went and visited the site where the old almshouse, as it was called, was in the Glebe, St. John. As I say, it is an ideal location.

At the same time however, I should like to implore the Ministry of Health, if it is the owner of the building, or the Ministry of Housing to consider with me at the earliest opportunity to what use the existing site can be put when the polyclinic moves, because it is a central location. When we move to the Glebe it means you are expanding the entire area and, therefore, there will be a need for more community services and that kind of thing. In addition to that the Ministry of Housing will be providing house spots shortly in that Gall Hill area between the cemetery and the playing field. The whole area will actually be spatially expanding. As a result we will have a greater strain on the provision of social services. Therefore Government should not, in my view, consider the building a write off, but should at the earliest opportunity discuss how best it can be utilized, perhaps with some improvements to the structure.

The question of dumping and so on is one which has consumed this House for a long time, and rightly so. There are many parts of the world where people inherently have a thing about dumping garbage and throwing litter through the window and so on. We do not seem to have that in Barbados but I think that if it is said in here often enough

and if other public institutions take a position on it and the court actually gives somebody a heavy fine or even locks up somebody shortly, the message will come home once all of the institutions are committed to it.

In St. Lucia they had to introduce, as I understand it, a policing system. They have special police, the litter wardens which in the patios they call the Zordi police. Within a year it has made tremendous difference to the area of Castries which is also developing. In Bermuda people just would not dare to consider throwing a piece of litter anywhere. I think we should, perhaps, consider developing a rigid programme to stop the problems of dumping and the problems of the disposal of certain kinds of plastics and that kind of thing which is a tremendous problem.

Recently I have passed in the Broadley area and, I know it is private land, but I passed there and saw somebody had dumped a Transport Board bus down at the end of Broadley. Now nothing can be more unreasonable and irresponsible. If it is the owners, they are unreasonable and irresponsible. If it is somebody just dumping it, they are unreasonable and irresponsible.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Who?

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: If it is somebody's caravan, I would not know. I pass and see a bus down to the end, blue and yellow. It does not fit in with the environment. If it were painted green. Unless that is one of the buses that has been hanging around for years, that was sold for \$100, or whatever years ago and they are now trying to dispose of them quietly. But it looks unsightly and something should be done about it. The Honourable Minister of Agriculture knows about it and I will be consulting him shortly.

But there is a lot of dumping in areas where there are cliff faces. A lot of dumping off the cliff over Martin's Bay. A lot of dumping off the same cliff by Broadley, off Hackleton's Cliff. Recently I passed in Ashford, St. John and I see people are dumping in one of the caves which means that they are dumping in an area which obviously is Zone 1. And this is something that the Ministry is going to have to be very serious about.

All in all, I want to say that I have listened to the debate very carefully on health. I have not got into the chicken issue. The only thing I will say is that the position that the Honourable Member for St. George South took in the debate is admirable, in the sense that I think that if somebody feels that strongly about something, one should not be cowed into submission.

But at the end of the day what concerns me is that if the public of Barbados feels that it is powerless in situations relating to either its health, in relation to its education and so on, we will then be breeding a society that we cannot control.

So "that whatever steps the Minister has taken, however swift he may have been in dealing with the situation, it is admirable, because at least it gives the public of Barbados the knowledge that this Administration will ensure that the people are empowered and that they feel that Barbados still belongs to them and that we will take whatever steps are necessary in the interest of protecting their health, even if we have made errors, even if we have not, that we will look forward or be forward looking to correct those errors and that in any situation of haste there will be a few land mines you are going to step into. Fortunately the Minister's foot was not blown off in any of the land mines because the situation is not a question of errors of judgment, it is a question of people setting the land mines for you and waiting with glee for you to step into them.

I must say at the end of the day I admire him - he is once again in a long association which goes back - he taught me some very good and careful lessons, and my admiration remains intact. At the end of the day, the people of Barbados feel, whatever errors were made, whatever they perceive to be errors made, that they are still in control and have been empowered as a result of the decision by the Minister to take whatever action he took. That is the most critical thing.

The Honourable Member for St. George South wants to take it a step further, that the people of Barbados must feel that there are no individuals who can walk around this country planting their big foot everywhere without being restrained from time to time. What he is talking about, too, is empowerment. The fact that the average Barbadian feels that he has some control over his destiny. That there is somebody he can turn to. There is somebody who is willing to stop the reckless employment attitude, and somebody to stop the recklessness that may abound in a vital system of capitalism where greed, selfishness and graft and corruption are usually a lot higher than we sometimes bandy it around in here in respect of each other foolishly. That is the essence of this debate, whether we have helped the people of Barbados feel that they are still in control of Barbados and of their future. The participants, as I said, have all addressed that issue, although not directly.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I propose to wind up this debate now. I wish to thank all Honourable Members for the contributions which they have made, because it is by having these inputs at Estimates time and these questions being asked that, not only the Minister, but

the officials who come down to Estimates, can get some idea of the essence of what it is that concerns the people of Barbados, because sometimes we may be working very diligently in one direction when in fact we may be neglecting another direction.

I shall try, Mr. Chairman, in winding up, to respond to all of the questions that have been asked. I will start with the questions raised by the Honourable Member for St. George South on the pulverization plant at St. George. The pulverization plant is a system by which garbage is taken to the plant and then it is chipped up into smaller bits and pieces and then it is disposed of on a garbage dump that is next door to the plant. 11.15a.m.

Sometime ago the residents of the area complained to the Ministry and I visited the plant and realized that what was happening was that the garbage which came out of the plant was being dumped in an area of the quarry quite legitimately but it was being put in a mound nearer to where the residents were located. I must say that one of the problems we have is that there are some residents who came to the area and they found the plant in operation. Now there is a basic principle in law that you have to take the situation as you find it. You cannot come to the place, find it in a certain position, and then complain about the result of the position you found. That notwithstanding, it is obvious that

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I did not suggest that. If you want me to discuss toilet waste - I was trying to avoid getting into a technical discussion as I realize there are a lot of people here who would like to hear the facts but not necessarily the techniques. The Honourable Member knows that if you come to the nuisance it will not fall well out of your mouth to be complaining of the same nuisance.

Asides.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: That is right.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: But I am not suggesting that because there are some people who were there before. The fact is though that at that time it was my view that the covering - there is a certain technology that is used, you put on the raw garbage after it has been processed - then you cover with covering material which is usually mould or a similar thing. Bearing in mind the complaints, we specified that they should move to a different part of the dump, that they should cover even at a greater level than they were accustomed to and we also imported a deodorizer from Atlanta, Georgia which we have been applying to that dump and to the other dumps. It is fairly expensive but we feel in all the circumstances that it is money well spent.

The life of the pulverization plant and the dump had been put according to what the residents say, but I wrote to the Minister, Miss Billie Miller, confidentially and asked her whether she had ever fixed a particular time for the dump to expire and she confirmed that she had never so fixed any time. I think that I am authorized to say that I wrote to her confidentially. I also discussed with the officials that we should try as soon as possible to bring the dump to an end. It does seem that a 5 year span - this is the specific answer to your question - is about the maximum we can go at that site.

However, because there is a shortage of potential places for creating other landfills, the Government is at the moment with the assistance from CIDA seeking to develop a solid waste disposal plant. This project had been offered about 5 years ago and at that time it was being considered as an energy project more than anything else. It was not accepted at that time, that is to say the feasibility study showed that it was expensive and at that time the Government did not feel able to proceed with it. However, because of the shortage of landfill areas, we have decided now the priority has to be shifted from energy to solid waste disposal. So this is a very active project which you will not find in the Development Plan but which has come as a matter of urgency after we have done a survey of the country. The real problem is that our urban and suburban development has been occurring virtually all over Barbados and, therefore, there are very few places that you will be able to find a potential landfill that is not within 100 to 200 yards of some development or the other. The result is, therefore, that we are going to have to spend something in the vicinity as far as I can see of \$50 to \$60 million to develop a solid waste disposal plant. We have identified the methodology. We have identified the size of the plant. We have done a pre-feasibility study and we are now in the process of having a feasibility study, *not* as to whether we should have a feasibility study, but as to what is the best plant for Barbados in all the circumstances. If we can get that going, that will not be the answer for all times, but that will carry us into the twenty-first century and help us in this business of the disposal of solid waste.

I would like to link that to a question raised by the Honourable Member for the City in this context. The dumping in the gullies - there is a man called Herman Lowe....I call his name just for description...who has demonstrated beyond a shadow of doubt that the gullies in Barbados, and I have said it in this House before and on the radio, are in grave danger of destruction. So that again the solid waste disposal plant, the urgency of it, is now immediate. When the plant is in existence, we are going to have to embark on a systematic cleaning of each single gully in Barbados because it is my contention that the gullies form an intrinsic part of the tourism plant or the environmental plant for Barbadians in this country. The exploration of our gullies can provide a fantastic recreational facility for Barbadians and visitors alike. So

that is a pattern which we must follow in the preservation of our environment I assure the Honourable Member, therefore, that we are working assiduously and with all deliberate speed to bring this project to fruition at an early stage. I will have obviously to come back to the House with more information on that as we develop.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church West in his first intervention raised questions concerning the Casualty Department and the hospital generally and its relationship with the primary health care services, the pressure on the Casualty Department. He said the 12 hour waits appear to be still the norm. I am authorized to say, based on the information given to me, that 12 hour waits are not the norm, that from time to time there will still be a person who may have an extraordinary wait in the Casualty, but when that occurs now I am satisfied that that is because, taking the triaxon system which is used in the Casualty, that other urgencies and other emergencies and other priorities come in.

Recently we had a case where the Emergency Department was in fact treating the patient. Having seen the patient they had given the patient medication and sent the patient to the X-ray Department, the patient had come back and was resting comfortably on a stretcher waiting for the Registrar to determine whether the person should be admitted or not, but in the meantime, they wanted the patient to have a few hours of observation. The family that was waiting outside then concluded that they had to wait at the hospital for 10 hours. Now they were in fact at the hospital for 10 hours. But during that 10 hour period the person who had come to the hospital was in fact getting treatment.

Recently, we acquired 4 posts for Receptionists at the Casualty which will be called the Ambulance and Emergency Department because we are satisfied that one of the problems at the Casualty has been that, when people come there, there was never anyone whom they could talk to about what was going on or anyone to direct them other than the medical personnel. We have given those persons specialist training and we intend to continue to give them specialist training so that they will be able to deal with some of the problems when people come to the Emergency Department, problems which people have tended to feel quite personally. 11.25a.m.

The other difficulty which we have at the moment is that, because of the refurbishing which is going on at the hospital, there are only 12 bays available in the make-shift Casualty Department or Emergency Department. When the new Accident and Emergency Department is completed, we will have some 20 to 24 bays which will allow for a faster turn around.

As to the number of staff in the Accident and Emergency Department, there are now two Consultants and

14 doctors in the Accident and Emergency Department. The Honourable Member, the Leader of the Opposition, will be able to tell you of the time when there used to be no Consultant and three or four doctors in the Department. Frankly, the population size has not increased that much; but what Jias happened is that the hospital is being used more often and in a different way.

When we have the new Accident and Emergency Department we expect that we will be able to educate people to bring only accident and emergency cases to the hospital. We know that some percentage will still come, because they do not feel comfortable unless they go to a hospital, and we expect to link the services provided at the St. Joseph Hospital with the services provided at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital so that there will be an Accident and Emergency Department in the north as well, and that should ease the pressure on the Casualty.

As for the linkage between the Sir Winston Scott Polyclinic and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, that linkage did not work as well initially as it was anticipated when the system was put in place. You will find that monies have been put in these Estimates for the repair of the X-Ray machine in the Sir Winston Scott Polyclinic which had lain idle for some considerable time. What will happen, therefore, is that that X-Ray machine, together with the staff that will be attached to it, the Radiographers, et cetera, will go some way toward relieving the pressure on the X-Ray Department of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

We will be seeking to get additional staff to activate the laboratories in the polyclinics. One of the things which I found when I went to the Ministry - which we found, my predecessor the Honourable Member for St. James South and myself - we found that while the polyclinics themselves had been designed with a laboratory, and while the equipment was purchased and is in the respective polyclinics, that the staffing had been truncated and that as a result there was a centralisation of the laboratory services at the Sir Winston Scott Polyclinic. It is my contention that that defeats the purpose of the polyclinic system and we will be seeking from the Establishments Division, indeed we have already put in train the process so that we may have the requisite laboratory services at the polyclinics which will relieve again the pressure which has built up, and which continues to build up, at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

So that the bottlenecks of which the Honourable Member spoke would tend to disappear. The incident he referred to had occurred in the previous financial year, and we discussed it last year here. But let me say that the Catscan is functional, and has been functional. I can say that of my own knowledge because I myself had a catscan and it is a very interesting exercise. I had a catscan when I had problems with my back.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: That was long before that rumour. That rumour went out subsequently. But they are always doing something to me. But I had a catscan, it is functional and it is a very interesting exercise. It is not one that I would want to have every week, but is one that every Honourable Member should have at some time, if for no other reason than to have some idea of what a catscan is. But the Catscan is functional and it is maintained by virtue of an agreement which we have with the suppliers. The suppliers send a technician in from Puerto Rico. We have one of those contracts for repairs and servicing.

I might say in passing that these Estimates carry with them a sum of \$2 million. That money is designed to begin the establishment of a catheterisation laboratory at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, which is the first step toward major heart surgery in Barbados two, three, four years down the road. At the moment under the Medical Aid Scheme, which is in the vicinity of \$2 million per year, we send a number of our heart patients and other patients outside of Barbados when the procedures which have to be followed, or the treatment which has to be given, is not available in Barbados. Included in that is a substantial number of persons suffering from various heart diseases.

One of the doctors at the hospital is a specialist in the first stages of the process for open heart surgery, which has to be done with many of the cases, and he is satisfied, and we are now satisfied, that if that stage could be done at Barbados for those patients who have to go overseas, that the cost would be reduced considerably. The average cost per patient going to New York for aneurism treatment or an open heart treatment is about \$55 000. The Medical Aid Scheme pays it freely and without any difficulty, but the cost continues to rise because, more and more, precisely because we have the Catscan, we discover more and more persons who require higher and more sophisticated treatment, and so what we are seeking to do is to bring one of the stages here, and what I envision quite frankly is that not long from now, meaning two or three years or more, that instead of our having to send the patients up to North America, we can have the group of patients, having been categorised by our doctors here, that the surgeons who do the surgery in the United States would come down to Barbados and we would have the theatre and the suite in which they could do the surgery here, not only for Barbados but for the Eastern Caribbean as well.

That is the projection we are making, and then there are all kinds of other procedures which are now not done here for which we have the skills by way of the surgeons, those procedures will be able to be done in Barbados.

We have put \$2 million in the Estimates, but we propose to ask the private sector by way of the insurance companies and the other related agencies to put up a matching fund of \$1 million to the Government's \$1 million. We have put the \$2 million in the Estimates as the financial rules require us to do that, but we have written to or will be writing to the insurance companies and other companies asking them to make a contribution to the tune of \$1 million, because we feel that it is of great benefit to the insurance companies and other related companies as well.

It should be of interest to most of the Honourable Members in this Honourable Chamber, because we are all within the range where heart disease, arising out of the affluence which has attended this developed country during the last 25 years or so, has now become one of the stable diseases in Barbados, if you will pardon the expression. 11.35a.m.

It therefore is a matter of interest to this generation as well as the generation to come that we should have the catheterization lab as soon as possible.

If I may move out of the hospital to the question of the crematorium, the Honourable Member raised the question of a crematorium and asked for a clear position from the Minister. He cited the Crematorium Act which is the 1907 Act and it has remained on the books because it was causing no one any pain, but it is a 1907 Act and in the meantime Cap. 382, the Sanitation Services Authority Act, was passed which gave the Sanitation Service Authority a blanket responsibility for the keeping of cemeteries, crematoria, burial of the dead etcetera. It is my judgment at this point after examination of the crematoria operated in Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana and elsewhere in the Caribbean with the exception of Puerto Rico that our first attempt at having a crematorium should be under the aegis of the public sector. I have no doubt that in due course the private sector will be able to use their own resources, but one of the things which informs me in this view is that in order for the crematorium to be profitable there will have to be an importation of cadavers to Barbados by the private sector. I am not going to preside over that at this stage. In order for it to be profitable, the number of people to be cremated would have to be of a certain level, and therefore we will have to go out and start hawking the crematorium as a place where you can come and get whatever it is you are supposed to get, and I do not think that Barbados should at this stage; and so you are asking for a clear statement of how I feel about it, that is how I feel about it.

We have asked the Sanitation Service Authority to prepare the proposals for a crematorium at Bushy Park. We are seeking international assistance in the design of the crematorium, in the design of the park and we expect that the matter will come back to this House so that Honourable

Members will have an opportunity to deal with the matter. That is my position on it; it is open to discussion.

On the question of persons having made application for such a service, I am not able to speak to that because such applications do not come to me. The Honourable Member for the City raised some questions which are related to questions raised by the Honourable Member for Christ Church East and other questions raised by the Honourable Member for Christ Church West, and they have to do with sewage disposal. First of all, the Bridgetown sewerage plant is suffering from a lack of proper maintenance over a period of time. The experts who have come in have indicated in a detailed report to the Barbados Water Authority that there are areas of maintenance which ought to have been done over the period since the plant was established and that there has been widescale neglect in the maintenance of the plant, that the plant was at the point of break down, that we were in some danger of having the plant not functioning at all. They furthermore indicated that the failure to have the link-ups at the levels that we should have, a minimum of 50 per cent, in order to have the plant functioning the way it should the problem has to do with the amount of sewage that is going into the plant. The plant has been designed to absorb a certain quantity of sewage, and if that quantity is not going in, the technology is that it will not function; therefore we need to have the link-ups.

Now the previous Government and this Government I believe has continued the policy. We even had money which we said to people, you link-up, we will give it to you and the people will not link up. It is my judgment, it does not fall under the Ministry of Health, but it is my judgment that you have to make it mandatory. You have to say if you are not linked up by such and such a time, you shut the business. But you know what? The Government was not linked up either. To my chagrin and disappointment I discovered that the building which housed the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education did not link up either. So the pot can't call the kettle black. A Minister can't jump up and stand telling the public sector what they must do when in the public sector we have not been doing it. I don't know who would serve the notice on the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health; and this is the problem. So I have directed that we must start with our own. That complex at Jemmotts Lane must be linked up as soon as this money is passed and as soon as we can get it linked up, it has to be linked up. Members from the private sector from Delaware at Jemmotts Lane have not linked up, and there is no excuse really why Government did not link up. There is none and I make none. We have had it now two years.

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The Queen Elizabeth Hospital? I make no excuse. It should be linked up. Everywhere else has to be linked up too, and I will consider that to be a

matter of health. If you are not linked up after a reasonable time, we have to conclude that you do not have healthy conditions, and you know what follows?

That is the way we are going to have to do it. I am • discussing it with the Attorney General in due course to see where we go. That is Bridgetown.

So far as the South and West coast project is concerned, that is going according to plan. First we have the complimentary studies and final design project going on. This was won by Reed Crowther and it is the second stage of our environmental and public health protection plan for the densely developed urban and coastal areas of the south coast and the west coast. I don't wish to go into great detail, but I can make specific information available. What I will say is this: marine studies commenced during March 1988, and are due to be completed at the end of March 1989, this month. So I should get the report and the recommendations at the end of this month. The significant determination required that they identify where the marine outfall should be. Now you will recall that this is a matter that concerns both the Honourable Member for Christ Church West and the Honourable Member for Christ Church West Central, and you will be pleased to know that the marine outfall, the best one has been identified off Needham's Point, so that you need not worry anymore about whether the marine outfall will be in the vicinity of the coast; it will be off Needham's Point, and the Honourable Member for Christ Church East knows that Needham's Point is best because the currents are offshore for 96 per cent of the time in a west and northwest direction and the currents are swift.

Secondly, in the area off Needham's Point there is a break in the bank reef system which would preclude damage to the reef. Thirdly, the sea bottom temperature is lower than the surface. The existence of thermocline will reduce the probability of the sewage effluent surfacing; so in other words, the sewage effluent is unlikely to come to the top; it will remain at the bottom. Incidentally I think that is in the same direction where we have the cemetery for the burial at sea. These are the experts. We are talking about the outfall; we are not talking about the plant yet. The marine outfall can be terminated in 30 metres of water.

Now the Worthing site which had been previously chosen for outfall was considered less suitable, and I am not going to go into all the reasons, but suffice it to say that we have opted for the Needham's Point. The questions that have to be decided now would be what kind of sewage treatment process and what kind of plant. Chances are that there will be a treatment plant so that any outfall is likely to be not raw sewage but sewage that has been treated. We think that this is best, and the location of the treatment plant is likely to be, and I am not saying that it is - I think the recommendation that they have made was that it be next door to the Hilton. Well you know I can't agree with that. They want to put it behind the Drill Hall. The experts who

came from Canada want to put it behind the Drill Hall. That does not mean anything to them.
11.45a.m.

I can tell the committee now that that is not a recommendation that will see the light of day for two reasons - (1) it will be a threat to the defences and the security of the country because they have recommended an area that now falls within the purview of the Defence Force and, (2), if you have a 500 room hotel next door and just around the corner Grand Bay and all the bathing area, with the best will in the world a sewage plant could break down. Can you imagine the morning when the sewage plant breaks down what would happen? I feel it would be (Jestructive of the area.

The alternative site is an area within the Graeme Hall Swamp but not the swamp area itself that would destroy the ecological balance, but on a pasture area just under the ridge.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: That is the one you recommended? No, you have to go and see it before you conclude because I sought to see where it had been planned to change. It will not affect any of the houses. There are no houses within 300 or 400 yards.

I would rather not go into great detail now. I would like Honourable Members to see the location before their discussion. I assure you that this is a matter that will have to go to the Cabinet. The discussion will have to happen but one thing is certain. There has to be a sewage treatment plant somewhere on the South Coast if we are to answer the questions of the destruction of the reefs and the question of the raw sewage being emitted into the sea at this point.

The question of the complete destruction of the South Coast is no longer an area for speculation. It is a fact that the reefs and the coastline are being destroyed because the area has become an honeypot area where we have had massive construction in areas that are not necessarily as clearly alienated as would have been if one had had the opportunity to plan the total development of Barbados from scratch.

- Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister has two minutes.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: This time we assure the Honourable House that before any of these things are done the House will have an opportunity to debate and discuss the matter again. What I am doing here is responding to the questions and the anxieties raised by the Honourable Member.

One point I want to make is that in the construction of the Sewerage Project we are examining very seriously the no-dig trenchless technology. This is a matter we are researching and pursuing and if the no-dig trenchless technology comes it is for constructing sewers without having to dig up the road.

Highway No. 7 has just been put down at a substantially high cost to Barbados and for an additional \$50 000 we might be able to do the trenching without having to dig. This is a technology that is working in London, it is working in Germany, it is working

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Fifteen thousand dollars. Well, in addition to the project. What we propose to do is to avoid the problem we have in Bridgetown. I have indicated to the Project Manager and we have agreed that it is possible that we will connect as we go along. In other words, instead of doing the project putting down the sewerage and then asking people to connect, what we are doing now is asking people to agree to connect whether they have the money or not. We will connect, therefore, as we go along so that when the project is completed all the houses would have been connected.

We still have to dig as we go along and if we have in the no-dig trench, the trenchless digging, then you can see that it would do two things, that is, we would be able to connect up to the sewerage, we would be able to avoid the disruption because it is massive disruption when you are digging up a highway like Highway 7.

