

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1986-91

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 24th October, 1989.

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 12:20 p.m. o'clock on Tuesday, 24th October, 1989.

PRESENT

His Honour L. A. WEEKES, J.P., (Speaker)

His Honour J. J. PAYNE, (Deputy Speaker)

Hon. H. deB. FORDE, Q.C., MA., LL.B.

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

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

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

Hon. Dr. D.G. BLACKMAN, B.A., M.A., (Minister of Transport and Works)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mr. E. BOURNE

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS, M.D.

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

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

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

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER

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

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

Prayers were led by Rev. Father Ivan Harewood.

Mr. SPEAKER: The House is in session.

MINUTES Mr. SPEAKER:

Minutes of Tuesday, August 1, 1989.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I move that the Minutes of proceedings of this Honourable Chamber held on August 1, 1989 be taken as read and confirmed. If there are no corrections or observations, let those minutes stand confirmed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR THE SPEAKER

Mr. SPEAKER: I am to announce that I am in receipt of the Accounts and Statements for the months of June, July and August, 1989 as prepared by the Accountant General.

MESSAGES FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Mr. SPEAKER: Message No. 4/1989, His Excellency the Governor-General to the Honourable the House of Assembly:

"His Excellency the Governor-General has the honour to inform the Honourable the House of Assembly that, accompanied by Her Excellency Lady Springer, he will be absent from the country during the period October 22, 1989 to November 22, 1989 on a visit to the United Kingdom.

Under the provisions of Section 29 (1)(b) of the Constitution, the Chief Justice, the Honourable Sir

Denys Williams, GCM, will perform the function of the office of Governor-General during His Excellency's absence."

PAPERS

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

1. The Judges (Remuneration and Pensions) (Conditions of Service and Allowances) (Amendment) Regulations, 1989.
2. Guarantees granted under the Exempt Insurance Act Cap. 308A Section 32 to the following: -
 1. PVO Assurance Inc.
 2. National Transport Assurance Alliance Inc.
 3. N.I. Insurance Company Inc.
 4. Surety-America Reinsurance Ltd.
 5. Certification and Guarantee Insurance Co. Ltd.
 6. .Galaxy Reinsurance Co. Ltd.
 7. Myracorp Reinsurance Co. Ltd.
3. The Annual Report and Financial Statements of the National Petroleum Corporation for the period April 1987 - March 1988.
4. The Annual Report and Accounts of the Barbados National Bank for the year 1988.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am commanded to lay the following:

The Health Services (Psychiatric Hospital) (Encephalograph Machine - Fees) Regulations, 1989.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:

1. Report of the Fire Service for the year 1988.
2. The Annual Reports of the National Assistance Board for the years 1984-1985, 1985-1986, 1986-1987 and 1987-1988.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Education, I am commanded to lay the following:

The Annual Report and Statement of Accounts of the Barbados Community College for the period September 1, 1987 to August 31, 1988.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

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

1. A Resolution to approve the Judges (Remuneration and Pensions) (Conditions of Service and Allowances) (Amendment) Regulations, 1989.
2. A Bill to amend the Central Bank of Barbados Act, Cap. 323C.
3. A Bill to amend the Port Authority Act, Cap. 285B.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICES

Mr. SPEAKER: Due to a slight delay, I am going to ask that this particular item be deferred until later on during the sitting.

NOTICES OF QUESTIONS

Mr. SPEAKER: In a similar vein, there is a slight delay as well with those questions so I am going to ask that they too be held until later on in the day's sitting. 12.30 p.m.

On the separate motions of Hon. B. M. TAITT, seconded by Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN, the following Bills were read a first time:

A Bill to amend the Port Authority Act, Cap. 285B. A Bill to amend the Police Act, Cap. 167. A Bill to amend the Fire Service Act, Cap. 163. A Bill to amend the Parish Boundaries Act, Cap. 108,

CONGRATULATORY SPEECHES

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I crave with the indulgence of this Honourable House to offer our congratulations to Your Honour for the splendid and magnificent manner in which over a two year period you performed the duties and responsibilities connected with and culminating in your elevation to the chairmanship of the CPA.