This is where we are trying to go and, I believe, based on what we have seen from the report that it is possible, I would say, Mr. Chairman, that the South and West Coast Project is in the most capable Barbadian hands. The officer who is in charge of this is easily the most knowledgeable person in the field of Environmental Engineering, etc. and I think that it is fair to say that we have a good prospect. He is one of the best.

I just want to finish by saying this, Sir. In the two minutes left to me I want to take the question of lead free fuel. Barbados is not able, at this stage, to convert from leaded fuel to lead free fuel because we will have to require every single automobile in Barbados now to go to the catalytic conversion.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I have no doubt that it can be done and cheaply too. All I am saying is that it is not something that can be done at the stroke of a pen. It has to be planned in relation to the manufacturers of the fuel, to the type of oil which we find in Barbados and, therefore,

whft we need to do is to have the study done to see how we can convert.

I accept that we cannot go forward into the 21st Century taking it for granted that because we live on an island we are not subject to pollution from exhaust fumes, etc. Indeed, I would say that some of the pollution that would cause us pain in the medium term, the pollution from exhaust would be our most destructive.

Barbados does lend its voice and will continue to lend its voice in the international fora to the call against the reckless disregard which attended the destruction of the Brazilian forest and the ozone layer. At all points Barbados is taking that position.

I want to finish by thanking my friend and colleague who is now not in his seat, one of the freshest, and I might say quickest brains in Barbados among the young, the Honourable Member for St. John. I thank him for what he says of me but I wish to assure him that the placing of the polyclinic in St. John and the polyclinic at Black Rock, and the polyclinic that will follow in the next financial year in St. Joseph and the subclinic that will follow at Belleplaine, would have completed the programme of providing the basis for a primary health care.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: When that time comes, I have no difficulty with that. We are not sure whether it will be a full polyclinic. The problem when we have looked at it is that we have not found enough land where a full polyclinic could go under Belleplaine Hill but whether it is a subclinic or a full polyclinic, I am always in favour of full polyclinics because it seems to me that if you are going to build.....

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I just want to say that I lived in the area so I know. The needs under the hill must be catered to by a full polyclinic. It is a bit much. I think this can be agreed on both sides of the House, The additional cost and the additional increase in the National Debt would not be significant and I would like to urge him seriously to urge that on the planners. 11.55a.m.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member is pushing an open door. I wish to assure him that the problem of whether it is a full polyclinic or not is not a difficult problem. Our problem, as we perceive it, is that we may not be able to find enough land to put the full polyclinic. But it does not matter. We would prefer to have a full polyclinic if necessary.

One last point, Mr. Chairman, the land at Passage Road was acquired for a purpose. The Democratic Labour Party promised that, if and when it returned to office, it would restore the use of that land for the purpose for which

it was acquired. The project is already on its way. There are funds in these Estimates now being debated for the relocation of the residents in Chapman Lane. The problem is that they wish to keep all sixteen houses together. And so the Minister is seeking to find a place where we can put all • of the houses together, just as those who moved to Clapman were able to stay together because we feel that, having destroyed the homogeneity of Chapman Lane as a community, the least that the country can do is to try and keep the segments together wherever possible. So any delay in moving the sixteen has been brought about by the necessity to try to keep them together. That is the only delay. But funds are in these Estimates for locating them.

I am grateful to all Honourable Members who have made, I think, a worthwhile contribution to the development of health in this country because, even in those areas where I may not have felt personally comfortable at what was happening the airing of the issue, the whole question of the quality of food, all of these are matters which are of vital concern not only to us, but to our children. Therefore to the extent that you have assisted the Ministry of Health in better carrying out its duties, I am grateful to all Honourable Members.

And I thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your indulgence.

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

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Head 78, Sir.

HEAD 78 - CAPITAL - MINISTRY OF HEALTH -
\$30018704

*Head 78 - Capital - Ministry of Health -
\$30 018 704 was called.*

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that Head 78, \$30 018 704 stand part.

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

The question that Head 78 stand part was put and was resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I am moving into the Minister of Finance's Heads. I want to state, Sir, that I wanted to start those last night but the Prime Minister is leaving the country today and I might have to stop these Heads at lunch time. Head 18 please.

HEAD 18 - AUDIT - S215 582

Head 18 - Audit - \$215 582 was called.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 18 stand part of the Schedule.

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

The question that Head 18 stand part was put and was resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Head 19.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Head 19.

HEAD 19 - MINISTRY OF FINANCE -\$3920349

Head 19 - Ministry of Finance - \$3 920 349 - was called.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 19 in the sum indicated stand part of the Schedule. In so doing I wish to state that the Ministry of Finance is, of course at the centre of, the nerve centre of the operations of Government whether this is in terms of expenditure or in terms of revenue raised by direct or indirect means. Its control of these two processes is very vital to the operations of Government.

There are a number of subheads under this. First of all there is Subhead 1 which deals with General Administration, then Subhead 2 Budget Administration, Subhead 3 Tax Administration and the other Subheads Management and Accounting at Subhead 4, Energy and Natural Resources Subhead 6 and other Subheads, Sir, under the Ministry of Finance. These are all very vital areas.

I should like to take this opportunity, it is not normally done but I should like to take this opportunity, to pay an especial tribute to the officials of the Ministry of Finance for the very sound work that they do from year to year through various Administrations, very hard working officers, and in co-operation with the accounting officers and staff in the various Ministries of the Government. They do a very good task and they get our Estimates to us on time and they genuinely seek, as good public officers, to carry out their responsibility with integrity. I should like to pay this tribute to them.

I beg to move that this Head stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I too would want to pay my compliments to the Members of staff of the Ministry of Finance, although I fear, Sir, that the political directorate of the Ministry of Finance would not immediately attract my praise in that same manner.

This particular Head, Head 19, allows us to come into debate on one of the most important aspects of the

Estimates, Sir. I want to make a number of comments today in relation to the manner in which the Ministry of Finance has been executing and undertaking economic policy in its generality. The time was when the Ministry of Finance was held to be the flagship of public administration in this country. But, Mr. Chairman, Sir, times have changed and times are changing.

A complaint which has become very common, particularly within very important sections of the private sector, both the domestic and foreign, which has often to come into contact with the Ministry of Finance is that these days, Sir, it is as if one is entering into a maze, that there is a kind of confusion and dithering at the highest levels in the Ministry of Finance, a confusion and a dithering, Sir, which stops very important decisions from being able to take place, and which in some respects, Mr. Chairman, affects the growth of the Barbadian economy and the level of investment that is taking place in this society. In particular, Sir, the role of the supplementary Minister of Finance, if I may call him so, because we were referred to as the supplementary Opposition, but the role of the supplementary Minister of Finance is called into very, very serious questioning by people who have to relate to that particular Ministry.

It is beginning, Mr. Chairman, to reflect itself in the fact that, in the very important areas, some of which I am going to address today having to do with the management of certain institutions falling under the auspices of the Ministry of Finance, having to do with the development of Barbados, Sir, as an offshore service economy, having also, Sir, to do with the management of the banking and financial system of this country, that a lot of very important decision-making that one would expect of the Ministry of Finance is not taking place.

I want, Sir, in addressing myself to the whole question of the general administration of the Ministry and its execution of policies to bring into focus the unmitigated disaster that now represents as the Barbados Development Bank. Last year, Sir, in the course of my second reading speech in the Estimates I made a plea for the Barbados Development Bank to be rationalised. I meant that not only that it seemed to have lost its way and that there was a need for a firm hand to be put on the direction, to guard against the direction in which that particular institution, Sir, was trending.

Now we have just recently in this House, Sir, been presented with the latest Annual Report of the Barbados Development Bank. The highlights, as you may see, Mr. Chairman, are printed in fine print and occupy less than four lines, and says that the highlights of the bank's performance in the last year, Sir, was that the BDB recorded substantial increases in loan commitments, not loan disbursements, loan commitments. That there was a continual good performance in the collection recorded by

the bank and that the BDB opened an assistance window to small enterprises. That was the total set of highlights of the operation of the Barbados Development Bank in the course of the last financial year. 12.05 p.m.

Now I say, Sir, that we have to deal with the Barbados Development Bank today. Because it is a matter of truth that the Barbados Development Bank now, Sir, is technically insolvent and that an urgent step has to be taken to restore confidence in the financial integrity of the institution. The bank has reached the stage, Sir, where its accumulated deficit is greater than its capital. Its capital, Sir, has been completely wiped out by its accumulated deficit and even though this occurred as early as March 1988 the situation has been allowed to get worse rather than to get better. I cannot begin to imagine what can be happening at the Ministry of Finance where a situation can arise where an institution as important to the development of Barbados as the Barbados Development Bank is allowed to be put in this position where, to all intent and purposes, Sir, it is technically insolvent.

The bank's report, Mr. Chairman, makes reference to grandiose objectives of institutional strengthening. We are told about a programme in place to implement new systems and procedures for types of control and for improved efficiency. But there are a number of hard core difficult decisions that have to be taken in relation to the existence and the future of the Barbados Development Bank. I can see no evidence that there is a move within the Ministry of Finance, Sir, to address these difficult issues and I think we have a responsibility today to begin to face this particular matter.

The bank's performance, Sir, in the course of the last financial year has been dismal. The bank speaks in terms of having one of its major highlights as being the substantial increase in its loan commitments. That is to say that it has been approving loans in large quantities, but what has not been treated as a highlight is the amount of loans which have been disbursed. I would like, Sir, to draw reference to some of the dismal aspects of the bank's performance.

The bank treats as one of its major highlights the fact that it has had a remarkable process of job creation and it tells us in its Annual Report that it managed in the course of the year to generate 379 jobs and that this was remarkable. We are to believe that this is a remarkable performance by the bank in a positive way, Sir. In 1984, when things were supposed to be bad, the bank generated, Sir, to its new lending 502 jobs. In 1983, when things were bad, Sir, it generated 595 jobs. In 1980, Sir, it generated 596 jobs. But we are now to believe that the generation of 379 jobs, Sir, by the Barbados Development Bank in 1987/88 is a remarkable accomplishment and I can only say, Sir, that it is remarkable only to the extent that it followed an even more dismal situation in 1986/7 when the bank only

managed, Sir, to generate 170 jobs. Its loan disbursements, Sir, are, again, another area of great distress to the economy, Sir. The bank, in the course of its last financial year, managed only to disburse \$8.3 million. It speaks about its loan commitments having been a great accomplishment,' but the acid test of whether the bank is helping new entrepreneurs or not is to be found in how much money it actually gets out there in the economy. In the course of the last financial year, Sir, it disbursed only \$8.3 million, and let us compare that with when the economy was supposed to be badly managed in 1984 - \$19 million disbursed by the Barbados Development Bank, Sir. Let us, Sir, look at how these funds are being disbursed.

We are told that disbursed was only \$100, 000 in the course of the last financial year to small manufacturers in Barbados \$100,000. In the case of micro-businesses on which so much emphasis apparently is being placed by Government on areas for which financing is supposed to have been injected so the banks says includes furniture, sewing, ceramics, and jewelry operations - all of those areas. But at the end of the day the bank disbursed only \$5 624. In every area, Sir, hv which the bank had a potential to make a substantial contribution to the furtherance of economic development in this country, in every area where there is a potential Sir, for the generation of new business, we have too clear evidence that the bank is falling down in its responsibility of being the principal lending agency in this country for development purposes. The fact of the matter, Sir, is that the wide gap between the amounts of money disbursed by the bank and the loans committed clearly establishes that there is a pent up demand in Barbados on the part of potential entrepreneurs for investment funds to get on with the job but that they cannot have their pent up ambitions fulfilled because, the bank, Sir, is not properly capitalized and that we have a Government Service which is not of the mood to deal with it. I really feel, Sir, that we cannot leave this debate in the context of the circumstances where an institution which has served Barbados so manfully for so long now finds itself in a situation where its accumulated deficit is of an order to completely wipe out its capital, that we cannot leave the debate unless we settle in our minds what is going to be the present and what is going to be the future of this Barbados Development Bank.

We have heard, Sir, a lot of new schemes, a lot of new consultants being brought on board, we have heard of a lot of new procedures being put in place, but we are not getting value for our money. I have, therefore, the obligation to press the Minister of Finance to elaborate on what has gone wrong at the Barbados Development Bank. Seventeen million dollars of this accumulated deficit - \$17 million of this accumulated deficit which has completely wiped out the capital of the Barbados Development Bank. Seventeen million dollars of this accumulated deficit, as the Minister of Finance knows, was generated over the course of the last 2 financial years - seventeen million dollars. This

accumulated deficit, Sir, has risen despite the substantial drop of the loan loss provision of the bank itself. Obviously Sir, there is a need for a complete review of some of the systems that have been put in place at the bank throughout time and more especially, Sir, in the course of the last 2 financial years. But we have a responsibility to settle upon a plan for capitalisation and I cannot therefore allow the Minister of Finance not to tell this House and the people of Barbados how he is going to go about the business of recapitalising this Barbados Development Bank. It is still the only institution to which the genuine small man has a recourse when he wants a piece of capital to undertake a new business - and its expansion, Sir, and our commercial banking system, as we all know, is too disinclined to avoid applying but only the most stringent criteria on our new entrepreneurs.

We heard a lot of talk, Sir, about the establishment of a venture capital fund but we cannot see it with the naked eye.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Member should conclude in 2 minutes. 12.15p.m.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: This institution has been critical to the formation of new classes of economic entities in Barbados. It has proven its worth in this society and if it faces a problem as fundamental as technical insolvency, we have a responsibility to face it, and I think it is one of the most pressing economic issues that have to be addressed, and I am therefore urging the Minister of Finance to speak in a most forthcoming manner as regards the operation of this critical institution and in relation to how we are going to go about the business of putting this institution back on its feet.

I will have, in the course of this debate on the Ministry of Finance, to address additional issues pertaining to the offshore economy and Government's management of that, as well as certain matters pertaining to the management of the financial system, and I am obliged to you for the time being, Sir.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I just wish to say, in terms of the Barbados Development Bank, that it is quite easy to recite the problems in a banking institution. I have no particular quarrel with the recital given by the Member for St. Peter who has just spoken. It is quite easy to say that the Savings and Loans Associations in the United States are in difficulty and that there are these problems. It is quite easy to say that some commercial banks have failed in North America because of either management or prevailing economic and financial conditions, or whatever may be the factors. I do not think anyone will deny that the Barbados Development Bank has experienced considerable problems, because it was and is an institution operating both in the area of banking as well as in the area of development, and I think when we take

these two factors into account and place them against the prevailing economic and financial conditions, let us say throughout the 1980's, we would be in a better position to understand the present situation in which the Bank finds itself.

While the recital may be more or less accurate, to suggest that the position is due to any failure or to failure on the part of the Ministry of Finance in taking decisions relating to the Barbados Development Bank, I think that is wide of the mark and it shows lack of marksmanship. I do not think that explanation is sound. It is a bank and it is a developmental agency, and we must take these factors into account.

I do not need to recite in the time available to us the kinds of factors prevailing in the economic situation both in Barbados, in CARICOM and in the wider world that would have impacted upon the Barbados Development Bank. I think this is well known to the Honourable Member who just spoke, but it is a fact that the Bank was affected by the economic reversals during the 1980's. When a development bank makes loans, these do not just go away, they have to be met somewhere down the road, so we have this problem with which the Bank has to deal, not only the problems of today and tomorrow, but the problems of yesterday as well, and it is a fact that there is a high level of arrears affecting some of the sectors in which the Bank participated or made its loans.

Most of the loans made were in the areas of tourism and in industry generally, and it is well known that during the 1980's those two sectors experienced considerable difficulties, and the Bank makes loans and finds itself in a position that the repayments of principal and interest by its clients tend to be affected by the economic and financial situation which those clients face. The period 1981 to 1984 was particularly a difficult one for tourism, and so there were declining occupancy levels and the average lengths of stay of visitors, and if the Bank is relying on the tourism related clients to repay the principal and the interest, and they have been finding difficulty in generating the funds because of the impact of the sectors in which they were operating, the Bank will obviously feel that particular impact.

Now there has been some increased improvement in the tourism sector in recent years, and this would place some hotels to be in a position to start to honour, or to honour at a higher level, their commitments to the Bank. I do not think there is any denial of the fact that there have been problems, but let us understand that they are not going to be wished away simply by getting up and reciting the problems.

What was the response of the Bank to those particular difficulties? What, as I understand it, the administration of your Government, the Barbados Labour Party Government,

sought to do was to operate as a buffer against the adverse economic position operating at the time through refinancing, through rescheduling and recapitalisation as well, but let me say having taken those steps to refinance or to reschedule or whatever the appropriate approach was, the fact is that that means that the Bank itself was carrying the strain, or a substantial part of the strain, of the difficulties operating at that particular time, and there were problems. The Bank could have taken the decision to say these are debts owing to the Bank, pay up or else. 12.25 p.m.

I do not think that would have been the correct approach to take. When businesses are in difficulty, you seek to nurse them through the difficulties with as understanding an approach as possible. There were also a number of business failures during the period as well, a number of which ended up on the books of the Barbados Development Bank.

Now the Bank in order to deal with this situation has been making increased provision for doubtful loans, and that is one of the policies being pursued by the Bank, more realistic provisions for doubtful loans and a number of these loans were made during the Eighties when the Bank's portfolio expanded fairly rapidly. In 1985-86 for example the bad debt provisions were increased by \$4.2 million and also \$3.9 million in principle and interest were written off, and that was in relation to funding programme worked out with the Inter-American Development Bank.

In 1986-87 \$7.8 million was provided for bad debts of which \$4.4 million was for industry and \$2.5 million for tourism. In 1987-88 the figure provided for doubtful debts was \$1.9 million. In 1987-88 the financial position of the Bank was also affected by a number of other factors and some adjustments had to be made in the practices of the Bank, and as a result there was a reduction in the performing portfolio as a result of which some \$1.5 million was not recognised as interest income. 1987-88 was the first full year in which the Bank was on-lending at a reduced rate; so the rate was reduced and that new rate for 1987-88 was 11.5 per cent. I think it was at December 1986 the on-lending rate was reduced from 13 per cent to 11 per cent in order to ease the debt service burden on clients and to remain competitive as far as the better clients were concerned. All of these things have an adverse impact upon the income of the Bank.

I do not think it is necessary to give the break down of the loan provisions over the years from 1984 onwards, but if I am pressed I will give the information. The Honourable Member asked what are the strategies the Bank would be adopting in order to deal with the situation in order to enhance its viability. Consideration is being given to a loan restructuring and recovery programme in terms of the existing portfolio. A look is being given at the revenue

earning base, and the intention is that some high performing projects should come on to the portfolio of the Bank.

I would think probably only about 46 per cent of the loan portfolio can be said to be performing in a way that may be acceptable, and then new investment opportunities and activities obviously have to be found in order to diversify and strengthen that portfolio. In terms of the equity base, the Bank obviously will have to find ways and means of increasing that particular base. The Government is transforming. That is what you wish to hear. There is a programme for strengthening the equity base. The Government is transferring to the Bank as equity some \$12 million obtained under the fourth funding programme with the Inter-American Development Bank. A further \$9 million is to be transferred as equity in the third loan agreement with the European Investment Bank. That form of recapitalisation of course you will recognise is not the speediest to process and it will take some time for these funds to be committed and to be drawn down, but the basic approach here is one of loan restructuring and recovery programmes, and therefore that should go somewhere towards putting the Bank into a position that it can meet the demands from clients and prospective clients for funding.

I think I have addressed the problems that I heard mentioned, and I do not think I need be any longer on this particular matter, but if there are any other questions, I would be willing to answer them if I have the answer or if not I will supply the answer in due course.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Development Banks over time have one or two fates; either they are properly managed and properly directed or in the alternate they become buried and new names attached to other institutions and the lost capital, the lost equity become part of the national debt of the appropriate country. This has happened in at least two Caribbean countries in the past, and I believe that it is essential that there has to be a clear understanding of the position of the Barbados Development Bank.

The Bank was established to help the development process in those areas which could not easily attract financing from the commercial banks either in terms of the pioneer aspect of the particular sector, or in terms of the conditionalities of the loans that would be required in the particular area. The Bank started with a small capital structure and for some years there was some reasonable relationship between its lending activities and the capital structure of the Bank. 12.35p.m.

It is true that the bank is technically bankrupt, there is no question about that, by whatever terms bankruptcy is defined, and that the Bank needs new capital. What was the source of the capital in the past? The source of the capital in the past has been primarily injections from the Treasury, a

contribution by the Central Bank of Barbados and foreign funding guaranteed.

These loans are guaranteed by the taxpayers so whatever capital has been lost and my suspicion is that whatever kind of restructuring you have, whatever you do in relation to the Development Bank, that that capital that is gone will not be restored and, eventually, the taxpayers will have to pay for the money that has been lost in terms of the equity of the Bank. This is a reality that you must face because the bank does not have the kind of capacity to generate earnings at the rate, say, as the National Bank, if that is properly run and when it is properly run, in order to replace lost capital so that one can consider the lost capital money that is gone and money which the taxpayers will have to pay so I would not be surprised if sooner or later you do not see a provision being made to have money from the Consolidated Fund put into the Development Bank as equity.

But to attract foreign capital either from the European Investment Bank or from the IDB then your portfolio management has to satisfy certain criteria in relation to the lending agency and where you have a situation where at one stage as much as roughly 60% of the portfolio of the Barbados Development Bank was non performing, that means that there were loans out there not being serviced for one reason or another, then the income base of the Bank was entirely dependent on the residual 40% which is just about enough to cover the overhead cost of the Bank and service one or two of the Bank's loan commitments.

The first step in dealing with the Barbados Development Bank if there is any reasonable prospect of attracting the kind of concessionary equity financing which you need to re-establish its capital base would have to be to clean up the portfolio and that is why one has to be very careful when you are talking about losses.

Certainly, during the period when I was Minister of Finance of this country the only bad loan that I knew about, or heard about, was one of about \$200 000. Now, I am not saying that loans made in 1986-87 might not, in 1990 or 1992 turn out to be bad loans. I am not saying that. I want to be absolutely clear.

A loan lost provision is not the same thing as an operating loss and part of the high loan lost provisions that were made in 1986/87 and provided for in 1987/88 had absolutely nothing to do with trying to embarrass anyone or make the books look better in the future as has been suggested by one or two persons.

It had more to do with having a lending portfolio so structured that it would make it easier for the bank under a Government guaranteed to attract concessionarily financing from those agencies which had supported the bank in the

past, in particular, the IDB and the European¹ Investment Fund.

I am a little disappointed to hear that the disbursements were not higher in relation to the micro business because I believe that this area of self employment is going to be a very critical area if we are to achieve the objectives of full employment in Barbados, and full employment as defined technically, a technical term.

I believe that some provisions were made, certainly at least a statement was made to the effect that we open a micro business window. I would not know what has happened precisely thereafter because I do not make enquiries after severing my connection with the bank. I do not enquire into these things. I rely on the reports rather than to try and find out what is going on.

Now, the level of disbursements I think is a bit distressing as well. I think that any time you see that gap between commitments and disbursements, always remember that that is a mounting administrative problem and one of the problems that one encounters at the Development Bank and it is a problem that must be addressed, is the long delay, the mass of paper work between the successful application and the disbursement of those funds.

Sometimes people, in the meantime, have to go and get more expensive bridging finance from commercial banks, after carrying to the commercial banks a commitment from the Barbados Development Bank and not necessarily so because of lack of funds. Sometimes the amounts are trifling, \$10 000, \$6 000, \$15 000 and several months would pass by when all the criteria have been satisfied in respect of the commitment and no further problem in relation to disbursement and, indeed, the commercial banks would not provide the bridging loan unless they were fully satisfied that the client had met the commitments to the Barbados Development Bank in full and there would be no difficulty in their recovering of any money that has been lent.

I believe that that is an area that has to be examined because this is the area where a lot of small business people are severely affected, and, in many instances, it is the small businessman who then cannot get the bridging loan so you have a situation where the Development Bank has considered the business to be a viable one and worthy of support and yet you cannot get the disbursement out of the Development Bank.

Now, I am not suggesting - because I believe that banking institutions should be run with propriety - in any way that the banks should just go and hand out money like that because, as I pointed out, that when the Development Bank, every time it makes a loss it comes back to the taxpayers of Barbados in one form or another. Just like in a private bank, if any four of us opened a bank tomorrow and

the bank makes a loss, then we have to put up the money or the bank would fold up. Similarly, you cannot just launder public funds through Government-owned banks as a way of getting around the usual responsibilities in respect of disbursements from the Consolidated Fund. So that the projects should be viable, the projects should be approved, viable and be approved rapidly. 12.45 p.m.

I, for example, believe that one of the areas where the NDP would be generating a considerable amount of jobs in this country related to activity in the Development Bank would be in the transport sector of Barbados which I perceive as a sector that would be expanding very rapidly as our tourism continues to grow, and has expanded significantly over the past ten years although almost all of the lending has come under restrictive conditions from the commercial banks of Barbados, and a much smaller amount from the Development Bank. There is a lot of scope in this area. Today thousands of families in Barbados are supported by the efforts of individuals in the transport sector of Barbados.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Member has two minutes.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I perceive and I do not think much has been done to recognise the job creating potential for small businessmen in the transport sector. I think that there are between now and probably the next ten years, just as thousands of jobs have been created over the past ten years. Thousands more jobs will be created. But in due course either on the floor of this House or perhaps in a Manifesto document we will demonstrate exactly how we will create those jobs. But if we feel that it is in the interest of the public that we should release that kind of information well in advance, we will have no difficulty because we can find other newer ideas as we go along.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. Thomas.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr, Chairman, I just want to make a brief intervention in this matter. It is accepted on both sides that the present financial viability of the Barbados Development Bank is unsound.

What the Prime Minister did in answer to the comments and the questions raised by the Honourable Member for St. Peter was to review the financial performance of the bank in outlining historically, and towards the end of the speech in consonance with the brief that he had seemed to suggest

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: May I continue, Sir? I notice that you were speaking and they were speaking, Sir.

Laughter.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: In consonance with the brief, Sir, that the Prime Minister has, he was able to tell us that Government intends to contribute by way of recapitalisation \$12 million in the first instance and then a further \$9 million. That capitalisation, as I understand it, • will accruojoiefully from loans negotiated abroad.

Now I wish the Prime Minister to know, Sir; that there is a very strong and persistent rumour that the Bank's application for a line of credit from an international lending agency has not been approved. If it has been approved recently, it certainly underwent tremendous difficulty. The reason for the reluctance on the part of the international lending agencies to assist in the recapitalisation of the bank was because they were not happy with the Bank's performance and the Bank's management. I know that the Prime Minister obviously was not happy with the Bank's management because he dismissed the last Chairman the Bank had. I think the Minister of Finance terminated

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: or did not renew the work for Mr. Russell, their last Chairman.

Now unless the Prime Minister is saying that that gentleman is still the Chairman as the Prime Minister is expressing some surprise at my comment.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: If the Chairman had been performing well then it seems to me that - you do not understand where I am coming from? - if the Chairman had been performing well, it seems to me that there was no reason not to renew his contract or get rid of him.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: He resigned? I resigned. No, no, no. CBC, I resigned. I told them at CBC to keep the work.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am asking What candidate? Only six have been announced. He is not one of them.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I do not know.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the Honourable Member address the Chair?

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: But, Sir, I am under a can of worms, Sir.

Laughter.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am opening a can of worms.

Laughter.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I did not know it, Sir. I really did not know it. But I am not getting into that, the political aspects of that. That is a matter for the Prime Minister to deal with the politics of that. He is nothing to do with the Bees. So that is a matter for the Prime Minister to deal with the end in relation to the political status of that gentleman. But it seems to me, Sir, that we had in place, when there was a change of Government, a banker of tremendous expertise in the Caribbean, tremendous experience then, if eyebrows are raised at the use of the word expertise. The Chairman of the Barbados Development Bank, after the change of Government, was a commercial banker of oh, I think, at least twenty years experience both in Jamaica and in Barbados trained by Barclays Bank

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: and he promised much, Sir. And according to the report of 1987-88 I think at a limp when he was still Chairman, he has delivered little.

Now the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central did in fact mention very fleetingly the problem of management. We would wish to hear from the Prime Minister also about the problem of management at the bank, if there is one. Is the Prime Minister satisfied, and was he satisfied, since he has been Minister of Finance, with the management of the Bank at the highest level? We want to hear that. That is important. Finding the money is one thing. Managing the money is equally important. Certainly, since 1987-88, the Report the Prime Minister should have had for the accounting year of the Bank 1988-89 some indication as to whether there has been any improvement.

Now Sir, there was a Central Bank investigation and report into the Barbados Development Bank. I think the House deserves to be told the gist of the comments of the Central Bank in relation to their inspection of the BDB and their recommendation.

Aside.
12.55p.m.

I am being told that we should see the report. Personally, I am not going to insist on that. But I think that the Prime Minister owes it to the House, if an institution which has the capability to assist small business people in

particular in this country, could assist the tourism sector as it has assisted well in the past. If the Central Bank, a regulatory organisation, investigates and makes recommendations, I think, without seeking to breach any confidentiality, that the Prime Minister could tell us in outline what were the problems from, what were their recommendations and whether in fact the Ministry of Finance is addressing the problem in accordance with the recommendations or is the Ministry pursuing its own programme for recapitalisation and reorganisation of the bank to make it a more viable project in the future.

Now, Sir, the problem of recapitalisation has been touched on by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition where he has alluded to the fact that historically a substantial proportion of the BDB has been drawn from the Central Government funds. It is my submission, Sir, that, having regard to the present perilous state of the finances of the bank - one and secondly, having regard to the length of time within which the Government can put together a foreign package of loan funds, that surely it would have made more sense, if we really think that the Barbados Development Bank is an important and fundamental institution - it would have made more sense in my submission, rather than build a large room above Ilaro Court at Sherbourne for \$24 million for a thousand students at various times in the year, all told, not together, to sit and write exams, to have taken \$12 million of those dollars, let us say, and injected into the bank on budget funds to help recapitalise the bank.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Yes, thank you very much. The Honourable Leader of the Labour Party has put it very neatly. It would have been an attempt at a productive investment because those funds would have been on-lent for a variety of purposes and presumably, we would have gotten a higher level of disbursement than we had in the year 1987/88. I am saying that as a matter of priority the issue is now clearly before us that Government had an opportunity to use, it found itself with \$24 million that I said it could go and build a large room up there, whereas it could have taken part of those funds and put into the bank with a view to its recapitalisation and putting it in a sounder financial footing than it presently is.

I have told my 2 colleagues on this side that I see my function as being critical of Government as a Member of the Opposition until the time comes for us to produce Manifestoes, because when a suggestion is made of any constructive assistance and intent of Government, you pooh-pooh it. So we ought really to be putting lashes in Government constantly and refusing to offer any solutions.

The Honourable Member for St. John on Tuesday was appealing, I think it was Tuesday, the second day of the

debate, to all of us on this side to assist with the provision of solutions to some of the problems.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: On a point of order. I would agree that, when the Member is making* a constructive point, he listens to the constructive point, when he is making a destructive one certainly it is no part of our presence here to agree with that. I am submitting that the Member said that I dismissed somebody from the Barbados Development Bank.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: That was a long time ago in my speech. You now see it.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: You still made it.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You see the ball so late. You get bowled down all the time.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I am pointing out, Sir, that that is a most inaccurate statement. I have not dismissed anybody from the Barbados Development Bank and I do not know that any Manager was dismissed from

Asides.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Sorry, Sir, I thought he said the Manager. That is what I understand him to say. Did he say the Chairman?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No, he did say the Chairman.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I am sorry, Sir. Oh, the Chairman was the Manager of the bank.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Point is made. He did say Chairman.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, I thought I said the Chairman. I called the name to be of assistance to the Prime Minister. But I think we have passed the point of the Chairman, Sir. It was the Minister's discretion to appoint or disappoint the Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You should be concluding now, but I will give you another 2 minutes.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The Manager was a different thing and he had nothing to do with the period when the present Prime Minister was Minister of Finance. I think they tried to get rid of him on the basis that he was thought to be a "B" soon after the change of Government. But they had to pay him out. They would have had to pay him out handsomely.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: What we were putting forward, Sir, from this side as a point for consideration or perhaps now sober reflection after the fact of Sherbourne is that perhaps in terms of Government's priorities the large building could have been deferred and part of those funds • committed^on budget towards the recapitalisation of the Barbados Development Bank given the difficulties of the Bank's raising funds from international lending agencies to recapitalise it.

I believe my time has expired, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: It has.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Much obliged to you, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. Andrew.

Mr. C. A. NEBLETT: Mr. Chairman, I just want to make a brief intervention here. In dealing with his matter of the Barbados Development Bank, we have always seen it or it was perceived to be an institution that dealt mostly with marginal projects, or those projects that would not normally get the kind of funding from the commercial banks but were seen as enterprises that no doubt could add to the national wealth and they would also provide employment in the execution. In other words, it provided help for those projects where the ideas were workable but the finance was absent. Over a number of years we noticed that certain enterprises such as mobile canteens, the mini-mart and - working its way down to the minibuses - many of these projects received help from the Barbados Development Bank and over time they were not properly supervised. In fact, the Bank very early in its inception had problems in conducting a good or reasonable loan administration policy. 1.05p.m.

Over time many of these projects fell foul for one reason or another. I remember at one stage the question of the caravans used as mobile canteens. There was an upsurge in these establishments and then another section of Government, namely Town and Country Planning, put pressure to have them removed. It is interesting if one checks to see how many of those enterprises were able, having been knocked out of existence - and I am talking about the period 1983-1984 - how many of them were able to repay the loans they had from the Barbados Development Bank to enable them to exist.

We had another problem. We noticed that there was a gradual change from the old grocery shop into the mini-mart type development. In fact, I am aware that there are quite a few of those enterprises who, at the moment, are not in a position to service their loans. In fact, they fell into the category of that part of the portfolio that either has had to be provided for or to have been written off.

We all know of the problems within the tourism sector whereby, after a recession in this area, quite a few businesses were unable to service their loans. In fact, many of them had their loans rescheduled, and to this day some are still finding difficulty, in spite of the upsurge, in meeting all their commitments. One would then recognise that, in spite of a change in the economic climate, it will take some time before they are able to recover, and as such it would put the officers of the Barbados Development Bank on alert in reviewing many of the projects that come before them.

We recognise that certain criteria must be satisfied. The most important one is, are the projects viable enough to service their loans? In spite of the fact that it might satisfy an employment criterion, it might satisfy the bringing on stream of a particular skill or process that might be in the national interest, but from the banking point of view they have got to be very clear and sure of the existence of collateral, and also that they can at least recover the capital that goes into the enterprise. I believe this is what caused quite a bit of a problem in getting through the process of administration where the Bank officials were concerned, and I do not think at this stage we would want the officers to rush madly just to get a disbursement, only to create a mechanism for reducing their effectiveness.

Mr. Chairman, one can easily make allegations. We are aware of the situation involving the Bank and its funds. These things are being dealt with, and I do not think Members of this House would expect a recapitalisation to take place with a snap of the finger. At the moment there are discussions going on with external sources on funding, and I believe at this stage you would not want us to make a statement until all the necessary negotiations are completed, but we have good reason to believe that in the very near future the funds will be on stream whereby the officers can feel comfortable in conducting the affairs of the Bank.

Again, as I said a while ago, you cannot decide these matters on a snap of the finger, or even a flick of the wrist, if you are using the bowling term. Then for some period subsequent to now you would be returning and accusing the Government of recklessly placing funds at the disposal of the Bank and it is dissipated by strange loan policies.

I can safely say that there has been a review in dealing with the loan portfolio and there has been a cleaning process. The institution is now set to move forward. Members on the opposite side will just have to wait and the matters will be resolved, but I can say we on this side will not encourage the making of reckless loans. Our officers at the Bank are studying rather carefully the proposals that are put to them, they are also assisting the project carriers in getting their projects on stream and in the fullness you will not be faced with such write-offs as over \$7 million in provisions for doubtful debt, or even the

write-off of bad debts to the tune we have had going down the line.

Aside.

Mr. C. A. NEBLETT: Yes, but if this is a doubtful debt, there is some uncertainty of its collectability, and hence you have to make the necessary provisions where your finances are concerned. Take, for instance, the provision of \$7.8 million in 1986-87. My only hope is that it is not thought that the \$7.8 million arose out of any loans made during the very year 1986-87. This reflects a period well before then. In fact, it would have included loans that have been entered as far back as 1979 and 1980. I am explaining that as a result of some reckless loans in previous times, at this stage we were confronted with a situation where we have to make provisions, and these provisions have an impact on the operational result of the Bank. So I do not think that Members on the other side have anything to fear.

Aside.

Mr. C. A. NEBLETT: Mr. Chairman, I would not want to be drawn into the question of International Seafoods. In fact, that has had a long history and I would even suggest at this stage that the last administration was much responsible for the destruction of International Seafoods. 1.15p.m.

You sold off the boats, the assets, and you have also converted them into Coast Guard Patrol boats whereas we might have been able up to this day to be using these vessels effectively. In fact we are confronted now with building up our fishing fleet to be able to compete with international nations such as the Japanese and the Koreans in reaping some of the resources of the Caribbean.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has two Minutes and I would urge that there be no interruptions during that period.

Mr. C. A. NEBLETT: Mr. Chairman, I will not take much longer. I think we will have more to say about this based on the interjections from time to time of the Honourable Member for St. Peter. He seems to have a message for me and I would like to listen. Thank you very much.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I just wish to make it quite clear again that the problems which the Barbados Development Bank is currently experiencing are due substantially to the downturn in the economy during the Eighties, and I wish to refute any imputation that it is due to lack of adequate supervision or oversight on the part of the Ministry of Finance. The resources available to the Bank were used up as part of a deliberate policy to counter

the recessionary influences that were operating at the time. That was a deliberate policy. If the funds are used up in that way, you cannot then come and say that the Bank has no funds. The funds were used up in a particular way as part of a deliberate policy.

Now then to come and argue that funds could be taken up from another capital development project and could have been put into the Barbados Development Bank, we can always deal with alternatives, but of course we can equally say that the funds that were expended in building the community centres throughout Barbados, we could easily say that the money that the Barbados Labour Party Government took up and spent on community centres could have gone into the Barbados Development Bank for on-lending as some kind of worthwhile capital project. We could easily have said that that part of the money that was wasted on CARIFESTA could have gone to the Development Bank as part of its capital injection. We could easily have said.....

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, that analogy surely is not opposite. The Bank was not insolvent or bankrupt under us when you talk about CARIFESTA and so on. We are talking about now that the Bank is broke.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Start out with a Bank that was under-capitalised from the start and continue that way. You said the Bank did not need resources? You see, the problem is that you do not understand the counter punching from out here. You get up and make these criticisms and then when they are turned

Asides.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I am simply saying we could have said that about the funds wasted on CARIFESTA, and we still have some kind of symbols; I am not sure what they look like or how to describe them, one down at Trents, one somewhere at West Terrace or somewhere about; they have a peculiar shape; they look like some kind of phallic symbols or something like that throughout the place. That is what you all put up; and we could easily have said that part of the funds spent on the Central Bank could have been put into the Bank. Take what some people call a room when compared with the building in Church Street. You could easily use that argument; you don't have to go to something being built at Sherbourne. The only point I am making here is that I don't think there is very much validity in the kinds of comparisons you are doing here. If the Bank needs an injection of capital, we will have to find the capital for that particular purpose. We are committed to that particular institution as an important institution in the economic development of Barbados. It has a role to play, but we have to restructure the institution. The institution is now coming out of the problems which it had to deal with in the past. We have changed the Board; there is a new General Manager in place and there are developing

policies. For example, in this whole business of micro businesses, that Bank is indicating that it does not think that it should be in the business of servicing directly the micro business sector through its own staff. It is making loans available and has made loans available to one organisation, I think it is called Women in Development, and they are able to give[^] their clients the kind of direct assistance in terms of staying with the project and giving on-going advice to those who go into it.

Mr. Chairman, it has also made loans to another body, I think it is the National Development Foundation, and so the loans out of the resources of the Barbados Development Bank will go to that particular sector that way. I think there is little evidence to suggest that there will be major generations of jobs through that particular operation because most of the operations tend to be on-going operations that need some kind of refinancing, and in any event the micro businesses will not employ any large numbers of persons, although it may be a good increment to the level of employment, and it is something that should be encouraged. So there is a commitment there, but the mechanism through which the resources will be channelled is a matter that would have to be resolved.

I think, Sir, I have cleared up the points that have been made, and as the Leader of the House indicated, I will not be present after lunch; I will be visiting Amsterdam to attend a meeting of the Board of Governors of the Inter-American Development Bank, and there I hope to pursue with the President of that Bank the outstanding matter which Barbados has with the Bank as we seek resources for coastal erosion and the environmental development project which we have a very great interest in, because our beaches are concerned, and that is a very great resource base for our country. So it is very important that we seek every opportunity to promote these national interests. I thank you very much. 1.25p.m.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, at this point I move that further consideration of this Head be postponed.

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

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

On motion of Hon. P. M. GREAVES seconded by Hon. B. M. TAITT, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress to His Honour THE SPEAKER and asked for leave to sit again and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I move that this session be now postponed until 2.25 p.m. today.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: I beg to second that.

The question that the sitting be postponed until 225 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly. 1.30p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

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

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and Mr. CHAIRMAN resumed the Chair.

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

HEAD 43 - MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND SPORTS - \$25 348 497

Hon. W. W. HALL: Mr. Chairman, we have had about four and a half days debate and we discussed what I would term as the big spenders, Education, Transport and Works, Health and the Prime Minister's Head. I think, Sir, that it is time we now discuss the big earners and so I would like to commence by saying that as I speak of Tourism and Sports, a fusion that is an innovative, one in Barbados, I would like to say that I am cognisant of the fact that Tourism is an old industry. We have travelled from the days of the horseback to the supersonic jets.

Sports, top, Sir, can be described as an old discipline from the days of the gladiators to the present time where women now run the 100 metres in 10.49 seconds. The fusion of Tourism and Sports in Barbados is not yet two years old but, wherever I have travelled throughout Europe, England, the United States of America and, certainly, in the Caribbean, people are more and more becoming aware of the fact that it is a good mix. Sir, I just want to try and describe my views on the fusion of Tourism and Sports because I know we only have about 3½ hours. It seems to me we would need 3½ days but, since this is going to be, in my view, a rather non-contentious issue at this stage of our development...

Aside.

Hon. W. W. HALL: I feel people will make a few inputs, I am quite sure, but I am speaking from the point of view of time. There is not enough time for us to do what was done in Education, Transport and Works, nor in Health in terms of the amount of time expended on these Heads.

I recognise that debt is essentially a foreign exchange issue and it is fair to conclude that tourism which is a major

foreign exchange earner being discussed now, that it would play a vital role in solving our debt problems. As a consequence, we must continue to place the highest priority on tourism development.

Mr. Chairman, I am sure that all Members of this august Chamber would recognise that imperative. That is why I feel that tourism must never be reduced to the level of a political football. I repeat that, Sir. I feel that it should never be reduced to the level of a political football. It is, indeed, not a nebulous issue. It is one that transcends party politics and things like that and I feel that we have to, somehow, give meaning to the words of the motto of the Board of Tourism, that tourism is everybody's business and let us play our part.

It is my view, Sir, considered view too, that tourism is too fundamental an instrument of monetary policy for us to treat it in any other way than with the highest priority in terms of our development. That is a truism not only in Barbados, but it is a truism as far as the islands in the Caribbean are concerned. I say so because of the decline of the traditionally economic sectors, like sugar, mining, oil production and refining, so more and more, West Indian countries are turning to tourism.

I would just like to say that since 1980 tourist arrivals in the Caribbean increased by some 40% compared with a world figure of 25%. In Barbados I would say that since 1983 arrivals increased by some 50%. Tourist arrivals from 1983-1987 increased 49% and since we had a 7% increase last year 1988 one can safely say 50%. Sir, you know I am not a Member of the intelligentsia in here. I am not a Barbados Scholar.

Aside.

Hon. W. W. HALL: They are not telling me that. I will demonstrate to all and sundry that I am not only intelligent but that I am very intelligent. Let there be no doubt about that.

Tourism provides about 330 000 jobs in the Caribbean. In Barbados, I would say, between 22 000 and 25 000 in jobs are provided by the tourism sector the Caribbean region has a range of exotic languages and cultures. We can replicate all of Europe. 2.35 p.m.

We can offer the excitement of Los Angeles and the tranquility of Tahiti. We have a variety of landscapes that can hardly be surpassed, Sir. We combine both the relaxed island's environs with the metropolitan frenzy. Having said all that, Sir, I should like to say that Barbados leads the way. We are a trail blazer, and I would say, Sir, in some events, the envy of the Caribbean. They always say that Barbados leads, and the others follow.

Let us look at the recently formed Caribbean Tourism Organisation which is headed by a Barbadian as the Secretary-General, whose Deputy is also a Barbadian, Mr. Jean Holder and Mr. Markley Wilson respectively, and the CHA which is headed by Mr. Alfred Taylor. You will find, Sir, that Barbadians are in prominent positions. I need not mention, Sir, that I am the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of CTO. That is just by the way, but it is rather important, Sir. Yes, I feel that it is very important. So with our scarce resources we have done very well.

One only has to consider, Sir, that in the United States of America, Bahamas has sixteen offices. We with our scarce resources, Sir - that is why I am saying this when they are asking in these Estimates for \$21.5 million, I am saying with our scarce resources, we have done quite well.

Now, Sir, I know that I have a lot of time to spend with tourism and sports, but I am going to move into tourism exclusively at least for the time being because I think that later on we will have a look and see how the fusion goes. Now it is interesting to note, Sir, that international tourism has emerged as a major industry in the world. Indeed, I can only think of two, that is, the oil industry and the car industry, that will surpass tourism. The importance of tourism to the international economy, to the Caribbean economy and, most particularly, to the Barbados economy cannot be over emphasised, Sir.

I stand here today, Sir, to look at the total expenditure for tourism and sports which will be \$25 934 640, an increase of \$3 724 409 from last year. In the current expenditure, tourism will move from \$18 244 000 to \$21 565 974 an increase of \$3.3 million. In sports, there will be an increase of \$306 000. On the capital side, Sir, there have been decreases in tourism of \$430 000 and in sports \$2.6 million.

Now anyone with a modicum of common sense would understand and would know that the increase of about \$3 million, is justified. I will move with all alacrity, Sir, to inform this Honourable House of a few things. First of all, our major geographic market performance of 1988, the main objectives in 1988, and the summary of performances in 1988, vis-a-vis the stated objectives.

I would also have to look at our geographic marketing strategies, our product development, the things we are going to do, our television promos, our journalistic programmes and our broad and bold policy initiatives. I will also like to look at things like cultural tourism and maturing guests. Maturing guests, I know some Honourable Members, Sir, alluded to the fact that it is very important that we look at our elderly people.