Your Honour performed with such distinction as to bring great credit to Barbados and we feel that it is only right and fitting that we should record our view and our

feeling and offer you heartiest congratulations for what has been described as the most successful Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Meeting which happened to have been held, in Barbados, under Your Honour's chairmanship.

I thank you for your indulgence, Sir.

Applause.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the NDP, I would wish to associate myself with those remarks.

I have been particularly impressed with the outstanding dignity and elegance with which you have performed, much to the credit of our country. Indeed, I am more than pleased to be able to stand here today and associate myself with those congratulatory statements.

Mr. SPEAKER: I should just like to thank Honourable Members and tell them how much I appreciate their sentiments.

Thank you.

ORAL REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs, I beg to give notice that the Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 98 is ready.

I should also like to give notice on behalf of the Acting Prime Minister that the Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 102 is ready.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Mr. SPEAKER: Government Business is the instant Order of the Day.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I trust that the suspension of those several Standing Orders does not in any way interfere with the rights of the Opposition to proceed with its business which has been on the Order Paper now for some time.

As you know, Sir, there has been an unusually long summer recess and we really would wish to get on with the people's business. We have several Resolutions on the Order Paper and I would wish an assurance from the Honourable Acting Leader of the House that the suspension of those Standing Orders would in no way compromise the ability of the Opposition to proceed with PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS today.

Mr. SPEAKER: Just in quick response, I do not think the suspension of Standing Orders necessarily means that one's rights will be taken away. It is probably a means of expediting Government's Business.

I cannot give the assurance that the Leader of the House who is responsible for the conduct of Government Business will however, respond. But as the one who responds to your request and one who safeguards the rights of Members of this House, under the Standing Orders, I will certainly try not to allow that right to be deprived.

The question is that these Standing Orders be suspended....

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I have not got an assurance from the Honourable Deputy Leader of the House.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Alright, the Honourable Member deputizing as Leader of the House, as to whether or not time would be allocated today for us to proceed with PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS. That is the point.

And those Standing Orders do in fact add up. What they add up to is that there is no longer a statutory right under the Standing Orders for us to proceed with PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS at the time normally allocated for PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS on the day. That is what it means.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The Honourable Member can be assured that nothing unusual will take place today, Sir. He can be assured that we are going to continue in the manner we have always continued from the time he came in here. I give him that assurance.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: The Honourable Member has not given me an assurance. The assurance that I wish is that we will have PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS some time during this day.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: If the exigencies of the circumstances warrant it, Sir, he will have whatever is due to him. I cannot give any assurances at this hour as to what is going to happen in another two hours from now.

Our luncheon arrangements for example and other inconveniences connected with the inability of the work to be completed may in fact impinge on any statements I might now make.

The Honourable Member has been a Member of this House, it is true that he is a fledgling Leader of the Opposition, but he has been a Member of this House for a fairly long time, Sir. He is fully aware of the reasons for the suspension of the Standing Orders.

It is true that certain statements may have been made intemperately by certain persons outside of this Chamber which may now be impacting on....

Mr. SPEAKER: I am only concerned with statements at this time in the Chamber.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I beg your pardon, Sir. The Honourable Member's mind might not be as clear at this moment as it ought to be and therefore he might not quite remember that Standing Orders are suspended.

I would say that I found nothing unusual about the recess. I did not quite follow his reference to an unusually long recess. It has been the custom from time immemorial to return to Parliament in October and it was agreed beforehand that since the CPA would have been meeting in Barbados that an extra week would have been required. So that the Honourable Member must, I am sure, wish to let us get on with the business. We have a number of items before us which could only be done if these Standing Orders were suspended. I think the Honourable Member knows that, Sir. He has made his point, Sir. 12.40 p.m.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I am fully aware of the game.