I know for a fact, Sir, that the demographic profile of the elderly seems to suggest, that we are all living to an older age.

People who have retired are working again and they are travelling. I think we have to look at that, as it is a matter relating to health tourism.

We should look at the sectoral linkages whether it be agriculture, *from* the point of view of growing more local food to reduce the import bill, or whether it is going to be the environment, or what have you. If I have the time, Sir, I shall look at harassment in its many forms, be it jet skis or horses on the beach, dogs, solicitation, whatever it is, Sir, or we will look at the over booking that occurred last October when for the first time in many years Barbadian hotels were full and during that period and it resulted in many of the tourists who booked in certain hotels, being told that they had to go elsewhere. Perhaps we can look at the fact that there are great ramifications resulting from this, most of all, Sir, the consumer laws that they have in places like Sweden, and indeed most part of Europe. We can have a look at that.

I now turn my attention to our sports calendar which is a promotional tool and which, I am sure, the Leader of the Barbados Labour Party would be pleased to hear, was not late this year, but it is more improved.

Sir, I think the Leader of the Opposition talked about a policy. I think we would like to demonstrate that we have a policy, and we would like to let you know what it is.

In looking at the overview for tourism for 1988, I would say, Sir, that against all odds, and despite the crash on the 19th October, 1987 in Wall Street, we can say today, Sir, that the arrivals in Barbados in 1988, were 451 485, an increase of 7%, Sir. I say despite all the odds.

Sir, in looking at the geographic market performance, I think it is necessary to let you know how we did in the various sectors. It might be well to look at the new one, the European sector. This market recorded an increase of 45.4% where we had 34 317 visitors coming to our shores. The consistently high value of the European currency, Sir, vis-a-vis the American dollar to which we are tied, is a contributing factor. I would have to praise the marketing strategies of the Board of Tourism in places like Sweden where we had 16 000 visitors from about October to May this year, pumping some \$25 million into our economy, I think, Sir. That was a very good job. Also, Sir, visitors from places like Germany, and I must say we are cognizant of the fact that in Germany we do have a problem with air seats. This is occasioned by the fact that if you are going to leave Germany from Frankfurt and you come from Cologne, Dusseldorf, Berlin or any other city, you have to overnight in Frankfurt. Germans do not particularly like to overnight again in London. So the obvious thing to do is to get a non stop charter. We have talked so often to people at Lufthansa and Condor, which is a subsidiary of Lufthansa, and I think that we will probably get that one linked in due course.

Of course, there is France, essentially an up-market region. They are more or less up-marketers. They spend a lot of money and they stay at the expensive hotels. I think I read in the papers that the Leader of the Opposition said the other day that, in the tourist industry we have to look at the medium range and elegant hotels and increase the capacity in that range. That is a fact. When one looks at the type of traffic we get from France and Italy and, indeed, Germany, I think that bears out the point.

Added to that, the other thing I should like to say is that BWIA is now going to fly out of Stockholm, and they are also going into Italy. That will help in no small way in alleviating this problem that besets us.

Sir, the United Kingdom, there is an old story about our seasonal problem. Everyone in Barbados knows that traditionally people used to come to Barbados in the winter, the affluent people. We had a history where people would work for six months and then in the summer, they would probably go to Canada and pick fruit, things like that. This year, as for the past two years, I would say that the seasonality of the problem has been licked. What is most significant is that it has helped the smaller hotels, 80% of which are owned by Barbadians. It has helped these people who were virtually bankrupt, yes some other Honourable Member alluded to that, helped them to do certain things.

When I get to the product development and I get the time, Sir, I will run through the list and show the various improvements that the small hotels have been able to make, Sir.

The value of the pound remained relatively high, in 1988. I must say, Sir, that this market has been stimulated. The scheduled airlines, they too have been reducing their fares somewhat, and tour operators have been able at long last to buy into the charter programmes. I think Sir, that has been a great fillip to the industry as far as coming out of the United Kingdom is concerned. 2.45p.m.

From the United States, that is still our major market in terms of the number of long stay visitors, in 1988, Sir, we had 170,773 visitors. This is a decline of 2.5%. The story is well known, Sir, and even though it is said that the economy of the United States has recovered, it appears that the potential visitor from the United States is still rather cautious. Indeed, the whole country in the tourist industry is inwardly looking. They look rather inwardly, Sir, but in the last few months we have seen an improvement, and the cumulative June to November figures saw an increase of about 7.3%, Sir, over 1987.

Canada, I must say a bit about that. In 1988 the market showed a marginal increase of about 2.1% when we had 64,349 Canadians coming here. They are very price sensitive, Sir, and the cheaper destinations of Mexico and

the Dominican Republic, the Peso-based countries, Sir, seem to attract them. We need more seats in the summer and we have an internal problem which we will soon settle. Quickly, Sir, I will say that the Commonwealth Caribbean accounted for 63,651 visitors. The leading country as far as we are concerned is Trinidad & Tobago with 22,372 visitors. In spite of this, we had a decline of about 11.6%. As the economy continues to be plagued by adverse balance of payments in addition to a few devaluations, Sir, Trinidadians have been rather reluctant to spend money to go overseas.

So, Sir, that really is the scenario as far as the arrivals from the market places are concerned. As for cruise ship arrivals, the Barbados Labour Party will be very interested in this because we had some 291,053 people coming to Barbados in 1988. That is a 21.4% increase over 1987, and I dare say that the 1987 figure was a 51.4% over 1986. I know you placed a lot of emphasis in that over the years, and I would not deny that. A good job has been done in that respect, Sir. However, we want to turn these short stay 12 hour tourists into long stay tourists, and therefore, Sir, in order to do that, we recognize that we will have to have more than the sun, sand and sea. We will need some attractions, Sir, and we are looking seriously at that.

Sir, the bed occupancy rate decreased from 46.7% in 1983 to 35% in 1985. Sir, in the last 2 years or so, it has done quite well and it is now 68%. The average length of stay, Sir, decreased from 7.7% days in 1983 to 6.5% in 1986, and it is now 6.7%. I would, however, say this, that with the influx of European visitors, who have a traditional history of staying longer, Sir, I think that this will be improved.

The visitor accommodation is about 14.8 thousand beds, the same as 1987. I have already alluded to the fact, that we must, of necessity, look forward to getting a few more hotels.

Now the estimated tourist expenditure, Sir, in 1987, tourism contributed some \$772.2 million to the economy and for 1988 we estimated a 5% increase. Sir, in 1988 tourism earned some \$918 million, an increase over 20%, I would also like to say that, as far as the hotel and restaurant tax is concerned, \$15.5 million was collected.

I have given an overview of our performance in 1988, Sir, and I think that our performance can be summarised by saying that we have achieved the major objectives. I would just list six of them, and see how they compare with what we said we would do: (1) We wanted to maintain the hotel occupancy rate of 65.8 and we ended up with a 68%, an increase Sir, (2) We wanted to improve the utilization of all sectors of the hotel plant, and we achieved this rather easily, (3) Reducing the seasonality was a great success, (4) Increasing visitor arrivals by 5% was our objective, Sir, and as I said before we increased it by 7%, (5) Enhancing and

increasing cruise ship arrivals, Sir, we did that by 21.4% and (6) Last but not least and most important rather, increasing the tourist earnings by at least 5% and as I said by over 20% we increased that.

So Sir, it can safely be said that we have diversified the product. We have created attractions and we have enhanced our competitiveness.

Now in terms of our policy, and what we wish to do. Sir, in terms of the general programme for 1989 to 1991, it is our policy to have a better utilisation of the hotel plant. This is rather important, Sir, a shift to the middle range and luxury properties and a direct programme for the shoulder period between April and June and certainly September and October and we really wish to direct our programmes to take up that slack. Also, we wish to shift the charter programming to the apartment category of the accommodation sector. When that is done, Sir, you will find that we will have improved the overall occupancy rate and we will extend the programmes implemented in 1988 where we will have more arrivals and consequently more money.

Sir, let us look at the geographic market segments into 1990, because I do not think that in tourism right now - this is 1989 and we are looking at 1990, 91, 92, and 93 and therefore looking at the markets. In the United States market, we wish to have the restoration of this market with continuing emphasis on the North East. In other words, Sir, we wish to make sure that we will go into the North East but we will also build up our market share, while focussing on the West Coast and the South West and also the Mid-West. In other words, Sir, places like Atlanta, the non-traditional areas, anything west of Chicago, that is the objective, I would say, Sir, that about a year ago we went up to New York and negotiated with American Airlines, Mr. Peter DiLaro, and immediately he gave us a hub out of San Juan. What that means, Sir, is that anyone coming from anywhere east or as I said west of Chicago or up north, can easily get into Barbados once you catch that hub in Puerto Rico. So Sir, that is the U.S. market.

In England, we would like to see maintenance of traffic from these areas projecting an upgraded image and we will target areas in Europe like West Germany, Scandinavia, France, and Italy. We have done this already, Sir, and Inter-Sun and Thompson's are now going to come to Barbados from this summer. I think, Sir, that along with Air Tours who have been here for about 3 years we will see a greater influx of tours into Barbados. What is more, I think that the hoteliers have been able to negotiate a better price and anyone who has a passing interest in the tourist industry, especially the small hotels will be aware of the great fillip it has given to the tourist industry. That is the success of these charter operations that we have had. Of course, we will be focussing on Puerto Rico - Everyone knows about the 936 programme - in the Bahamas and Bermuda as a source of topping up this traffic.

So Sir, I thought that I would give Honourable Members of the House the opportunity of listening to what we feel we will have to do within the next 5 or 6 years.

The case of product development, Sir, we have only had a few jiew hotels in the last years, Sir - Kings Beach, a 57 room hotel. It has had a 98% occupancy rate, Sir, from the time it was opened. In the offering now, Sir, we have the Royal Westmoreland which is a multi-million dollar complex with 400 villas and townhouses. This is rather up market with a championship golf course. I say golf course, Sir, because one has to understand that golf will be of great importance, Sir, to the tourist industry. We know quite well that in Japan people queue up to play golf, and in their frustration now they go from Japan down to Los Angeles to get a game of golf. We also know that in Bermuda there are 9 golf courses and I defy any Honourable Member to go to Bermuda and get on to a golf course within a week's time, yet they have 9 golf courses. So we know quite well, Sir, the development of golf facilities in this country is a priority, and we will have at least 2 more in a very short time, Sir. 2.55 p.m.

This will bring another dimension to the Barbados already diversified product. It is a matter of hotel expansion, new restaurants, nightclubs, new services, ground transportation and major promotions.

You see, Sir, in our bold policy initiatives we recognise, as I said before, that the sun, sand and sea are not the only three attributes that will bring people to Barbados. The way people are treated is important. That is why an awareness programme is important.

Tourism in schools is another area that is rather important. Not that tourism is not taught now, but only on a limited scale. We would like to see it brought into the curriculum. We feel that things like convention centres bring tourists, and not the other way round. We feel we must have more attractions. One can go into the depths of the ocean in Atlantis, perhaps the bowels of the earth in the caves, and you can go into the light aeroplanes and see the panorama that is Barbados, but we need to have more if we are going to attract people, and so, Sir, we have been negotiating for the past four or five months with people who are inteiested in bringing attractions here.

One other important point, Sir, is assistance to the small hotels. It goes without saying that this is rather important. I say so, Sir, because I feel as I said before about 80% of the small hotels in Barbados are owned by Barbadians, but we feel that they are lacking in marketing expertise. They really do not have the money like the big boys to go on promotional tours and market their hotels, and so we are looking after that. We are also looking at their accounting procedures. They are getting help with that and how to upgrade their facilities. There are many hotels

who are now getting things like restaurants so that when people come, even if they were staying in the summer at reduced rates, by eating in the restaurant you will find that they will be able to see it through. So, Sir, those are the things we are going to do. We are going to refurbish these smaller hotels and hope that we will be able to raise the standard.

We have to look at cultural tourism. There is Crop-Over. Thousands of Barbadians are coming to Barbados every year from the United States of America and Canada and further afield. We need to encourage them to come home, and by so doing our cultural tourism programme will be very important. Hence the sports and cultural calendar where we have allowed everyone to know the hotel rates in summer and in winter. We have hold them about all of our cultural programmes, and all of our sporting programmes, and I think it is a must for any visitor to Barbados, for all tour operators, for all our Missions as we advertise Barbados. We have to do that because we do not have the financial resources to go on CNN and the other big stations every day. Indeed, I think we have to have familiarisation tours, and we have to do the things that are necessary.

For the Queen's visit, for the Gold Cup and for the 350th anniversary this year, I encouraged six newspapers in London to send their correspondents here to cover those three illustrious events. They did so, Sir, and we got TSN again to come to Barbados and cover those events. What we did was simply to put them up, look after them while they were here and in turn they will give us necessary publicity as they return home. I think that is important. We have people coming down on "fam" trips and in so doing, they will go back home and write about Barbados. This is one way of getting the newspapers and the trade magazines to get Barbados featured in their booklets and their magazines.

We have to look at the sectoral linkages I alluded to. We have 240 000 experts in tourism in Barbados. Everybody is an expert, everybody is a repository of tourism knowledge, everybody is steeped in the knowledge of the state of the art. But I know that is not particularly true! Perhaps in one's enthusiasm one rushed on.

Harassment in tourism is the big thing nowadays. In terms of harassment on the beach, everyone knows we set up a committee some three months ago which will give a report in another two or three weeks. I am aware of it, Sir, having been myself a victim of jet skis as I bathed one day about four weeks ago in Brighton. We pulled the burning issue out of that Committee stage and in Cabinet we are looking at it. It is a fact. It is not easy, but we are looking at it. It is dogs, horses, molestation, all sorts of hazards. Crime and things like that.

That reminds me, Sir, that so often we see on the front pages of the newspapers great crimes being reported. I am not saying that we have to cover up anything, but I was in

London a few weeks ago, and a pregnant lady was on the A1, and her car broke down. She just went to the telephone to get a little help and that was the end of her. They found her two days later in a swamp or somewhere like that, and her three children there in the back seat of the car. That did not reach the front page, Sir, I am telling you, but what I am saying is that we are tourist oriented; and I think that sometimes as I read the things that make big news here, it makes me wonder what the tourists think when they come here and read our newspapers.

As you know, Sir, we are an intelligent people, an affable people, an adjustable people, and therefore I am appealing to all Barbadians, because I know all those things to be true, to let us do our part as far as tourism is concerned.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Minister has two minutes to conclude.

Hon. W. W. HALL: Lord! I was just going to talk about sports, Sir. I am saying that as far as I am concerned I was going along merrily telling the Honourable House exactly as I see it. I was not dreaming dreams, I was not revelling in Utopian aspirations either, I was looking at the stark realities of the world scene. That is one of the stark realities that boggles the mind, if you look at it very carefully. I am not kidding, Sir, I am in here today to be serious.

Asides.

Hon. W. W. HALL: Anyhow, Sir, I Know that some Honourable Member, will bring up spcri, but I would only like to say that in 1988, despite whatever you may hear, despite whatever you might have seen, we had the greatest year in sport as far as performance is concerned. That is a true thing.

My objective, as the Minister responsible for sports too, would be to give all 27 constituencies the facilities which would do them proud. I wish I had the ume. The Honourable Leader of the Barbados Labour Party must not comment, Sir, he has seen that beautiful court at the Garrison Savannah, the home of the Lakers, of Andy Jones, Eddie King and Valance Nightengale, all stalwarts of the Lakers Basketball Club, and everyone living in Dayrells Road, St. Michael. Your constituency, will play there, but this time in comfort.

Not to mention the Member for St. Peter. Soon from now there will be palatial surroundings next door to the bus terminal. They have not done it properly yet, but we will ensure they will do it. The Member for St. Thomas knows very well that he is going to get a piece in hard court

facilities at Bagatelle, and I believe that that ground in Bridgetown is the best ground in Barbados as far as community grounds are concerned. 3.05 p.m.

But I know, Sir, that the Honourable Member for St. George South will not comment, neither will the Leader of the Opposition who know that when I took him to Valery, it was going to be a two by four ground, and because of my experience...

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, you took me?

Hon. W. W. HALL: The Honourable Member took me, I will concede, but I must say that you were not cognisant of the fact that ten years from now the people of Brittons Hill will need a mecca, they will not need a two by four ground. We have knocked down the whole Challenor wall and today you have a paradise. Despite that, we even got cucumbers; the people were so cooperative that they gave us some of their produce. I suppose it is because of you. I thank you.

I want to say one more thing, Sir. You also have a beautiful basketball court. I will come back with more. I have not talked about my colleagues.

Asides.

Hon. W. W. HALL: You know very well that the pavilion at Emmerton bears my name, but I had nothing to do with building it. I am saying that the Members of Everton Football Club, Reggie Haynes' Club, are very proud of it, the Minister of Health's Club; he kept goal for Barbados. Sir, I have only touched the Opposition, but I must speak about my colleagues when the time comes.

You did indicate, Sir, that I only had two seconds.

I beg to move that the sum of \$25 348 497, under Head 43 - Ministry of Tourism and Sports - stand part of the Schedule.

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

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, first of all I did not hear the Honourable Member speak to the question of a pavilion in the Carrington Village area, and I hope that it is not the case which I suspect, that it is not going to be built. However, we will get on to domestic sports matters later on. What I want in this 15 minutes period to address is the question of the NDP's position on tourism in the Barbados economy. It is abundantly clear to me that for some years there has been some under-estimation not only of the net tourist receipts from tourism but also the impact of tourism on the over-all economy of Barbados. That was a perception which I shared with other observers when I was

on the Opposition benches some time ago, and with the change of the administration, one of the first steps taken was to work very closely with the former Minister of Tourism in assigning tourism a primary role in the re-stimulation of the Barbados economy, hand in hand with the expansionary capital programme which the Government of the day inherited.

I think it is fair to say that the fact that there has been some element of growth in the Barbados Economy of a balanced nature has been because of the fairly rapid expansion of tourism, and therefore it is essential that these steps that were taken both at the macro economic level and at the sectoral level in 1986 be allowed to continue. They related (1) to an overall reduction of costs, (2) to the targeting of promotion not only in terms of the geographical areas from which you were recruiting tourists, but in particular to targeting the particular segments of the year where you would divert your resources to improve the number of tourists coming to Barbados. I think that what we are seeing today, and I think the Minister would accept this, has been the result of the impetus given in that period along of course with the management skills which the Minister has brought to bear on the situation. So I have no particular criticisms at the macro level in terms of what has happened in tourism except that I would like the Minister to bear in mind that as we perceive it, I believe that the Ministry of International Transport should properly be placed with the Ministry of Tourism, because in the long run, I am not trying to deprive the Deputy Prime Minister of a Ministry or a subject, or of a seat at this moment, but it is quite clear to me now that if we are going to be ever able to maximise on our promotion to get the largest number of tourists here, this question of matching airline seats to persons coming to Barbados is going to be very critical. One of the policies of the NDP would be to link the Ministry of International Transport with Tourism to ensure that we can deal with the question of transport of people to Barbados at the same time as an integral part of your tourism planning.

A second point of concern is that in past years, and this has nothing to do with the Minister of Tourism in a sense, any time you saw the tourist industry making the kind of strides that it has made, there has been a concomitant thrust in new investment in the tourism industry. That is not happening today. We need to get the medium size and a few large hotels in Barbados and the investment is not coming. I have adverted to this earlier in this debate on the Appropriation Bill, and it is an anomaly if you look back through the history of tourism with its ups and down, any time you reach this kind of peak there has been a new thrust in tourism investment which we are going to need if we are going to be able to generate further growth in the tourism industry.

In terms of upgrading of the hotel plant, I think it can be fair to say that that was started by the Barbados Labour

Party, we continued it and I hope it will continue at an accelerated rate, although from the number of reports that I hear from the tourism sector, the applications for concessions are not being processed expeditiously and it is creating problems for the very small hoteliers whom we say we are trying to help. Let me tell you something, Sir. What is quite clear to me is that all over the world now, it is now being recognised, as the NDP recognised even before it existed through its leader, that the greatest area and most rapid area of growth in the international economy is in the services area and tourism is only one aspect of the services industry. It is also recognised generally in the Caribbean circles today that you can have as much oil as you like, you can have as much forest, you can have as much of other kinds of natural resources, but a country which can participate in the expanded area of services is the country that has grown more rapidly with least damage to its environment and has been able to provide the type of jobs which the young people of today require. 3.15p.m.

That is why the NDP is fully committed, as a matter of priority, to press for development of every single aspect of the services sector of the Barbados economy, not that the others may not be important, and that is why we place so much stress on the linkages between tourism and agriculture and earlier today, on another matter, I spoke on the linkages between tourism and transport because I will bet you that if tourism continues to grow at not less than 4% to 5% per year, that you are going to find that the fastest area of employment generation for small business people in Barbados is going to be the domestic transport sector and five or six years down the road you may find that it is essential even to separate the Ministry of Transport from the Ministry of Works if you are going to have the kind of accelerated Works Programme.

Anyhow, these are things that we give a lot of thought to. The NDP is, quite clearly, a forward-thinking party...

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I am talking about the linkages between tourism, transport, and international transport. These things are fundamental and very important.

Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member has occupied five minutes of my time, fully five minutes of my time has been wasted by the Honourable Leader of the House and his colleague on the other side and, therefore, I am requesting an extension of five minutes, Mr. Chairman.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Now, Sir, there are other areas of investment that are very critical to Barbados. It is a crying shame that we have not had an additional golf course in Barbados to date and the man to blame is the Honourable

Member for St. James South. The money that is in here for Durants should have been spent a long time ago in terms of getting Durants upgraded to the point where an international firm could have been brought into Barbados in order to give an international name and the finer touches to the Durants Golf Course.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: How you mean you do not know - the Minister of Labour - the additional funds that were made available in 1987? He was told that he could spend the money but to make sure that he divert some of the labour to Durants in order to get that golf course by the end of the year to a level where he can then go to the sports people and say, try and get an international consultant to come in.

The next area of investment, Mr. Chairman, is in the area, I think, of a convention centre.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: On a point of order.

I just heard the Leader of the Opposition misleading the House talking about Durants. It only demonstrates his ignorance about golf courses.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I really sat and listened with great care to what the Member was going to say. He said that I am demonstrating my ignorance. Are you going to deny or anyone over there is going to deny that there were extensive discussions with two private sector organisations who were prepared to continue the development of Durants after certain infrastructural work was done? It is a waste of time.

As a matter of fact, Sir, the Honourable Member does not understand anything. I have never seen anyone who is clearly rarefied about the neck, behind the nose, in front of the back of the head, below the scalp and between the ears. That is the Honourable Member.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, unfortunately...

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

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: A point of Order.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN stands.

Certain remarks made by Hon. N. K. SIMMONS were ordered expunged from the records by Mr. CHAIRMAN.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am not going to permit the debate to go down that road.

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

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I will bring Hansard in here and read from Hansard what was put in the Debate by no other person than the late Tom Adams when he came down to the House for the money.

If I may finish off, Sir. I would like the Honourable Minister of Tourism to tell us if any progress has been made in terms of getting a convention centre in Barbados, whether or not the proposed project has got off the ground or will get off the ground, the project that could be sited somewhere in the region of Paradise Beach Hotel, or whether there is any other associated project relating to a convention centre, whether there are any plans for the expansion of the facilities at Heywoods in that direction, if there are any plans for any further upgrading of the rooms at Heywoods so that they can offer facilities of probably a Five Star Hotel nature as part of the hotel complex, and whether the Minister is aware of any additional investment apart from the Westmoreland Project in terms of the hotel industry. Because I think, Sir, as my final point, that unless this area of investment is attended to, then we may well be faced with a problem, provided the international and local environment remain conducive to growth in the industry where you have maximum utilisation of your existing plant and you cannot cope with any further influx of tourists. 3.25p.m.

I believe that, properly structured, Barbados, even with its existing infrastructure, can probably cope easily with another 300 000 to 400 000 tourists without any severe social problems or any severe damage to the social or other aspects of our environment.

So that in this new area of new investment, new plant, rejuvenation of old plant, I should like to get some idea of the activity that is going on there. What is happening here is you have come to the end of a cycle where we have maximised, not fully maximised, but getting near to maximising the previous investment. Quite clearly, if we are going to continue to grow in this area, then we need further investment in the tourism plant.

I should like to see, if I may say so, one final point, in some of that investment relating to the East Coast an appropriate form of investment and in the area of St. John and St. Joseph, I should like to see some infrastructural development there in tourism which would be an important stimulus to agricultural development and work generation in that area.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. John.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, it is almost as if the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central was reading my mind because I really wanted to speak on' this Head in relation both to infrastructural development of the tourism plant on the East Coast and some other features of development on the East Coast with respect "to tourism that I think are critical.

I think that the Ministry of Tourism, as part of its plan for tourism, should perhaps be able to give us some idea of what role it sees for the East Coast within the total development of tourism. Whether, for example, it is seen, although I would hope not, as a major site for the traditional infrastructural large condominium hotels, that kind of thing, or whether it will be seen in the context of its scenic beauty and the environment and providing other kinds of attractions to add to those which already exist in Barbados.

For example, Sir, I am also interested in knowing whether, I do not know whether it would come under the Ministry of Tourism, but there is a lot of, I suppose what you would call it, internal tourism. I myself am one of those people who have noticed the difference. I have lived for most of my life on the west coast, there is a total difference in scenery and in engagement with the universe that take place when one makes the transformation from the urban or west coast into the eastern part of Barbados.

I think that it perhaps would be an interesting development if perhaps we could encourage these holiday homes not only for Barbadians but for people within the Caribbean region. The fact that Barbados' East Coast faces to the Atlantic Sea makes it reasonably unique, although it is true to say that other islands, for example parts of St. Vincent, also have that similar look about them on the East Coast. But Barbados' terrain on that side is particularly unique and beautiful. In addition to which the Minister of Tourism and Sports and I have spoken about the tourism and sport thrust, and I had recommended to him, for example, that there are some large tracts of land, particularly in St. John, particularly in the area of Broadley and other parts, maybe St. Lucy, where when the sun goes behind the cliff at about 2.00 o'clock maybe 3.00, it will be possible for visiting sportsmen to play well into the evening without having to bear the heat that they bear in the area of Dover and so on when they visit here. Perhaps it would be a good idea to consider developing at least that kind of thing on the East Coast.

Now, Sir, between Bathsheba, going right across to probably as far as Sam Lord's Castle, there are no stopping points that I would consider to be particularly developed. For example, there are not many restaurants. There is an absence of, let us say, handicraft centres. But on a daily basis hundreds of tourists pass on that road from Bathsheba right across to Sam Lord's.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I have been trying to encourage...

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Fair enough. But I want some people in St. John too, I want him to make money available, to make some of the millions available to some people in St. John.

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I have been encouraging my own constituents to consider some development of that area. One particular constituent who put in an application recently at BDB has completely not even considered the potential, - it is right near Codrington - of putting let us say, a small area for handicraft or something like that. There are hundreds of tourists who pass there every day. I have also encouraged the community group there in College to consider asking the Trust to give them an area around by the Codrington College woods also to set up some kind of handicraft or souvenir stand for locally made indigenous souvenirs. That whole stretch of road is under-utilised.

There is a fellow from St. John who sells coconuts right there in the corner after Broadley. Usually within an hour from 10.00 to 11.00 he is sold out because of the large number of tourists who pass. He sells other fruits too. Have you seen him? He sits down under a crate. If you see the cars that stop because there are no other attractions. Actually it is a live spot. When you stop there is a little pond and you can look back to the East Coast and so on. These are the kinds of things that I think are important and that I think we should, perhaps, be encouraging. When people make that transformation from the more developed west coast of Barbados and go over to the East Coast it is a difference. They feel that they are meeting Barbadians, average Barbadians in the agricultural sector, the workers of Barbados rather than the more metropolitan scenery and outlook on the other parts of Barbados. So I do not think that there are enough of those kinds of attractions.

I have already said that the area where the old train line runs, Martin's Bay, a fishing village, Consett Bay, the old train line, that you can see when you look over the cliff from Broadley, Glenburnie, all of these are small stops along the way that are breathtaking when you take in the beauty. You cannot drive to the end of the cliff easily. But there are a lot of people who would enjoy the walk. These are the things that we must-encourage and we must encourage our own Barbadians to be involved in the tourist industry, even if only as tour guides. There are some places in the world where you will see a fellow with a little sign say, "\$1 for a scenic walk". He sits down there and people come and he takes them on a scenic walk for how much

ever. He can do that. The people living in College Savannah in St. John, the young fellows who know the rocks down there. They are so beautiful and could encourage people, you pay \$5 and you go on a scenic walk. In St. Lucia, the crater to Soufriere prior to it being taken over by the Tourist Board, the tours were done by Rastafarians and other youth living in that area. Not only did they carry you on the tour. They sold you black coral and they sold you other kinds of souvenirs. They took your jewellery if you had silver on you, because the silver turns grey as my watch turned when I went into the crater and I have not been able to get it back the right colour, and they take the whatever it is off the ground and they rub off the surface and it turns back pretty again. Those kinds of interesting things are the things that perhaps make a visit to a country memorable, that makes the difference. It was pleasing to me to see that, even without the Tourist Board's intervention, which in the end became necessary because of the physical danger, but even without that intervention, the people living in Soufriere and those areas had developed that as part of their normal way of living. I think that we should perhaps encourage some of our young people to be involved in these activities to develop the old train line as the scenic walk, not only for tourists but for Barbadians, to encourage holiday homes here in Barbados for Barbadians.

The Minister responsible for the National Conservation Commission has promised me that there will be some beautification in the area of Bath. I really am not one of those persons who would like to see Bath developed to the extent that it loses the beauty which Barbadians feel about it. It is one of those areas in Barbados which Barbadians know still belongs to them. Nobody has come and tried to stop them from going there. There are no security guards patrolling the beach. People do not bring out deck chairs and you do not see people trying to sell to you on the beach. It is a true Barbadian beach - a Sunday afternoon Barbadian beach which any tourist coming to Barbados would be perhaps also interested in seeing - that after a fellow eats his Sunday lunch would come down with a tyre from whatever part of St. John and swim, which was a traditional thing. It still is a traditional thing in that area. Then later in the night he may stay on or others may come through the area for other reasons.

Laughter.

3.35p.m.

The point is that Bath Beach is still a Barbadian setting that has historical interest, that a Barbadian coming back to Barbados can drive down to Bath and say that this is the Bath I know. This is the Bath Beach I know. Those kinds of things to me are still important.

I think we should be hand in hand with the N.C.C. and the other agencies in tourism. Some of the resources that are put at the disposal of the Government and also the resources that are put at the disposal of other entrepreneurs

in the tourist industry should be used to develop these indigenous tourist attractions and other kinds of attractions on the East Coast. I am not myself one of those who supports the concept of developing the East Coast in terms of buildings and so on. But perhaps the Minister can give Us more information on that.

I believe that these kinds of developments are those that will create greater employment in the tourist sector and thereby develop an interest, in my view, in the rural sector in self sufficiency, self employment, and that sort of thing and those are the things that we should be looking at. So I should be very grateful to hear from the Minister, and I am certain other Honourable Members whose constituencies run to the East Coast would be interested in hearing what plans there are for that kind of development. The Honourable Member for St. Peter is the luckiest man in the world because he can canvas Speightstown and then later in the afternoon go over to the East Coast, which I always found such a wonderful thing about St. Peter as a Barbadian. You can park in Nicholas Abbey and sit down and drink a beer and look at the whole East Coast as I used to do when I was canvassing against you not as a candidate but during the by-election. Every lunch time when they were looking for me that is where I was. It really made a lot of difference.

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: No, that was just a lunch time respite. But I think about it, that those 2 environments co-exist, and I think we should be interested in developing those aspects of tourism that have not been looked at but which perhaps could bring some significant returns to us and should be looked at carefully by Government in its Development Plans for Tourism. Thank you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. Peter.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will only address constituency matters to the extent that they were raised by the Minister. Briefly on constituency matters, Sir, to remind him that if he was to read the statement by his predecessor as representative for St. Michael West Central on the occasion of the ground breaking for the Speightstown Bus Stand, he would recognise, Sir, that it was always included in the plan for that general area that there should be a playing field in the exact location that the Member, Sir, is now making sure that a playing field is being created. I thank him nonetheless, Sir, for following through on the plan.

My intervention, Sir, has to do with the measurement of the tourism statistics of Barbados and I would like to refer the House and I will make it a document of the House to a paper that was prepared by a Mr. Whitehall of the Central Bank of Barbados on the occasion of an Annual Review Seminar of the Research Department of the Central

Bank of Barbados held on June 29 - 30, 1988. Now this paper, Sir, was drafted for comment and it is the kind of paper that simply ought to be in the possession of the officials and particularly the officials at the Ministry of Tourism. The title of the paper, Sir, is the "Measurement and Interpretation of The Leading Tourism Statistics In Barbados" using a model of tourism expenditure to GDP. Mr. Whitehall, of the Central Bank as Members may know, happens to be the Economist in the Research Department of the Central Bank who compiles the annual GDP statistics.

The major purpose of this paper, Sir, that was presented at the Central Bank last year, and as I said I will make it a document of the House, was to draw the conclusion that tourism expenditure in Barbados is significantly overstated. If I may repeat, Sir, that tourism expenditure in Barbados is significantly overstated. Mr. Whitehall in this paper, Mr. Chairman, puts the case that the method of estimating tourism expenditure has been to some extent affected by the changing circumstances of the industry since 1983. Now I presume, Sir, that the Minister knows the method by which tourism receipts are calculated and, therefore, I will not tire the Minister with a discussion of methodology. The argument that is being put by Mr. Whitehall simply is that the industry in order to remain competitive has had to do a large amount of price discounting subsequent to the 1983 recession and that to the extent that the methodology used after 1983 entails a method which does not make allowances for extensive price discounting in the industry, to that extent, Sir, the Estimates that we are using of tourism receipts and expenditure for both purposes of balance of payments as well as for the purpose of the GDP are Estimates, Sir, that overstate tourism expenditure significantly in Barbados as he says. For that reason, he says that it is in the overstatement of tourism expenditure that we can find reasons for matters such as the fact that the balance of payments has continued to remain weak.

I, therefore, want to bring it to the attention of the House, bearing in mind that on the last occasion the International Monetary Fund sent a mission to Barbados with due reference to the fact, Sir, that one of the outstanding difficulties in our national accounts was the difficulty concerning compilation of an accurate series on tourism. In fact, Sir, the Government has this document which my colleague already made a document of the House last year - it says that the mission recommended that high priority be given to producing tourism expenditure figures based on the survey conducted in 1983 to 1984. The argument that I want to put, Sir, is that there has been no survey of tourism expenditure conducted in Barbados since 1983-84. The IMF has recommended that annual surveys be done and we do not have to do it merely because it was recommended by the International Monetary Fund. We have to do it, Sir, because to the extent that tourism has come to assume a larger and larger role in our balance of payments and in the generation of income and employment

in this country, we need to know as exactly as we can how well or how badly the sector is going. I, therefore, want to say Sir that if the Ministry of Tourism and if the Board of Tourism do not have plans to do surveys let us stop guessing as to the situation in this critical area, I can only urge that they accept the recommendation of the Central Bank as well as accept the recommendation of the International Monetary Fund and take urgent steps, Sir, to remove this particular anomaly that can cause serious policy distortions. I am going on the assumption that the Minister not yet has seen this paper, but in any event in accordance with the Rules of the House I am going to make this paper a document of the House. 3.45 p.m.

It is an argument from within the Central Bank of Barbados that, given existing methodologies, and given what has happened in the industry since 1983, particularly the prevalence of price discounting by major hoteliers to keep their product competitive, that existing statistics on tourism receipts in Barbados grossly overstate the official estimates.

They have also recommended methodologies to be used. The only way in which you can establish it is if you do precisely what the IMF has recommended that we do, and what the Central Bank has recommended that we do. I am saying that I am not going to get into a guessing game now as to whether it is overstated or understated, but in an area as critical as tourism, I am proposing that we do precisely what we do in the area of employment. Obviously, Mr. Chairman, we have to develop in Barbados a body of information that can serve as the basis upon which you can make sensible decisions, and it is remarkable that we have not had a tourism survey for so many years.

We would be, I think, Sir, recognised as being ridiculous if we were to attempt to run this country without doing quarterly household surveys to determine the level of unemployment in the country. It has become a matter of course that we take regular samples in order to determine the level of unemployment in the land, and if it is not included in this year's Estimates I would like to propose that this is a matter of such great urgency as far as I am concerned that we ought to make provision this year for the conduct of a proper survey so that there can be no possible distortion of policy as regards the extent of tourism contribution to the Barbados economy.

I make this point, Sir, because I heard the Member for St. Michael South Central say that, in his view, the receipts are grossly understated. That is a view with which I do not concur, but as I said, I am not going to get into a guessing game, I can only urge that we do what we know we must do in the circumstances, let us spend money to put the difficulty behind us.

Having said that, I must ask the Government what is the Government's position in relation to the development of Pico Teneriffe? It is an area of Barbados which is not very well frequented.

Aside.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Let me state my point, please. I did not speak in the chicken debate, you know.

Aside.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Quite so, and only because I am your friend I did not speak in the chicken debate. I did not even interrupt you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the Honourable Member address the Chair?

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Pico Teneriffe is one of last remaining natural areas in Barbados, Sir. It is a refuge for weary souls like myself occasionally, and, unfortunately, the Member for St. John who has a great appreciation for St. Peter reaches only as far as Nicholas Abbey. But if he thought Nicholas Abbey was beautiful, he would think that Pico Teneriffe and that whole area running from Cove Bay back through Foster's Funland into Morgan Lewis is really the most beautiful part of Barbados. It is an area which we should approach with care. It is an area that lends itself to visits, but it does not lend itself to high rise type development or any major development that requires, in my view, the installation of expensive infrastructure.

The way I approach Pico Teneriffe is the way in which I suppose that we should look to have our tourists deal with it. It is an area in which we can make trails on which people can go on tours, very much like what the Member for St. John is speaking of in relation to places like Glenburnie. I am seeking merely to ask whether the Ministry of Tourism sees the Pico Teneriffe area as an area that can be incorporated into the facilities that Barbados has to offer where tourism is concerned, because it can afford an employment outlet for persons in the general Boscobelle area, if properly developed, and incorporated into our tourism facilities. I would in closing just like to ask the Minister if there are plans for the development of that area.

The Member for St. Michael South Central has already spoken, not on my behalf, but certainly in concurrence with the views that I hold that we should look to the development of the convention potential of Heywoods, and I would welcome any views that the Minister might also have in that particular regard.

His Hon. J. J. PAYNE: Mr. Chairman, I should just like to add a few words to the debate on this Head.

I believe that the Minister was very comprehensive in his opening remarks, even though he may not have been conclusive, and I should like to compliment him on his performance in the Ministry of Tourism and Sport over the last year. I think from what we have heard we can feel assured that the Ministry of Tourism is in good hands. He has indeed touched on the area of sport, a matter on which I had intended to say some words this evening, but since he has given us the assurance that he will come back and talk about the playing fields for the Government side when he speaks again, I perhaps can leave that subject until later, but no doubt I am sure he will know that I will be listening to hear about Hoyte's Village, and that the people at Weston will be looking for some lights, and I hope that when the Labour Party goes down there on Wednesday night they tell the people that I have asked on their behalf that these things be granted. I have no doubt that the leader of the Labour Party will make it his duty to tell the people that the Member for that constituency has been foremost in seeking after their interests.

But, Mr. Chairman, I want to really speak on the subject of these jet skis. The Minister has mentioned it very briefly in his opening remarks, and I want to touch on it because every day we open the newspapers we have been seeing articles touching on this issue of the jet skis. I have no doubt that the Minister and the Ministry of Tourism have a plan to deal with this problem. What has been happening is that we have been getting continuous reports in the paper and it seems as if we have not been getting corresponding response from the Ministry, and it would appear from looking at the papers that the Government does not have a plan to deal with this problem.

I believe that perhaps the Minister may want to make a more forceful statement on this issue, because it is something that concerns me very much. Tourism is one of the industries that features very prominently in the constituency of St. James North. We have a lot of hotels on the west coast and the whole question of operating these jet skis is something that employs a large number of people from the St. James area. I have no doubt that those young people who operate the hobi cats, jet skis and so on, must be cognisant of the fact that the public and the tourists and the people of Barbados are constantly making a cry about the activities in the sea of the operators of these instruments. 3.55 p.m.

I believe that any action taken must consider the interest of the country. We have to look at the interest of the operators of these instruments, we have to look at the interest of the tourists, we have to look at the interest of the hoteliers, and then we have to find a solution to the problem which is in the interest of this nation. I believe that that must be the bottom line because we cannot have any group of persons carrying out any form of activity in this country, which can have the effect of driving tourists from this

country, and at the same time we do not want to create the impression in anybody's mind that we are trying to stop small people from getting work, and the matter can be seen in one or other of those views. So this is a matter I believe, Mr. Chairman, that we will have to deal with very forcibly.

I have no doubt that, as I said, the Minister and the Ministry have looked at this issue because it is something that was in the public domain for a long time, and I would like to see or hear some statement on it. In fact I would like to go as far as to say that if they need my assistance in working out a solution, I am willing to sit in on any discussions which will form part of that matter, because in my constituency there are a lot of young people who come to me on a daily basis with complaints in this particular area, and it would warm my heart to be part of any discussion in that particular area.

The question also of people who sell on the beach is a related matter which I believe has to be looked at again. I have no doubt that Government has been looking at this question, and every time we seek to come to a solution we always have to look at the interests of those persons who are most affected. I believe that there are more than two sides to the story; in fact there may be five, but we have to look at all the issues involved before a final decision is made, and I am sure that those people affected must feel that their views were heard. Those people whose interests will be affected in any solution must not get the impression at the end of the day that the Government took action without considering their interests. I believe that we should give all parties concerned an opportunity to be heard, and all those people who want to ventilate views on the matter, whether it is the Beach Association or whatever association involved, may be given the opportunity to ventilate the matter. I have no personal interest in the matter except that it will affect the people in my constituency, and it is on that basis, Mr. Chairman, that I want to raise this particular problem.

Now we have also a related matter which is of concern to the people of that west coast area, and it has to do with the question of beach erosion. The Minister of Tourism has on many occasions with officials of his Ministry visited certain areas at my request in an effort to deal with this problem of beach erosion. I would like, Mr. Chairman, to see a more determined effort made to make some of those people affected feel that action is being taken on their behalf. Right in the area of Holetown there is now a new hotel going up and the people in that area have been expressing concern to me about that area by Sandpiper Hotel which is causing some concern. I would like to see some action taken in that regard.

Now I have no doubt, Mr. Chairman, that this whole question

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central is interrupting the debate.

His Hon. J. J. PAYNE: If I may continue, I am sure, Mr. Chairman, that this whole question of access to the beach is something that should concern all of us and particularly at this time when we are seeing an expansion of the tourist industry, we are seeing an increasing number of hotels being constructed on the west coast. As the Minister said, we have just had the Kings Beach Hotel and we are having an expansion in Holetown, and all these are areas that have to be dealt with in a very constructive manner.

The final thing I would like to touch before I take my seat, and I see my time is rolling, is the whole question of tourism in schools. I believe that the tourist industry is of such importance to the economy of this country that we should not only introduce it but we should make it more publicised among the people of the country the importance of this industry to our economy. The whole question of crime against tourists is something that can be alarming, but * one of the things that one has to note in this particular area is that the press has got to play a very significant role in the way how it publishes some of the information relating to some of these matters.

I was reading one of the newspapers some time recently where there was an incident with a man who fell at the Holetown festival and got injured, and when you looked at the headlines to that article, you would have got the impression that this man received injuries as a result of an attack by some person or some Barbadians, whereas this man accidentally fell and was injured, but by just looking at the headline of the article one could easily get the impression that somebody attacked the man and caused him some injuries. I believe that to a very large extent the press has been playing a very significant role in this country, but the press has got to be very careful in the way how it deals with matters of this nature, because tourism is of such importance to this country that we have got to be very careful how we deal with matters even though we do not want to appear to be stifling information. We want to make sure that we do not do anything which can damage an industry which is as important as the tourist industry to this country. I have no doubt as I said that the press plays an important role, but I would like to call for a greater level of responsibility in publishing articles relating to some of these matters.

- The Minister also mentioned the question of the Westmoreland project. Now this is a project, Mr. Chairman, that is likely to generate a lot of employment on the west coast of this Island; it is a project which I believe will be of great importance not only to tourism but to sport. The whole idea of having a golf course integrated into the whole thing is, I believe, something that should be implemented. I am very happy that the Government has given permission to get this project started. I do not want to highlight the role

I have played in having the matter move on, but to some extent I think it is very important for us to recognise these things because I am not saying this merely because it happens to be in my constituency, because even though it is in my constituency, the chances are that when the jobs are ready to be distributed, they may not necessarily come from my constituency. I want to say that these kinds of projects can only do well for the development of this country', and the Minister and the Ministry of Tourism and the officials of that Ministry must be complimented for the efforts they are making in that regard. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, 4.05 p.m.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, in craving your indulgence, I am making a solemn promise to the Honourable Member for Christ Church West and to this House that I will only speak for two minutes and they have indicated that there is no way that I can only speak for two minutes.

Sir, in response to the question which the Honourable Member for St. James North raised relating to the whole question of jet skis, what the Government is doing to regulate that particular problem which, obviously is a problem for tourism. I would want to say that the Ministry of Tourism has been in touch with the Ministry of Trade and we have been in consultation with the Attorney General and a decision has been taken to put jet skis on licence and to all intents and purposes they are on licence as a first step pending the outcome of the committee which has been established to study the ramifications and, indeed, to have regulations relating to the whole area of jet skis so that they are on licence.

Thank you.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are several reasons why I would want to intervene in this debate. Suffice it to say that the tourism of Barbados really began years ago within St. Michael and Christ Church and I represent a constituency which makes a tremendous contribution to the GDP of Barbados as well as to the development of tourism. A lot of the original hotels on the Hastings coast which played a significant part in the growth of tourism were built, of course, in my own constituency.

Sir, I think we can acknowledge that the parties in this country recognize that tourism has a tremendous role to play and, indeed, let me say that from the Government's point of view it is very fortunate because, were it not for the growth in tourism, the overall 2.7% growth last year would not have been realized and I get the impression, very often, that that growth has taken place despite the Government's efforts.

I say this because the UN statistics for 1988 shows that U.S. \$55 billion were earned last year in the tourist industry by Third World Countries and in tourism in

general by all countries and to this extent tourism is, probably, contributing more in the world economy to the Third World Countries than even manufacturing and it is second only to oil.

The Estimates on the earnings from oil were something from U.S. \$70 to \$75 billion and it is predicted that the tourist industry will continue to grow in real terms, not in the terms the Minister gave us, the overall growth, but in real terms until the 21st Century at the rate of 5% and this, therefore, is very significant. It is a statistic that Barbados has to advert to very seriously and our planning for the future in this industry must look forward to the time and when we can maximise our earnings from it.