Thank you.

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT ST. HELENS, ST. GEORGE

Order No. 2 was called - To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition by the Crown of land at St. Helens, St. George, for recreational purposes.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, earlier this year this Honourable House approved the acquisition of land for the construction of the St. Augustine School and at that time I mentioned that I would be coming back to the

House with a further acquisition for an area of land to be used as the playing area for the students of the school and for the residents of the surrounding area.

This Resolution seeks approval of Parliament for the acquisition of this land for that purpose. With those remarks, Sir, I beg that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: I beg to second that, Mr. Speaker. *»

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that this Resolution do now pass

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, we have no difficulty with this Resolution provided, of course, that the price will be right and so on. It is quite clear that that area of St. George North has been in need of a playing facility for many, many years. It is an area which has produced „ some very outstanding cricketers over the years and some of the best slip fielders in Barbados have, in fact, emerged from that particular area. I refer to the old St. Augustine playing field and, as you know, if you were at the end of that field where there is the old St. Augustine Boys School just behind the wickets the ground all of a sudden took a dive at about 60 degrees as it move down towards the gully. It was a genuine gully, not only a gully in terms. Anyone fielding in the slip area or in the gully they were actually going down in a gully. The result was that when you nicked * the ball that the ball really took off at top pace and continued downwards and the umpire at the other end had to consult with the players to be sure whether a slip catch was taken because there was no way he could stand at one end and see a catch being taken at the other end.

It is under those conditions that some of the most outstanding cricketers in the parish of St. George have performed over the years - outstanding players such as I think Happy Jordan and people like Parkie Graham and so ^m on. So that I think that this will be a major asset to the people of the area. They will now have a playing field which is on the level and from the size that I see here it will be large enough to accommodate more sports and I hope that it will not be only a playing field for the school but also as often happens that the community will have access to the playing field when the school is not using the playing field area. It will serve the area of St. Helens, Belair, Market Hill, Bridge Cot, the old Post Office, and Groves Tenantry going through into Roach Village and Paradise and Jericho across the way.

So that it is the kind of Resolution which I think we could very happily support and I trust that there would be further development programmes for the area to ensure that there is maximum utilization and maximum benefit accruing to the community out of the capital investment which is being made by this act of acquisition.

With those few remarks, I think that I can take my seat because we are fully supportive of the particular measure. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

PARISH BOUNDARIES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1989

Order No. 5 was called - To move the Second Reading of a Bill to amend the Parish Boundaries Act, Cap. 108.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you will recall that in February or March of this year we considered the Parish Boundaries Amendment Act, 1989. Before I go any further, I believe we were all circulated with copies of the map and I would like to be assured that they have, in fact, received them including the Leader of the Opposition. Having been so assured, Sir, I think I may proceed.

You will recall that we passed the Parish Boundaries Act I think in February or March which, in fact, would have established the Parish Boundaries for Barbados under the usual methodology that is used to alter the reference, etcetera. Since then the Chief Surveyor has drawn to our attention a number of things. 12.50p.m.

The title block at the bottom of page 3 of the map that was attached to that Bill stated, and I quote, "this is the map described in section 2 of the Parish Boundaries (Amendment) Act, 1989 of the map of Barbados, series E.703 DOS 418 Edition 4, OSD 1987 revised." The reason for that rather ungainly title block lay in the wording of the Act which stipulated a specific map.

It has turned out not to be possible to give the parish boundaries map the number E.703 DOS 418 Edition 4, OSD 1987 revised as specified, because the map cannot be considered to be a revision of E.703 Edition 4. This has been fully explained in the sheet history to be included in the maps of notes and which stated: "Prepared by overseas surveys directorate, ordinance survey from selected components of E.703 DOS 418, Edition OSD 1987 which revised parish boundaries and names." That note serves to explain why the map had a different number and also gives the relationship with E.703 Edition 4, while identifying the revision of parish boundaries and names which appear on the map.