The other point, Sir, that is very important to me is that Barbados' share of the overall tourist trade in the Caribbean has sunk and that we are in a greater period of competition, particularly from Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, Antigua, the OECS and soon, Cuba, not to mention Mexico. So that we cannot go along on our way taking benefit from the fact that the high value of European currencies, in particular, the pound and the deutschmark have contributed to our success at this point and weakening U.S. dollar may not remain weak forever and any proper planning of the tourist product must take this into account.

Now, Sir, it is true that what has happened is that our performance since 1982 has shown that tourism has probably contributed more to the GDP at a higher percentage than any other sector of the economy but we still have serious problems. Whilst I accept the Minister's statement that tourism is now less seasonal, the seasonality has not yet gone out of tourism and, therefore, one must concentrate the efforts on improving this aspect of the situation.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The overall occupancy rate which the Ministry gave to the House is 68%. We have not yet got back to the high occupancy rate of 1980 when the overall occupancy rate was 69% and, in my view, an occupancy rate of 60% still means that we have a tremendous part of our plant not yet.....

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Yes, 1% more. Nineteen hundred and eighty and we are assured that we have not even gone back to that rate so I am saying that there is tremendous room for improvement within the existing tourist plant from an occupancy position and that, therefore, we must make sure that we do not continue to lose our share of the tourists coming to the Caribbean to more competitive areas who may be able to offer packages sometimes cheaper than we are getting.

Now, Sir, there are still continuing concerns and I would not wish it to be thought that the House is not adverting to those concerns.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, I think, made his remarks on one. There has been no real new investment in the tourist plant recently other than for the one which the Minister cited on the border of St. Peter/St. James but we must recognise now that there is a case for investment going into additional tourist plant - I am not speaking about refurbishing and renovation - and, most likely, it should be, in my estimation, at two ends. The luxury class end and the luxury class hotels have again begun to do well despite what to us might look at high cost. Secondly, in my view, in the South Coast, in order to make use of particularly the summer trade which is being promoted through the Air Tours and Charter industry and, therefore, one has to dovetail the planning within the financial sector to make use of these situations.

Now, Sir, the tourist industry's share of the financial resources of Barbados has fallen. I estimate that the decline is something like 8% over the period since 1985 and it seems to me that what is happening is that at the banking sector whether it is the commercial bank or the Development Bank, that not enough capital is going to tourism as compared to the distributive sectors and, therefore, the Government planning strategy must vary if we are to reverse this trend.

I say, Sir, that there is still not enough being done for marketing. Although these Estimates show an increase in the amount, it is still not as significant enough percentage if we are to compete effectively with our main competitors, particularly in our traditional markets and, Sir, I am not surprised.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael West looks on and smiles but if you listen carefully to what has been happening, whereas our tourist market in Europe whether it is Sweden, or Scandinavia, Germany, despite the problems of transportation from that destination, or the United Kingdom, whereas our market share has grown and grown significantly percentage wise, although overall I think the Minister gave us a figure of something like 32 000 tourists from European destinations, we are still heavily dependent on the North American market and that, therefore, we have to concentrate our efforts continually to wooing and expanding that market rather than having the stop/go situation that we have seen in the market over the last few years. 4.15p.m.

Make no mistake about it, we seem not yet to be able to overcome our difficulty either in the Canadian market or indeed in the American market. It tells me that our marketing strategy has to be more crisp or crisper in that market, and if more money is required, in my view it will

be money well invested in that type of market. It would deal with the long-term strategy which we have to have for our tourist plant.

Sir, we have to continue to do what the Member for St. Michael South Central said the Labour Party had started, which is giving incentives and assistance, financial assistance, and making money available for the refurbishing and renovation of the tourism plant. Some renovation and refurbishing has taken place. But if you look around at some of our hotel establishments, particularly some of the smaller and middle ranged establishments and, more particularly, on the South Coast, they are still in need of tremendous help. I do not want to single out any hotel by name. But within my own constituency for instance, there is one such hotel which has a good repeat trade particularly among elderly travellers, people who want to order, for instance, a four poster bed. They like that type of atmosphere. They like antiques and what not. Yet for that type of hotel to go to the market to get money, it finds itself always confronted with difficult terms whether it is from the Barbados Development Bank which we spoke about in here today or indeed from the commercial banks. I would strongly urge that the Government, in dealing with the financial sector, continue to press on them the necessity to assist with refurbishing and renovation.

Now, Sir, hotel management has improved considerably in Barbados during the last twenty years that we have been pushing this business. But there is still scope for improvement there. One wishes to see assistance given particularly to the small hoteliers, not only in marketing but also in helping them in their management techniques. Continuing seminars must be held.

I go further and say, Sir, that we have to look carefully at some of the Customs Duties which we are placing on other areas like computers, because today a computer is a necessity in this industry. You cannot say that we are helping to promote industry and helping the hotel plant, if we continue to have a very heavy duty on the equipment which hoteliers believe that they must have, if they are to get on with the job.

There are other problems, Sir. There are social problems which are confronting the industry. The Honourable Member for St. Lucy has just given Government's position on jet skis. But that is my view. The Government is not going far enough on this matter. There has always been - from the moment that you introduce motorized traffic as happened in the seventies, motorized traffic whether on the road or in the sea,...

His Hon. J. J. PAYNE: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I am sorry to cross. I think what the Honourable Member for St. Lucy was trying to suggest is that this is only a temporary measure. That is not the comprehensive

action to be taken. I get the impression he was saying this is temporary.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Well you see, Sir, it is this temporizing that bothers me. It is the lack of positive, and direct and immediate action to deal with the problem which this country needs, not a period of temporizing.

I say we cannot get away from the problem. We must be fair to all persons involved, our own local citizens, particularly the small persons who are operating jet skis. But we must recognize that unless we face the problem head on, they are eventually going to destroy their own goose that is to lay their own golden eggs.

If we as legislators are not prepared to take the decisions and to speak about them, I believe eventually the very people are not going to like us for it.

Sir, in any place where traffic, motorized traffic is used, if it is on the road, nobody argues but there is the need for a proper highway code to conduct how you drive on the road. If it is in the air, you need the same. Likewise, in my view, if it is in the sea, one needs a proper code for the use and conduct of how the ceilings are used.

Now, Sir, in Hawaii this problem surfaced in nineteen hundred, I believe, and seventy-seven or thereabout. It took them some time to deal with it. But I can say that I know they have passed effective legislation dealing with the matter.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The Honourable Member says ban them. They have not banned them completely.

Asides.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: They have restricted their use in certain areas. There are now proper rules and regulations dealing with the matter.

I am not saying they should go, because I do not think that is fair. That is foolishness too. If the Honourable Member is saying that, he would be unfair to the jet ski owners. But it is possible to have proper rules of the waves, rules of the sea that will give them a fair opportunity of plying their trade, and at the same time putting the necessary safeguards.

Now, Sir, crimes against visitors. I do not agree with Honourable Members that we must shut all of these matters completely out of the press. Sometimes we have to be very blunt and let people see how they are doing damage to themselves. I am concerned about the increasing number of crimes against visitors. Despite the Government's promise and the debate which the Government had in this House

against us in 1984, I am saying the crimes, on the statistics I see, have increased. What is bothering me is that for serious crimes of cocaine peddling on the beach, in my own constituency still continues unchecked. In fact has increased, and marijuana.

All of the talk that the Government has, all the lashing at the Labour Party, there has been no effective answer to that problem.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has one minute.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: That is why there has been no effective answer to the problem. We were attacked - one more minute, Sir - most viciously and in my view wrongly on the matter.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: And now we have the situation where...

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: - I do not know who started the rumours - ...but we have the situation now that this Government has had two and a half years. Instead of the problem being checked, the problem is there for all to see. I walk the beach. I have seen the tourists moving. I can see even driving along the streets in my own constituency when people are going up to them, stopping people on the road and peddling the cocaine and what not.

Asides.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: If I could see, you should have the law enforcement agencies there dealing...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: ...with the problem. That is what the Honourable Member should know.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Now, Sir, Durants has been a delay. I join with the strictures of the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central in asking why the delay in getting the Durant's project going. I say this, Sir, I give the House the undertaking that when we are returned at the next Election as the Government, a major Convention Centre will be built here once and for all to deal with the problems of the needs of conventions. We will not be wasting money

on a Sherbourne which, in my view, should have had a lower priority than the convention centre which is needed for the tourist industry.

Asides.

Hon. W. W. HALL: Sir, I rise to reply to a few questions...

Asides.

Hon. W. W. HALL: I am not hearing anything.

Aside.

Hon. W. W. HALL: I am not sitting down. I want to reply to you.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order.

Hon. W. W. HALL: I should like to reply to the Honourable Leader of the Opposition. He alluded to the fact that we should have a pavilion first of all in Carrington's Village. I can safely then assume that he does not really wish the pavilion in Valery any more, but he wants the pavilion in Carrington's Village. If his answer is in the affirmative then we have no problem.

I would say this, Sir, that it was...

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I accept the assurance.

Hon. W. W. HALL: But I think it is the quintessence of ignorance for somebody to take a good ground like the Gully House Hill which produces some of the best cricketers and footballers in Barbados and put a basketball court slam in the middle.

Aside.

Hon. W. W. HALL: I do not care.

Aside.

Hon. W. W. HALL: I do not know. I said it is the quintessence of ignorance. If my father did it, he is wrong. 4.25 p.m.

I am saying to you, Sir, that if we could get some place in close proximity where we can have a netball court certainly I will shift it and let us return the Gully House Hill to its former glory. That is my position. I take the Leader of the Opposition's point and we will deal with that.

Now he also mentioned the feasibility study at the Convention Centre. I would just like to report that the

feasibility study has just recently been completed and is now being studied. Within the last few days it has been completed. He wanted to know what were the plans for the convention facilities at Hey woods. For convention facilities at Heywoods right now there are no formal proposals. As you know, Williams has just recently taken it over but these possibilities are being contemplated. We have not had a proposal for it but we are open to these possibilities.

Upgrading of the rooms at Heywoods, this is ongoing with the structural changes that we are having down there to provide suites. As you know, Heywoods was built in -1 do not remember when - but I do not think it has any suites and we are providing, I think, about 18 suites at Heywoods very shortly and the refurbishment of the rooms will be an ongoing position with them.

Additional investment in the industry - Westmoreland was mentioned. There have been ongoing talks with 3 or 4 people, investors about a marina in Barbados. I think that is common knowledge.

Golf facilities - everyone mentions Durants. I do not know how many Members in this Honourable Chamber have played golf or can play golf. If they cannot play golf or have not played golf and if they have not played at Durants, well then perhaps they would not know. You may find in the Explanatory Notes as you are looking now that it said minus golf course. But there is...

Asides.

Hon. W. W. HALL: I know you will say "ah". Yes, last year too. But if you look at the amended Note, you will see that it has golf facilities and, therefore, the golf facilities can be at Durants or another place. What I would like to inform this Honourable House is this. That the golfers in this country do not like Durants.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I am saying that there are 2 types of golfers. Some like Durants and some do not like Durants.

Hon. W. W. HALL: Point taken. That can be said for anything in life. Some like and some do not like -

Asides.

Hon. W. W. HALL: The majority. Look, Durants has been said to be wind swept. Let me use golfing terms now....wind swept, arid conditions, no trees, no water. Those are the things. You may say that there are some golf courses in the world - St. Andrews in Scotland for instance or you may say Bondi in New Zealand and many courses that I have played on in Hawaii. I am sorry - Bondi is next to Moruga only 2 miles from Codgi.

Laughter.

Hon. W. W. HALL: The Honourable Member, Sir, will know that I am quite familiar with the terrain. Sir, what is happening - just let me say what is happening. The truth is that we are getting some experts in Barbados shortly to look at Durants and Graeme Hall - yes, Graeme Hall. Right. You prefer Durants, but the expert might prefer Graeme Hall and I will have to go with the expert.

Asides.

Hon. W. W. HALL: I am saying...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order.

Hon. W. W. HALL: It is not because there is water because you are not having the golf course where the water is. The point about designing a golf course is that you can have man-made lakes. It will not really bother the lake. Look, I come from the St. Lawrence area. I have jumped every swamp in Graeme Hall. I know the terrain. Do not tell me about it.

Asides.

Hon. W. W. HALL: I never knew the Leader of the Barbados Labour Party to be a long jumper, but I think that he tried.

Asides.

Hon. W. W. HALL: That is true. So when one talks of the tourist industry as it develops around St. Lawrence, there is no one more qualified than I to talk about the St. Lawrence area. I know that hotel when it was the Manager of Graeme Hall's House. What is the name of the one Seymour was at? You know the thing, Sir. I am not talking about Bagshot. Bagshot is obliquely opposite the police station. The hotel I am talking about is Southern Palms.

Sir, what I am saying is that we will have a look at both Durants and Graeme Hall. The Leader of the Barbados Labour Party alluded to the fact that you did not particularly like a sewage plant or something there. There are great constraints. We have to discuss all these things. I am saying to you that the experts will look at both sides and we will definitely come up with an answer very soon. There have been some inquiries by some hotel chains in Barbados about the possibility of building some hotels here and I alluded to the fact that we have to look at the medium range and the elegant type of hotels. I even said that I am sure that both the Leader of the NDP and the BLP have said that is the way to go and we concur. There is no problem. Hyatt - they were interested in it. When I was in Paris, France about 2 weeks ago we had discussion on this. In short, what I am trying to say is that there are many hotel chains throughout the world that seem to be interested in Barbados.

The Crane Hotel has been completely refurbished and what they are going to do - they now have about 50 rooms and I think that they are trying to get about 200 rooms. That is one development that they are looking at and spending a lot of money on the beach. As you know, there is a beach erosion problem there.

Asides.

Hon. W. W. HALL: No, the Member for St. Peter - I want to say - he is not here now, but I want to say that the methodology used for estimating tourism expenditure is essentially a matter for the Central Bank of Barbados and the Government Statistical Services. Our information, therefore, is derived from these two sources. I have never seen the document, but I dare say that since it comes from the Central Bank that we will look at it and we will study it and we will see exactly what can be done about it. I would like to thank him for the given information.

Pico Teneriffe - I know about the Pico Teneriffe in history. We know what the slaves used to do there. But the Development Committee of the Barbados Board of Tourism has identified a series of sites which will be developed, identified, and some for sign posting. Hence, the Pico Teneriffe area is a potential candidate as it were and we are hoping that we will submit the name for some consideration. That is St. Peter. I would like to say though that when asking if there were other areas, the Joe's River area, some 50 acres of land, Sir, have been earmarked for some sort of development and therefore I thought I should give you that information.

The Member for St. Peter alluded to the fact also that my predecessor had included a playing field down by the St. Peter bus terminal. But Sir, that is superficial in the sense that as Minister of Housing and Lands he would not be able to put in a playing field as such, although I would say that he could recommend it to his Cabinet. If the recommendation was a playing field, I was not particularly interested in just a playing field. I do not just like playing fields. I like a total development. 4.35 p.m.

I would like to think that we will have in St. Peter a community centre type building where the players can meet when they have football games, because I recognise the fact that in St. Peter unless you play at the top of the hill at the old Coleridge-Parry where Bristol plays, there is hardly any place else to play, and I would like to see a total development there where you will have a playing field, you will have club house facilities and you will have enough space for basketball...

Aside.

Hon. W. W. HALL: I am not talking about St. Michael West, I am talking about St. Peter. I will get to St.

Michael West and all the other St. Michaels in due course. I was just making the point...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: At the moment you have two minutes.

Hon. W. W. HALL: ...about the total concept, I was not thinking in terms of just a playing field, people tend to neglect playing fields if they are just a piece of ground. I would like to see the people of the area being in charge of a community project where they can look after the pavilion which can be very prone to vandalism if left without any input from the residents of the area.

I think those were the questions from the Honourable Member for St. Peter. To the Member for St. James North, the Minister for Trade and Commerce said he had put them on licence. Of course this is a temporary measure. It only means that nobody will bring in 100 tomorrow, but I wish to repeat what I said earlier, that when this thing blew up I took it to Cabinet and through Cabinet we got a committee going under the chairmanship of the Deputy Chairman of the Tourist Board and they are looking into all measures of harassment. I said that horses, dogs, I remember saying molestation, all of these things, but when the jet ski situation blew, we pulled out the jet skis and decided that something had to be done. Hundreds of letters have been written in the Press by concerned people.

I said that I nearly got killed one day in Brighton. I can hardly go any closer than that. I do not wish to die, I cannot afford to.

Laughter.

Hon. W. W. HALL: That, despite the fact somebody told me today as they passed here that my hair is so grey and all that sort of thing. I am saying that the Members on this side all have grey hair. They alluded to the fact that, with the exception of the member for the City, all the members out there have black hair. I do not know if you are dyeing it or not, but I will say that all the ladies in Barbados have said to me that where there is snow on the mountain tops there is fertility in the valleys, so I want you all to know that.

Laughter.

Hon. W. W. HALL: I want you all to understand that.

For nearly two years I have agonised over Hoyte's Village. For two years the member for St. James North, every time he sees me he does not even say Good Morning or Good Evening, he says to me "Hoyte's Village" as if that is a way of welcome. I understand his position. He has been under constant pressure and so have I every time I pass through St. James North. The question is, Sir, that when we acquired the land we had a bit of problem with it and I have

been assured by the Minister of Housing that these problems have now been alleviated. Sir, as soon as we have got over these problems there is no doubt in my mind that we will start immediately.

Aside.

Hon. W. W. HALL: Yes, if the Minister of Housing lets us go on as soon as possible, you can play cricket this year for sure.

The Leader of the Opposition said that the seasonality has not completely gone out. This is true, Sir, as is evident by the statistics here where we see in January 71%, February 83% and it goes right away down, giving us a low in September of 58.5%. That is the same shoulder period that I alluded to earlier in my speech. I know we have gone a long way towards solving the problem.

There was a time, Sir, when it was said that numbers did not matter, it was a matter of money. Any small hotelier in Barbados, not to mention the large ones, will tell you that now it is not that numbers do not matter, the hoteliers have been able to get some revenue from the constant invasion of all these tourists that come down. It is exactly what I said, that we have to expand the U.S. market. I even said that despite our scarce resources we have to try and do everything possible in our marketing strategies to make sure we get the maximum out of what we spend. I also alluded to the fact that the Bahamas has 16 offices across America. I do not think we have 16 people.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will inform the Minister that his time has now expired.

Hon. W. W. HALL: I will back, Sir.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, clearly tourism is one of the major foreign exchange earners and it deserves the kind of serious attention that I am sure and feel happy that the Honourable Minister will pay to it. I made the point earlier in this debate that while I appreciate that we have to do all we can within reason to make sure that tourism not only keeps going but continues to improve in terms of what it does for the economy, I feared that if we depend too much or too heavily on tourism while not playing enough attention to the other sectors, that we may run into a problem where tourism may become to us like oil was to Trinidad or bauxite to Jamaica. An Honourable Member said not to worry about that, tourism will always be here, it will never leave. That is true, but not at the level that we would want it. Tourism was always there, as the Minister said, for the past two or three thousand years, but at what level and what kind of contribution? As soon as you go somewhere else to visit, you are a tourist. That is true in its broadest sense.

I think then, Sir, that Government has to recognise the need, while working on building tourism, to build the other sectors, for instance, like agriculture and manufacturing, and their planning must be a broad, overall plan which would pay attention to the natural linkages between these other sectors and tourism, but we must not only see these linkages I speak of in terms of how much or what we should grow, for instance, but include in our menus, because really for several years the private sector in the tourism effort has included, in the beginning in a token way and increasingly more so in recent times, several indigenous dishes in the menu, in the fare that is offered to tourists.

I believe the programme will have to be a more deliberate plan which could be drawn up between the Ministries of Tourism and Agriculture, of course in conjunction with the Ministry of Finance, and it really has to address this foolish myth that you have to import all these strange things for tourists, because when they come here they really want to get what they are accustomed to back home. 4.45 p.m.

I think that is a myth. I think that people who are involved in restaurants in Barbados and people who have travelled a lot know that that kind of thing has gone out the window. I agree there are certain foods, certain so-called specialties or gourmet specialties, things like filet mignon, caviar, hearts of palm, that sort of thing where you would want to have some quantities of those to serve those type of tourists who would want to try some local fare but would still want to eat at that kind of level which does not apply to you or me, because we still enjoy our fish on Baxters Road, so if they were to ban caviar tomorrow it would not bother me. But I understand and I appreciate that there is some need for that sort of thing.

What we have to understand at the same time, Mr. Chairman, is that we will have to develop some of our indigenous foods which are equally good or even superior as alternatives to even some of these fancy tilings. We have some very exotic things around here which sell for large sums of money in some of the developed countries, particularly in Europe, that we take for granted. These are some of the things that we could look at. I had an excellent avocado soup at Sandy Lane, and I was surprised because I never had it before. I never thought avocado would make a good soup. You were there and I think you would agree with that. I am saying that there is room for a lot of that, but it has got to be done in conjunction with the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Trade. There has got to be that kind of overall plan. Of course, Sir, needless to say, when we travel, I don't think you would go to Germany and insist on a rice and stew; they would not know what you were talking about. I don't think you would get a flying fish or anything coming close.

The point I am making is that I guess it is easily taken there, but I have to go on beyond just looking at the manufacturers and at the agricultural sector. Let us try to encourage and involve more of these same small business people that we as politicians on all sides like to say that we are looking out for. The only way we are going to turn back the tide of cynicism among those people is if we start to put our money where our mouth is.

Now we have to look at other attractions. I could not agree with the Honourable Member more. You put yourself in the position of a visitor coming here for as little as seven days; on day one he does an island tour and probably takes in the cave at the same time. On day two he goes on the submarine, on day three he takes a ride on the Jolly Roger, on day four he does a little shopping in Bridgetown and there are three days left and he has done everything that you have for him to do. I am not talking about the nights because there is a lot of night club activity, so the night life is not that bad. But what I am saying is that there is a time of the day when people, whose pigmentation does not allow them to lie in the sun as long as you and I can lie in the sun because the sun is so hot that it would be dangerous to stay out there for those persons from that ethnic group who come to visit us. They would like to enjoy something else in those periods of time. They drive about the island, but how many times can they drive around Barbados?

I agree with the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East who said *sotto voce* that there are a lot of places to see in Barbados. This is the whole point I am about to make. The Honourable Member for St. John alluded to something that is very interesting. Here you have a guy who on his own initiative sets up a little fruit stall not I am sure intending to be a tourist attraction, but probably to sell some fruit to the people in the area but now the tourists are buying out everything every day. He has become almost an attraction in that area where people stop to buy fruit.

We talked earlier about the gullies, and the Honourable Member knows that we have discussed that. I have spoken to the Honourable Member for St. James South about the Lancaster Gully, for instance, a beautiful gully. These are things that can be developed and these are some added attractions, natural things that we do not have to go looking to spend millions of dollars on. We don't have to bring a Disney World here and make it work. These are some things that is part of Barbados. We do not have to look for a lot of money to do. We do not have to change our whole way of life. People come here because they want to be with us the way we are; they don't come because they want us to become what we think they want us to be, because most of the time when we try to do that we tend to go wrong.

Along that same line of thinking, Sir, let us take, for instance Bridgetown. He comes in town to shop and you ask him to do a little duty free shopping at Harrison's or

Cave Shepherd and those places and that's it for the day. He probably would have lunch by the Waterfront and then by 2 o'clock he is back at the hotel. We have a golden opportunity to give those men and women in Swan Street a chance to get involved in this thing too. Now I know that I have heard a lot of criticism even from Members on that side about the mess, as they call it, in Swan Street. I am not saying all Members on that side, as I would not be that dishonest. If the Honourable Member for St. James North feels that he is one of those Members who has a difficulty, he should say so.

Mr. Chairman, the whole point is that when the situation arose in Swan Street, it was not anything that I designed and said, put them there for ever more. As a matter of fact, the Honourable Minister of Agriculture is in his place and he can tell you if I am wrong. It was said by the Government that this would be a temporary measure until they could improve on it because at that time it was coming up to Christmas and it was said that these people would have to go off the street, and there was nowhere else for them to go. Since then there have been numerous meetings about what to do about them. I do not know what stage they are at right now. I don't know what the last decisions were, but I do know that I took the Honourable Minister of Agriculture who is responsible for markets and under whose Ministry the whole question of licences for vendors come on a visit to a site which is very close to Swan Street - it is at the mouth of Swan Street - where he and I looked at the possibility of an open lot where there was a burnt out building, and now there is another burnt out building behind it that would extend the lot where we could possibly set up a very nice market area. I am sure, Sir, that when you were in London you went to Shepherds Bush, and therefore I am saying that we have our own little Shepherds Bush in that area. Put in the toilets that everybody is quarrelling about, put in all the facilities, and charge a reasonable fee for the vendors to operate in there.

Mr. Chairman, I am saying that instead of our being critical about what obtains now, if I am going to listen to the Honourable Member for St. John who said that there are some things that we must come in here and learn to cooperate on, this is one that the other side of the House should cooperate on with me or with this side; I am speaking for the NDP; I don't know what the views of the BLP are.

Mr. Chairman, when I come to dealing with these kinds of things, I can joke about some things in here, but there are some things that I really cannot joke about and this is one of them. We keep reading and hearing that the market is going to be torn down, vendors are to leave such and such a place, small people have to get off the streets, and we are not hearing where they are going. We are not hearing what are the new beautiful facilities that are going to be put in place. There is a whole section of Bridgetown that is literally dying, even the buildings are decaying, that

would be beautiful for development for this whole question of vendors, small craftsmen, small business people. The Honourable Minister of Agriculture knows what I am speaking about, and in fact he himself told me that within that same area he is planning to do something about one section of that area.

The whole point, Mr. Chairman, is that, as the Honourable Member for St. Thomas said, I am not here to nit-pick and to play politics with everything that we come in here to debate. There are some Honourable Members over there who believe that you have to play politics with everything. I think that if something was important enough for the development of this country and they are the Government of the day and I tell them what I think could be done about it and give reasonable suggestions and they do not want to take the suggestions, then the people of Barbados would have to decide who is operating in their interest. I don't believe that I am ever here in Opposition for opposing sake. I will oppose things that are not going to be in the interest of the people of this country. If they are going in the interest, as I perceive them, and if they are doing something that to my mind is in the interest of the country, I am the type of person that will get up and say so, and all Honourable Members over there know that, I thank you, Sir.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, the Minister and I are very good friends. I stick to my principles. I believe in what Mr. Barrow used to say when he was in Opposition; it is not our function to tell them how to run the Government, especially where you are making suggestions, as to date, of a constructive nature and you realize that those to whom your words are addressed are unwilling to accept them in a constructive sense so that even though the Minister is my friend, where necessary, I may have to be critical of one or two aspects of what he has said. 4.55 p.m

First of all, Sir, it is not true that Sports/Tourism began in the last two years.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am told that the Minister in his introduction said...

, *Aside.*

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Oh! The Ministry? All right. But apart from the Tourist Board the Minister knows that when I came in he was on his feet and I am told, I made a note that the impression was given that Sports/Tourism began in the last two years.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The Minister is saying that there has been a Ministry. I accept that because he knows when he was on the Sports Council that this was an area that we looked at. He knows that the first marathon and 10K were started when I was Chairman of the Sports Council. The race was actually started by the late Tom Adams and he knows that I was particularly instrumental in getting Sir Garfield back here to work in the Tourist Board to develop the Sports/Tourism complex.

I just want there to be no confusion, revisionism and rewriting of history. Secondly, I will agree with the Minister, as I have had to say in here on an occasion before, that in respect of the small hotels summer tourism has made a contribution and has been impactful in a positive way on the revenues of the small hotels.

It has also been important n; that the maintenance of levels of stable employment in the hotels during the summer season. But having said that, it would be a mistake to over-emphasise the contribution that summer tourism has made to the small hotels given the rates received by the small hotels.

Most of them are grateful and thankful that it has picked up because they are able, at least, to pay the interest. They may not be able to make any impact oï\ their principal but, at least, they are able to pay interest and, at least, they are able to maintain the maids, the staff and so on, and you do not have to send them off so to that extent it has been an important contribution and development.

If we can get better rates now the hotels will do better but one understands that when the programme was started, you had to accept fairly modest rates to attract the volume and to attract the potential tourists to the ambience of Barbados. Having got them, it appears that it is going to be a regular thing that people will come to Barbados in the summer and you can gradually increase your rate. That seems to me to have been the psychology behind the promotion and to that extent I accept it and ! agree with it but you cannot expect the hoteliers to continue at these modest rates all the time and if that is so, get in the market.

Jamaica did it. When Anthony Abrams was the Minister of Tourism in Jamaica this is what he did. He went and brought people from all over the world at knock down rates, got them back into Jamaica and they having become attracted to Jamaica again, gradually increased the rates so there is nothing fundamentally wrong with that and I will give Jack his jacket and to that extent I compliment the Minister, the Ministry and the Board of Tourism in particular because they are the workers in this thing for what they have done to increase the levels of summer tourism and to keep Barbados in the market place in a meaningful way.

I wish though to say, Sir, that within the last year I do not believe that Barbados is being well served by the British Airways Service through Gatwick on weekends. Too frequently, for good planning and comfort, B.A. flights out of Gatwick are delayed and, indeed, as recently as last Friday the 255 that was to come was totally cancelled...

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am not making that kind of excuse for them. I do not know how old the aircraft is that they are using. What I will tell you is that there were people who were hoping to be on that flight and for hours and hours they were given no information. The flight was cancelled on the Friday and the Thursday night at about 11 o'clock Barbados time the potential passengers for the Friday were told that the flight was cancelled and they would go on the Saturday.

The flight that was to come on the Saturday arrived last Sunday at 4.30 o'clock in the morning and people were delayed for over 15 hours and they have complained that they went seeking information from British Airways and they were treated very badly in the sense that they were given no information. It also meant that passengers who were to connect with a cruise ship in Barbados missed it and then had to be flown to St. Lucia to connect there on Sunday.

But, that is not an isolated case. The Barbados High Commissioner in London, Mr. Smith would tell you that the first Saturday in September last year he and I were at Gatwick seeing a mutual friend off and a similar flight that Saturday was delayed and I was present to hear the treatment that was meted out to the High Commissioner for Barbados in London.

He was treated like a dog by British Airways. He was threatened. He is not one to take things sitting down and he stormed about, and I supported it, saying "it is an abuse, it is an abuse, it is an abuse" in his best style and I think that at the level of the Board of Tourism some representation, however you all do it, some contact should be made with British Airways to say that if they are going to delay flights they have a duty to give the travelling public as much information as possible. 5.05. p.m.

But I heard people at the Airport on Sunday morning 4.30, 5.00 o'clock when I went to meet somebody on the aircraft complaining about the lack of information and the offhanded way in which they were treated at Gatwick.

Now, Sir, let us turn to - I better mention something else. In relation to the contribution of the Honourable Member for St. John about the development of areas on the East Coast and so. I commend as a first step and as a first working paper to the Government the study that was done

by the last Government on the National Park that was to run from, I cannot remember, from...

Asides.

Mr. D.vA. C. SIMMONS: ...part of St. Lucy right back up. I think that there is enough material in there to be a basis for...

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Oh. The Minister says that they are doing areas. The Members know of it, Sir. And I think that would provide the first basis for looking at the future development along that side of the island.

We are alright in St. Thomas. We have the Cave.

Aside.

Laughter.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: And the gully. Yes, of course, in Welchman Hall.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Now, Sir, turning to sports. The Minister has promised at long last, Sir...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You have two minutes.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS:...the hard court - Yes. Thank you. - ...at Redman's Village. I am not going to embarrass him by asking him where he intends to site it at Redman's Village because I want him to bear in mind this. The new Highway 2A is going to take off about 18 feet of the present playing field. That playing field of course is not much of a playing field because it is so...

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS:... and very small. The hard court can be ideally sited at what is left to the east I suppose it will be, to the right of the pavilion, towards the hill. You do not have to go up the hill. But that area is such a massive area of development now, and continuing development that it has been our plan to create an additional playing field. I better put it another way, Sir, to create a different playing field at a different site, recognizing the law of the land with the Highway coming through there, just at the juncture of Redman's Village and the road to Prior Park opposite the gas station, behind where the gentleman sells the fruit and so on.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Yes. That land could be acquired. Not any more. I do not think it is the chicken place. Behind there. There is a large depressed area...

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: It does not matter. Bui it is near enough to serve the communities.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Look, we have to get out of this idea that every little village must have a playing field. When we were boys we did not have cars to take us here, there and everywhere and an efficient bus service. People used to use a bicycle, wrap their boots around the bicycle, and put the bat on the bar and go.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: And prepare the wickets too! *Look*, I would explain that to them. They have been told that since 1985. What we had hoped to do was to acquire the land, use some of the rubble from the Highway 2A, fill in the depression, level it, put your top soil and create a new playing field there. That would serve the people from Prior Park and from Redman's Village and those from Welches Terrace. The middle class must learn to walk up and come and play with the people from Redman's Village right there. But that was our view for the long-term development of that area, after the road has come through and we see how much land we lost on both sides of the road, Sir.

So I am grateful for that. But I wish to finish, Sir, by letting the Minister know that we are very disappointed in St. Thomas that the several pavilions...

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: - Alright, not yet - ... we have in St. Thomas are opened only too infrequently. For several days on end, they are closed, Sir. They open sometimes only three days. At very important times, long weekends, bank holiday weekends they should be opened to provide means of access to places of resort.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You are Minister of Sport. Do you not look after the pavilions?

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Ah, well I can certainly speak of the pavilion at Redman's Village where particularly they play table tennis.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: And at - no. no - Content, that is yours too, and at Welchman Hall. You are guilty on all three counts, convicted, sentenced on your own admission.

But we need, Sir, to have a point, I know money is tight with the Government. They have cut back the Capital from what the Development Plan projected at \$1.1m down to \$735 000, Sir. I know things are tight. Bui we need, if we want to keep the youth off the streets and involved in wholesome leisure time activities, we have got to make sure that if we provide these facilities at great cost to Government that they be utilized as much as possible.

LEA VETO SIT AGAIN

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that you report progress to His Honour the Deputy Speaker and ask for leave to sit again.

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

The question was put and was resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr CHAIRMAN reported progress to His Honour the DEPUTY SPEAKER and asked for leave to sit again, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I move that this sitting be now suspended until 5.40 p.m. this evening, Sir.

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

The question was put and was resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly at 5.15 p.m. 5.15p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee of Supply. The Honourable Member for St. James South.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I just want to respond to 2 points which the Member for St. James North made in his contribution. They relate (1) to beach erosion and (2) the question of the beach vendors. I think he would

know that the Coastal Conservation Unit of the Ministry which has the responsibility is looking after the question of beach erosion which really and truly stems from the fact that the wave energy is increasing due to the reefs being killed off and various causes such as chemicals, people dynamiting, and possibly the admission of waste from hotels to the sea, spear fishing, and the people breaking off the coral reefs, and possibly the drop of anchors on the reefs as well which means that the sea is encroaching on the beach at an alarming rate and causing beach erosion.

At the present time the Ministry is having a study on the South and West Coast of the island to see how we can retard the beach erosion as it is going. There is some indication in some areas that it is at a rate of 3 inches per year but, of course, that is at a maximum. The unfortunate thing about island erosion for what we can see in the Ministry is that there do not seem to be many experts in the area and that in itself has created some problem. There is an estimate that it will cost between \$7 and \$11 million dollars to correct it. The idea is that they will build offshore breakwaters. We hope that this will retard or slow down the waves. Also, at the same time, they are monitoring the water quality to see to what extent or what chemicals are in the water. But it is a combination of factors and with the building of the South Coast Sewerage Plant and the West Coast Sewerage Plant I suspect that a lot of the problems which now exist will no longer be there. As a matter of fact, I can say that the waters around the mouth of the Careenage have improved tremendously. We believe that is because a lot of the raw sewerage that went into the sea prior to the sewerage plant at Emmerton no longer goes there.

I think he raised the question about Sandpiper and the blocking of the beach there. The fact is that there is access to the beach by Sandpiper, but in order to save the house which is at a sort of point of Sandpiper they had to drop some stone. Town and Country Planning is now looking at it because it is believed that the stones might have been dropped too close to the waters' edge and that is creating a problem, and the people cannot cross that section of the beach to go further down.

The residents of the area did complain that they wanted to go around to the East of the house between the boundaries of Sandpiper and that House - Helena - I think it is called. But that is private land. They cannot do that.

As far as the beach vendors are concerned, the problem is not so much with the licensed beach vendors but the unlicensed beach vendors and we in the Ministry have had discussions with the licensed beach vendors to find out what problems they are experiencing. We have had meetings with the hoteliers and with our own staff, the Rangers and Wardens who work on the beach, to find out the problems. The solutions to the problems are not easy and by and large the problems which we find on the beaches are sometimes contributed by the hoteliers who are

not as accommodating as they could be. Now I do not want to call any particular names, but I know for example that, the better hotels, Sandy Lane and Glitter Bay and Royal Pavilion are where we have very little problems at all. This is where the hoteliers, the management of hotels, do cooperate with beach vendors and the wardens and there are no problems on those beaches. .

There is at the present moment...

Asides.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: Okay... A serious problem is where people braid hair. They have not got a licence but we have turned a blind eye to them because they have been going on for so long that it will be difficult to stop them at this moment although we are trying to get some guidelines from the Ministry of Health as to how best they can carry on their job.

These are the 2 comments I wanted to make at this present moment.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I will be relatively brief in order to allow other Members who may so wish to address you in the short time available.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: ...Bearing in mind that the guillotine will be in effect at 6.15 p.m...

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Yes, I will be as brief as possible...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Minister will have to make some responses.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES:...in order to facilitate Members. First of all, let me say this, that the Government should look very carefully at the recent legislation passed in Hawaii in relation to the regulation of jet skis where the safety corridor concept has been introduced in order to accommodate all interests in the utilization of the available sea resources.

The second point I wish to make is that the Honourable Member for St. Peter raised a very serious and indeed a very important question as to whether or not our tourist expenditures as currently reported are correct. He made a document of the House a report from a Research Officer in the Central Bank of Barbados. Let me say this that, as far as I am aware, there has always been a division of opinion even within the Central Bank as to the levels of tourist expenditures. I agree with him that we need to be far more precise in the documentation of our tourist expenditures in Barbados particularly with the changing pattern of tourism where you get a significant amount of horizontal spread of the tourist dollar with the package deals that have been introduced for summer tourism. These

have equally implications for our balance of payments indices where some years the unknown quantities in our Errors and Omissions Column can sometimes be as large as those that have been quantified. I speak from, and indeed I tend to share, the opinion of those people in the Central Bank who have felt that our tourist expenditures were understated. But, nevertheless, let me say that there is an equally strong opinion that they have been overstated as well. So I think it is a matter where jazzing up our research in this area is absolutely essential, otherwise we can run into problems.

I recently heard, Sir, and I am not the kind of person to bring idle gossip to the House, that there are 2 vessels that look like naval vessels hiding in a harbour somewhere in Antigua or thereabouts to be brought into Barbados after the Estimates. I do not know whether they are for tourism purposes or not or for the Defence Force or what. But perhaps any Member of the front bench who might wish to inform the House may do so, also whether it is true that the Trident is going to undergo substantial repairs and who will be doing those repairs and whether or not another vessel to help protect our tourism industry is going to be acquired apart from those two. I have not had a chance to go up to Antigua and check it. But I gather that they are lying there hiding to arrive in Barbados after the Estimates. So I thought, Sir, I would make this inquiry at this point in time this evening.

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: They will be tourism vessels. I do not know. I understand that they look a bit like naval vessels. As I said I wish to be absolutely fair to all Honourable Members as I promised you, Mr. Chairman...

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: As I promised you, Mr. Chairman, I would not speak for more than 5 minutes to allow other Members to get a piece of the action. Although Sir, I am very much disappointed not to have had the opportunity to examine and deal with the Honourable Member for St. James South.

Laughs.

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

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Our time is slipping away and we are still wasting it.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Mr. Chairman, it is good to see that this Honourable Chamber is in the mood for making sport and perhaps appropriate that I guess that it happened under this particular Head, the Head of Tourism and Sports. I was just looking back at some initial figures for tourism in Barbados back in 1935 when there was a total of 4,358 tourists and in 1936 it was just over 5,000, and in 1937 it was just over 6,000. At this point in time we are accommodating something like 451,000 tourists. It is good to be looking at the beginning and to see where you can come over a relatively short period of time. Now I am one of those who firmly believe that tourism is the central engine for economic growth in our country. 5.55 p.m.

I have no misgivings whatsoever about the permanence or the viability of tourism. My constituency of Christ Church East Central is one that has a significant proportion of the tourist plant. I share that experience with the Honourable Member for Christ Church West and the Honourable Member for St. James South, and particularly in the Dover and Maxwell area we have a very heavy build up of tourist plant and we are happy that in our area there has been the kind of beautification programme that complements that kind of activity. For instance, at the well known Miami Beach, right down through Oistin, we can see the effects of a good plan in terms of making the area hospitable to Barbadians as well as to tourists, and I am looking forward to the opening date for the park in Silver Sands, which is in the adjacent constituency of Christ Church East, which will add comfortably to what we have.

I know the Member for Christ Church East and myself had discussions with the Minister of the Environment where we thought that that part of Barbados, the Long Bay/Silver Sands area, should maintain its rural charm, that even though there is need for development in the tourist plant it would not be by extreme modernisation but to keep it with its natural charm and attraction for those who would prefer that kind of atmosphere.

I have one problem in terms of tourism in my area. Quite frankly, when I go down to the Steak House - I do not go to Suzie Yong like my friend, the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, I hear he frequents that area - but I go to the Steak House occasionally and when I feel like getting down I might go to After Dark, but it is very uncomfortable with the number of ladies of the night, and these are not the ones that perfume, these are more like the ones that are found planted in the beach. But I find it very bothersome, quite frankly, and I have heard several complaints from people who reside in that area, because that part of Barbados is a curious mix. It is a tourism area, but people live there too and have been living in a quiet atmosphere for some time, except of course for the intrusion of noise et cetera from the music, but there is a growth of prostitution and drug peddling that is very, very uncomfortable. Those are environments in which I do not

operate, so I feel if I find it uncomfortable, normally tourists who come from a certain environment will also find it extremely unpalatable to have that kind of behaviour.

I feel very strongly, quite frankly, that the people I see operating very openly and very brazenly are a shame to us, a shame to Barbadians, and I would certainly like to think that there is a strongly articulated policy where the regulatory agencies and those that have responsibility for looking after those matters will not give the impression that they encourage the development of tourism that is interlaced with prostitution and dope peddling.

I am aware that the Royal Barbados Police Force has raided the St. Lawrence area and nearby areas on several occasions. I give them my full support, because I do not condone drug abuse in any of its forms and I do not condone prostitution either. I believe they can only besmirch the good name of Barbados as a tourist resort.

I want to move on also to the area of sport and to compliment the Honourable Minister for Sport for the kind of work that has been done in my area and to look at a few related matters. I heard how many people know Searles Pasture, but if you know anything at all about cricket you had to know about Searles as a BCL team. On Saturdays and Sundays we sat down and watched people like the Hoad boys bringing up Gary Sobers and those fellows.

Aside.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: If you did not play at Searles you could not be a cricketer, and nobody would debate that you are a cricketer. I played at Searles too, but I point to that only because recently the young people of that area, who might have complained to the Honourable Member, informed me that there is a plan by Barbados Sugar Industries Limited to use up what used to be a playing field for housing purposes, and that is a problem that we are getting too often, I think. The same thing happened to Gall Hill, where we have some of the best footballers in the island, the Bayer Pride of Gall Hill. The Barbados Labour Party took up their field, used it for housing purposes and now some of the Barbados Labour Party supporters have the gall to be asking why we do not provide playing fields for the people from Gall Hill. I would not like the same situation to develop.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church West says let that one pass, as I would expect. I would not like at this time to see the same thing happen to Searles, because I believe that there is need for housing but there is enough room. Furthermore, if you are going to bring more people in you need the recreation area more rather than getting rid of the recreation area, so I can promise Sugar Industries Limited that if they intend to go ahead with the Plan that would take away that field from the footballers and the cricketers of Searles that I would be giving them my full

support in resisting any move in that direction, because I think that is backward planning, which ties in with what is happening in the Kingsland and Plumgrove area.

The Honourable Minister of Sport did me the favour of going on[^]tour with me. Some of these large developers have a responsibility under the Town and Country Planning Act to leave areas of recreation for the people, "and they leave just that, spaces, and the worst possible spaces. But there is an area in Plumgrove which is big enough to be used for the people who live there and the Minister informs me that he is going to help to develop that area. I want to thank him for having worked so quickly in making sure that the Dover pavilion was upgraded and enlarged, especially bearing in mind that we have one of the best clubs in Barbados, the Paradise footballers, there and he knows the area very well and is very responsive.

Let me just wind up then by saying that I think the Ministry is doing a good job. I want to compliment the Minister for what he has been doing.

Hon. W. W. HALL: Mi;. Chairman, I would just like to reply to a few questions and to begin with the Member for the City. He talked about indigenous foods. I would like him to know that we are *ad idem* on this one. The Board of Tourism has always recognised the need to use more local foods. That is a fact, Sir, and I have introduced the Hotel and Restaurant Dining Festival where Barbadian cuisine is the order of the day, and we have experts from overseas who come down and have a look at it, and the record shows that we have made great strides in this. The result is improved local meals at hotels and we now have hotels and restaurants in Barbados serving cou-cou, breadfruit and sweet potato and other indigenous foods to Barbados, so we are on the same track.

In the sports/tourism linkage there is a committee between the hotels and the Ministry of Agriculture sort of making sure that this happens. Also restaurants. Lately we have had some new restaurants. Carlisle Bay Centre, that is the Young Roy's Restaurant, Tyrone's Restaurant in St. Lawrence Gap, the He de France, a beautiful French Restaurant up in Hastings, L'Azure's in St. Lawrence Gap, Sigi's in Bay Street, Sweetfield in St. Peter. 6.05 p.m.

There is¹ also Bonitos in Bathsheba, the Brig Bar and Restaurant in Holetown, the Ribbers near the Spring Garden Roundabout and Nico's in Holetown. I do agree with the Honourable Member for St. John that we could probably do some in the rural areas, but this does show that there have been restaurants opened in the last year or so, and mind you, Sir, having eaten well throughout the world I can say that Barbados today has a good range of restaurants especially in the southern and western areas, and I think that most people who dine out can attest to that, apart from the hotels.

Sir, I want to reply to the Honourable Member for St. John who is not in his place. I want to tell him that we consider that the east side of the island should be maintained as a sight seeing attraction rather than having hotel development in the area. That has been the case in the last few years, and the development of small scale services to provide revenue earning opportunities for residents of the area as well as to encourage more visitors to stop, visit and tour and enjoy the area should be encouraged. This we have tried to do.

As far as the Board of Tourism's marketing plan for the next two years is concerned, we have included measures as follows: (1) to increase the tourist spending on ancillary services; (2) directed primarily at small businesses; (3) village craft markets in areas like Bathsheba. Of course this is to complement the cottage industries that are done in Barbados where we have some measure of self-sufficiency especially among the young women and men too in Barbados especially in the rural areas. We are hoping that that small scale social and cultural events will soon start on the east coast area where there are side attractions and attendant services like rum shops where people will stop and enjoy Barbadian culture. That is for the Honourable Member for St. John.

I think the Leader of the Barbados Labour Party was alluding to the fact that in the Canadian market our marketing plan had specific proposals for rebuilding the Canadian market by concentrating on areas and seasons most responsive to stimulation. In other words, we are trying to go into the areas that we are convinced will respond to that stimulation.

As far as the US market is concerned, we want it to be known that we are very mindful of the need to allocate large chunks of our marketing resources to the US market in recognition of the strategic importance of that market. In other words, as I said earlier, we will continue to look at the traditional areas: New York, Boston, Washington and also into the non-traditional areas like Atlanta, Chicago, Texas and anything west of Chicago.

As far as the Honourable Member for St. Thomas is concerned, he is very right. With respect to the small hotels, we want to make it very clear that even though we have small hotels participating in the programme which alleviated to some degree the seasonality problem, that neither the Government nor the Tourism Board negotiated with these hotels. For instance, for the last two years we had Air Tours personnel coming down and negotiating with the hotels. Prices were rather low, we admit, but when Intersun and indeed Thompson came down, bigger companies - Intersun is many times larger than Air Tours they negotiated with hotels. Indeed when the hotels had already negotiated the contracts with Intersun and Thompson this year, it was only after the contracts were all signed up that they then applied to the Ministry of

International Transport for air rights. That is a fact. So we were caught on the rails. We got out because we let commonsense prevail and now everything is going to be all right.

When the Scandinavians came here last year for the first time they stayed at Paradise, they stayed at Grand Barbados; they did not stay at the very small hotels, so the middle range and the upper range hotels have been getting some of this charter work too.

Let me now move to sports. With respect to Redman Village, I am very grateful for the advice as to where we can put the field when one takes into consideration the fact that the new road will go through there. I agree with the Honourable Member that very little village wants a field. I passed through Oxnards the other day and there were some youngsters playing on a small two by four field when only thirty yards down the road the whole of Haynesville was empty, but the fellows wanted to play where they live. That is stupidity, and I agree with the Honourable Member for St. Thomas that that is not the way to go at all.

With regard to assistance to the small hotels, the Leader of the Barbados Labour Party would be interested to know that as a result of the survey of the small hotel establishments in Barbados, it was revealed that there were some serious weaknesses which were existing in the overall operation, and these weaknesses were in the following areas: plant design, decor and landscaping, marketing, financial control and record keeping, management and organisation skills. They are now known as intimate hotels, and we are giving them some very much needed support. What is more, the hoteliers of Jamaica - the Government has just been changed, but Mr. Manley has not changed the Director of Tourism, a beautiful lady, and she has phoned only yesterday to find out what we are doing with the small hotels, they are so impressed throughout the Caribbean. Trinidad is falling over heels asking for advice, and this is the position.

Asides.

Hon. W. W. HALL: I did not change her. The first thing I did when I became Minister of Tourism was to appoint Mrs. Patricia Nehaul.

Let us go now, Sir on the point of these hard courts and things like that. I spoke about the Opposition; let me speak about some of the playing fields. Let me speak with you, Mr. Chairman. I know that you cannot speak to these issues right now, but I shall speak for you nonetheless. I will tell you that in Friendship as you are aware, that hard court is about to be finished. We just need to do a few little things like the borders and everything will be all right. We will also be looking at that ground near Bim, and we will make sure that the residents of that area have somewhere to play.

The Deputy Prime Minister has no need for complaint. He knows that at Eden Lodge the court was finished only today. I got news that it was finished this evening at 2.35; so I want you to know that. Then there is St. Barnabas, and I have to inform my colleague from St. Michael East that that will be completed next week, and my illustrious colleague, despite what the Leader of the Opposition may say about you, you know that Holders Hill has produced some of the best cricketers this country has seen, and what is more golfers too. We have just embarked on a programme where we are putting in a basketball court, and we have resurfaced the tennis area. I was so impressed with Holders Hill. Do you know that that tennis court has been there for over twenty years and no one has ever sought to destroy the fencing or anything like that?

I want to talk about my friend, so let me go over here before the time runs out. With regard to St. Christopher, I promised the Honourable Member for Christ Church East that we would put in the lights. I also promised the Deputy Prime Minister that we would put in lights. We wanted to take the lights from the stadium and put in these two areas. I put lights, I must confess, in the Prime Minister's constituency in Bay Land because Banks Spurs is a team that I love; it is a very good team. I tell you that straight and who doesn't like it would have to lump it. Next I put them in my own constituency in Belfield as they should be there, then I am putting them in the Deputy Prime Minister's, and if you think I am going for the hierarchy, I am putting them in yours. You accused me the other day, but that was unjustified. I am going to put lights in for you, but I cannot put search lights, I have to put proper lights, and they have been ordered and will soon come in. 6.15p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Two minutes to go.

Hon. W. W. HALL: I have ordered them and they will soon come in.

As far as St. Andrew is concerned, the Shorey Village Pavilion is completed and we have just sent out the tenders for a hard court down in Belleplaine.

Our wonderful lady from St. Joseph, whenever we get a piece of land that is not undulating, whenever we get a flat piece of land, we will put it in for you. I promise you, so help me God, and up in the East where the wise men are, I want to say that Blades Hill and Rices, as soon as we get things all right, they will be fine and St. George V Park that has been in.

Aside.

Hon. W. W. HALL: Christ Church West...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: One minute to go.

Hon. W. W. HALL: I am winding up, Sir.

I want to report that at Gall Hill, St. John, we went in just to resurface. We noticed there was undue cracking there and when we investigated it revealed that it was put there on mud, virtually speaking, and we are now going to have to put down a new court.

Silver Hill, a very dangerous court. It was on a slant and we had to spend a lot of money to put it in and Briar Hall is also under construction so the Ministry of Tourism and Sports we recognise that Sports will complement Tourism and not compete with it.

Oh, in St. Lucy, Sir, I must mention St. Lucy. We will be building a pavilion at Checker Hall starting next week and also at the top of Passage Road there will be a pavilion going in there...

Aside.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: And the time has expired.

Hon. W. W. HALL: The time has expired, Sir, and I would just like to thank you by saying that we, also, spent \$1 million in renovating the National Stadium. For many years preventative maintenance should have been done, in my opinion, say 20 years. I am not criticising anybody. I am only saying that now we have had to spend \$1 million on that track, on all of the stands and putting bucket seats in the VIP stand so that all of us would be comfortable.

May I say thank you very much for your indulgence, Sir, and now I beg to move that Head 43 stand part.

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

HEAD 85 - CAPITAL, MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND SPORTS - \$ 9 629 098

Hon. W. W. HALL: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 85 stand part.

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

The question that the sum of \$9 629 098 under Head 85 - Ministry of Tourism and Sports stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 19 - MINISTRY OF FINANCE \$3 920 349

Hon P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 19 stand part.

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

The question that the sum of \$3 920 349 under Head 19-Ministry of Finance stand part of the Schedule was put and solved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 10 - GOVERNOR GENERAL \$322 715

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 10 stand part

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

The question that the sum of \$322 715 under Head 10 - Governor General stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 11 - JUDICIARY \$17 765

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman I beg to move that Head 11 stand part.

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

The question that the sum of \$17 765 under Head 11 - Judiciary stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 12 - PARLIAMENT \$1 842 594 (AS AMENDED)

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I beg to move that Head 12 as amended stand part.

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

The question that the sum of \$1 842 594 as amended under Head 12 - Parliament stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 13 - PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE - \$26 514 971 (AMENDED)

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I beg to move that Head 13, as amended, stand part.

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

The question that the sum of \$26 514 971, as amended, under Head 13 - Prime Minister's Office stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 69 - CAPITAL, PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE - \$4 136 500

Hon. R M. GREAVES: I move, Sir, that Head 69 stand part.

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

The question that the sum of \$4 136 500 under Head 69, Capital, Prime Minister's Office stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 14 - MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND IMMIGRATION \$10 759 698

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I beg to move that Head 14 stand part.

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

The question that the sum of \$10 759 698 under Head 14, Ministry of International Transport, Telecommunications and Immigration stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 70, CAPITAL - MINISTRY OF INTERNA- TIONAL TRANSPORT, TELECOM- MUNICATIONS AND IMMIGRATION-\$3376 200

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Sir, I beg to move that Head 70, Capital, stand part.

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

The question that the sum of \$4 476 200 under Head 70, Capital, Ministry of International Transport, Telecommunications and Immigration stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 15 - CABINET OFFICE \$4 388 452 (AMENDED)

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I beg to move that Head 15, as amended stand part.

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

The question that the sum of \$4 388 452 under Head 15, Cabinet Office, as amended, stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 16 - MINISTRY OF THE CIVIL SERVICE \$9 229 166 (AMENDED)

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I beg to move that Head 16 stand part.

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

The question that the sum of \$9 229 166 under Head 16, as amended, Ministry of the Civil Service stand part of

the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 72 - CAPITAL, MINISTRY OF THE CIVIL SERVICE - S820 177, (AMENDED)

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I beg to move that Head 72, as amended, stand part.

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

The question that the sum of \$820 177, as amended, under Head 72, Ministry of the Civil Service stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 20 - REVENUE COLLECTION S 3 449 944

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I beg to move that Head 20 stand part.

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

The question that the sum of \$3 449 944 under Head 20, Revenue Collection stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 23 - LOANS AND ADVANCES 5 615 000

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I beg to move that Head 23 stand part.

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

The question that the sum of \$5 615 000 under Head 23, Loans and Advances stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 24 - PENSIONS, 17 600 000.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I beg to move, Sir, that Head 24 stand part.

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

The question that the sum of \$17 600 000 under Head 24, Pensions, stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 73 - CAPITAL,, MINISTRY OF FINANCE \$21 544 480 (AMENDED)

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I beg to move that Head 73, Capital, stand part.

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

The question that the sum of \$21 544 480 under Head 73, Capital, as amended, Ministry of Finance, stand part of the Schedule was and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 25 - MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND FISHERIES - \$15 893 388 (AMENDED)

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 25 stand part.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: I beg to second that.

The question that the sum of \$15 893 388 under Head 25, Ministry of Agriculture stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 27 - METEOROLOGY S1 317 175

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: I beg to move that Head 27 stand part.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: I beg to second that.

The question that the sum of \$1 317 175 under Head 27, Meteorology stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 74 - CAPITAL, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND FISHERIES - S18 034 863 (AMENDED)

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: I beg to move that Head 74, Capital, as amended, stand part.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: I beg to second that.

The question that the sum of \$18 034 863, as amended, under Head 74, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 28 - MINISTRY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS - S3 011 926 (AMENDED)

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I beg to move that Head 28, as amended, stand part.

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

The question that the sum of \$3 011 926, as amended, under Head 28, Ministry of Legal Affairs, stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 29 - PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS \$61 855

part. Hon. B. M. TAITT: I beg to move that Head 29 stand

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

The question that the sum of \$61 855 under Head 29, Public Prosecutions stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 30 - POLICE \$10 753 423

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I beg to move that Head 30 stand part.

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

The question that the sum of \$10 753 423 under Head 30, Police, stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 6.25 p.m.

HEAD 31 -PRISONS \$2 311 153 *Head*

31 - Prisons - \$2311 153 - was called.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I beg to move that Head 31, Prisons in the sum mentioned stand part.

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

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

HEAD 32 - FIRE SERVICE - \$991 393

Head 32 - Fire Service - \$991 393 - was called.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I beg to move that Head 32 in the sum mentioned stand part, Sir.

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

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

'HEAD 33 - PROBATION DEPARTMENT - \$126 783

Head 33 - Probation Department- \$126 783- was called.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I beg to move, Sir, that the sum mentioned in Head 33 stand part.

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

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

HEAD 75 - CAPITAL - MINISTRY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS - \$6 282 100

Head 75 - Capital - Ministry of Legal Affairs \$6 282 100-was called.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I beg to move that Head 75 stand part in the sum mentioned.

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

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

HEAD 35 - MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS-\$10 299 777

Head 35 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs \$10 299 777 - was called.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I beg to move, Sir, that Head 35 in the sum mentioned stand part.

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

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

HEAD 77 - CAPITAL - MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS - \$1 060 000

Head 77 - Capital - Ministry of Foreign Affairs-Si 060 000 - was called.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I beg to move, Sir, that Head 77 in the sum mentioned stand part.

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

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

HEAD 37 - MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND LANDS \$8 381094

Head 37 - Ministry of Housing and Lands-\$8 381 094 - was called.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I beg to move that Head 37, as amended, in the sum mentioned stand part.

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

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

HEAD 79 - CAPITAL - MINISTRY OF HOUSING
AND LANDS \$20 700 000

Head 79 - Capital - Ministry of Housing and Lands - \$20 700 000 - was called.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: I beg to move, Sir, that Head 79 in the sum mentioned stand part.

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

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

HEAD 39 - MINISTRY OF EMPLOYMENT,
LABOUR RELATIONS AND COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT - \$35 239 963

Head 39 - Ministry of Employment, Labour Relations and Community Development - \$35 239 963 - was called.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 39 stand part.

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

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

HEAD 81 - CAPITAL - MINISTRY OF EMPLOY-
MENT, LABOUR RELATIONS AND COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT - \$5 895 547

Head 81 - Capital - Ministry of Employment, Labour Relations and Community Development - \$5 895 547 - was called.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 81 stand part.

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

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

HEAD 40 - MINISTRY OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND
COMMERCE - \$9 514 632, (AS AMENDED)

Head 40 - Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce - \$9 514 632 - as amended - was called.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 40 for the sum mentioned, as amended, stand part.

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

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

HEAD 82 - CAPITAL - MINISTRY OF TRADE,
INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE \$ 5 075 476

Head 82 - Capital - Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce - \$5 075 476 - was called.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 82 for the sum mentioned stand part.

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

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

Clause 1 was called and passed.

Clause 2 - as amended - \$673 177 575 - was called and passed.

Clauses 3 and 4 inclusive were called and passed. The

Schedule - as amended was called and passed.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I move, Sir, that you do now report the passing of one Bill - as amended in Committee.

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

The question was put and was resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill, as amended, in Committee and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On separate motions of Hon. P. M. GREAVES, seconded by Hon. B. M. TAITT, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 2.

Order No. 2 was called - to move that the House resolve itself into Committee of Supply to consider the grant of sums of money for the service of this Island.

On the motion of Hon. P. M. GREAVES, seconded by Hon. 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 NO. 24 1988-89
HEAD 40 - MINISTRY OF TRADE,
INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

General Administration

To move the passing of a Resolution to grant the sum of \$7 500 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1988-89 Part 1, Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1988-89, No. 24, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, as stated in the Addendum to the Resolution, this amount of \$7 500 is required to meet increased expenditure on the maintenance of property and also to provide funds for the service of meetings which have been held in the Ministry particularly meetings relating to the ad hoc Committee which has been established to revise the law relating to co-operatives in Barbados. I would want to say that the last meeting as I understand it of the ad hoc Committee was held yesterday and the report will be handed in during the coming week. We hope to have a comprehensive piece of legislation, a modern piece of legislation relating to co-operatives and friendly societies introduced into Parliament during this year.

I beg to move, Sir, that Head 40 stand part.

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

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

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

On the motion of Hon. P. M. GREAVES, seconded by Hon. B. M. TAITT, the Resolution was read a first time, second time, and passed.

LEAVE PASSAGE (AMENDMENT) ORDER 1989

Order No. 3 was called - To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the Leave Passage (Amendment) Order 1989.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, this is one of the consequences of the revision of salaries which took effect from April 1, 1989 and Leave Passages, Sir, are usually linked to certain levels of salary. Now Leave Passages, Sir, are granted to Officers who would have served for at least a period of 4 years in the first place and passages are granted,

Sir, within the Caribbean and outside of the Caribbean depending on how the Officers qualify.

Officers whose minimum salary is at the point mentioned Z-17 in the scale are eligible for passages within the Caribbean and Officers, Sir, whose minimum salary is at a point of Z-11 in the Scale are eligible for passages outside of the Caribbean.

Now the purpose, Sir, of this Resolution is to give effect from April 1, 1989 in the case of persons who are eligible for passages within the Caribbean and whose minimum salary from April 1, 1988 is \$22 320 per year and from April 1, 1989 whose minimum salary is \$22 812. Also, Sir, from the 1st of April, 1988 persons whose salaries are at a minimum of \$26 784 will be eligible for a leave passage outside of the Caribbean and the same persons whose salaries are at a minimum of \$27 348 will be eligible for passages outside of the Caribbean from April 1, 1989, Sir.

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

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, that has brought us to 5 long days of sitting principally. Sir, on the Appropriation Bill during this week. I want to thank Honourable Members for the support that they have given. We spent a long time on little during this period - a few Heads then - discussing a few Heads, and the actual discussion of a few Heads. Perhaps this probably holds the record in terms of Heads actually debated during similar periods. But I believe, Sir, that Honourable Members made valuable contributions to it and I want to thank them.

I would like, Sir, to thank the staff of Parliament which, of course, includes the Reporters as well as the media who have been here all week. With that, Sir, I now move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, April 4, 1989 at 12 o'clock noon, Sir.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, in rising to second this motion, Sir, I wish on behalf of this side to thank those Honourable Members from time to time during the sitting of the 5 days I had the honour to deputise for my colleague. I just wish on behalf of all of us on this side to thank all Honourable Members for the participation in the manner they did in these Estimates. It is an annual exercise and in many ways it has come to be taken for granted, but in the final analysis it is one of the high points of the parliamentary season and I think that at the end of the day

we can leave feeling that we have discharged our several responsibilities as honourable representatives of our distinguished country.

As we come to do the Estimates during the 350th Anniversary of Parliament, I think it is reasonable for all of us to feel a sense of satisfaction that we have completed another parliamentary period in a momentous year, the 350th Anniversary of our Parliament. It is a pleasure to second this Resolution for the adjournment of the House until the date cited. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. R. P. B YER: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of one of the (*sic*) "three-thirds" of this House, not necessarily in terms of numbers or arithmetical calculations but in terms of division, I would like to echo the sentiments of both Members who spoke before me in saying that for me it was a thoroughly enjoyable experience as well as for the other Members of the National Democratic Party. This is the first occasion that we have had to debate Estimates and at times I must say that the debates were testy but nevertheless they were enjoyable. I would want to add that for me the highlight of these debates certainly was the debate on what I would like to refer to as the "chicken controversy" and for a younger Member of Parliament, as I am, I will always remember the sterling and the strident efforts put out by the Minister of Health. For me it was a very impressive performance and I would hope that, should the opportunity arise and I am in similar difficult circumstances, I will be able to draw on the skill of the Honourable Member that the Honourable Member drew on. For me it was a lesson in how matters ought to be presented to Parliament and how a Ministry ought to be defended when under attack by the Opposition. I believe though that on this side that we were too hard on him ...

Laughter.

Mr. R. P. BYER: ... But I will always remember the performance and I would also want to say that the Chairman of Committees performed very well in his role ...

Applause.

Mr. R. P. BYER: ... And being a former Chairman of Committees myself, I would say that he maintained very good control of the debates. I might not have at all times agreed with his rulings but certainly they were rulings grounded in some degree of certainty and I am very, very satisfied about that. 6.45 p.m.

Of course the leader of the other third, the Barbados Labour Party Opposition, I am certain will agree with me when I say that these debates have been very enjoyable debates. I would hope that the staff of Parliament will now go away and enjoy some respite until we resume on 4th April, 1989.

Once again, Sir, it has been for me a very enjoyable occasion and I look forward, hopefully, to next year's debate.

Thank you, Sir.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I wish of course, like the other speakers, to express our thanks to the staff of Parliament for the contribution which they have once again made to this continuous debate over a period of five days. I recognise that it is particularly difficult for them and difficult in particular for the Shorthand Reporters who have to compete sometimes with the occasional expressions of exuberance which come from members, or persons on the verge of heart attacks when under constant pressure, as well as they have to compete sometimes with the noises from the strangers in the Gallery. Unfortunately for them, in the temporary changes being made in our Parliament, they also have certain inconveniences which unfortunately arise from the physical changes in Parliament. I trust that they will understand that the members, despite these problems, still appreciate the contribution which they have been making to our debates.

The House has had an extended debate over the five days and perhaps to some persons it may be felt that that is long enough to debate these Estimates. Let me say, Sir, that as we get to the position where our economy is now a \$3 billion economy and if it grows it is my considered view that we will have to look at restructuring the debates of our Estimates, either to look at the experiment tried in Jamaica of a smaller committee system first before getting into major debate, or the way I prefer is to return, not to the former open system, where you went on for as long as you chose, but I think to a system where the debates probably go over a period of at least two weeks, because it seems to me that members on both sides of the House are now making a deeper contribution, Ministers are responding to this contribution, and I believe that one has had not only critical debate but constructive suggestions, and I cannot see that this in the long run will do any damage to the governmental system.

So it is a matter that perhaps in our quiet moments the three parties on both sides of the House should get together and look at, not to delay Government's action, as once you are a Government you must have certain measures in place, but to improve the circumstances.

Sir, I want to say, like the Honourable Member for St. George South, I consider the high point of the debate to be really the chicken debate. Let me say in some way that the debate came alive with fish and probably reached its high point with chicken, and to some extent I think the Government's digestive organs must be under severe pressure from what has happened in This Place. In some instances no quarter was given, none was asked for, in other respects there were times that we might have become a little

bit personal, but I hope that at the end of the day Honourable Members will realise that, unfortunately or fortunately, the political system which we operate demands of both sides of the House that they have to do their duty as they best see fit, and I am sure we have all ended up wiser for it and nonetheless friends at the personal level. I think this is most important for democracy in the 350th year.

Mr. Speaker, you are not allowed much say in these matters, but I am sure that I saw you following the debate with your usual interest. Your Chairman of Committees was tested. We would like his eyes to be slanted a little bit more in a Chinese fashion on one side to this side sometimes, but it is a testy time normally when each member is craving for some indulgence from the House.

I am much indebted, Sir. I understand we are going into recess until after Easter. It only remains for me to wish everyone a quiet and peaceful Easter. I promise the Honourable Member for St. James North that we will not share too many blows on him personally, although we have to bring a few home truths to the North on Sunday night, and I promise the Government that when we come back we

will renew the assault on the Government in the hope that the combat will be locked as we move on to the goal of the next election, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Before I put the question I want to let you know as we celebrate our 350th Anniversary of Parliament, I have allowed CBC to record for part of the programme during that period our first section of the sitting of the House of Assembly, that is, we will record as far as Orders of the Day. That being so, I would want all Members to be present and I have given them instructions that it would be at the next sitting of the House, which would be on the 4th April. So all members should be present for that recording so as to allow CBC to make their contribution towards the celebration of our 350th year of Parliament.

The question that this sitting be now adjourned until Tuesday, 4th April, 1989 at 12 o'clock noon was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the sitting accordingly. 6.54 p.m.

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