These are very technical matters, Sir, and the House will bear with me as I have to read them exactly as they are. I am hearing *sotto voce* the Leader of the Opposition talking about messed up. It has nothing whatsoever to do with anything being messed up. That was the best means available under the circumstances and it was hoped by the Chief Surveyor that it could meet the legal requirements.

The other option would have been to recommend a revision of the Act, incorporate the map numbers, et cetera, and the Chief Surveyor did not consider that to be worthwhile.

The Attorney General, after consultation, advised that the Act should be amended and accordingly he prepared the Parish Boundaries (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill, 1989 which now comes to this Honourable Chamber to pass in order to alter the reference given in section 2 of the Act.

It is a relatively simple measure. It seeks simply in the relevant section to repeal section 2 of the one we passed earlier this year and to substitute what appears in the Bill, which again as I said, Sir, is technical. It does nothing to the country, it does not interfere with anything, it just simply is dealing with the references and making sure that the references are accurate and fall within the international standards.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: It is purely cosmetic, in the words of my good friend. I can think of nothing controversial about it, but if there are any questions which Honourable Members might have concerning the map, I am sure that we on this side will be happy to oblige. We are very fortunate in that respect to have in the ranks of the Government one of the foremost experts in the field of surveying, so that if there are any technical questions which any Honourable Members on that side may have been minded to ask, they may feel free to ask technical questions as well, because we are equipped, as we should be, to answer them.

Mr. Speaker, with that small introduction, I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

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

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I am sure the Honourable Member will give the assurance which was given by the Acting Prime Minister when the Parish Boundaries Act was passed earlier this year, that this amending legislation will not come into force at such a time to contradict the Schedule to the existing Representation of the People Act. I take it that that understanding still exists, because obviously if the two Bills are not co-ordinated we will find that there has been an implied repeal or modification of polling districts and constituency boundaries, so I would wish that assurance quite clear that the proclamation of this Bill as amended, together with the substantive Bill which it amends, will be co-ordinated in such a way as not to be an implied amendment to existing polling districts.

I think it is very important that this point should be made. That is the only real substantive point that arises out of this for us, but it is a very important point. Therefore, in voting for the Bill it is on the clear understanding that that

undertaking as has previously been given to the House would still be binding on the Government and on the House.

You see, Sir, I wish to probably clarify in very simple terms that the present Representation of the People Act contains the existing voting areas designated in some circumstances according to parish boundaries. This Bill will alter those boundaries in some ways and therefore if it is brought into effect without properly co-ordinating that with the existing polling boundaries, we will have the polling districts of Barbados and constituencies being changed by this Act without taking particular note of those changes.

As I understood it, the Acting Prime Minister had given us the undertaking that that is not intended, that there will be proper co-ordination of these matters. Subject to that, we will support the Bill going through.

The other point I wish to make is that the map which has been circulated does contain some spelling errors and I wish to know what will be done about this, whether or not there will be corrected copies made in the spelling errors which occur. The Honourable Member for St. Thomas has spotted a few and I have spotted one myself. It is a matter no doubt *de minimis*, but if it is going forward as the official map of Barbados, we would wish to know that our place names are correctly spelt and known to the public at large, and no doubt the Government will advert to this before these maps go on sale.

I am sure it will be a collector's item to get one of these copies now that have names misspelt. Honourable Members who have copies I am sure will realise that in a couple of years these will be very valuable if you collect these types of documents, but I would trust that the corrections are properly made and are soon made, probably before they go officially on sale.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I just want to make a slight observation almost in the same vein as the Honourable Member for Christ Church West. I notice that although the map says Edition 1/0 OSD 1989 - and he has spoken about the spelling errors - we have correctly represented Highway 2A which is now under construction, but the ABC Highway which is already constructed is still in dotted lines, suggesting that it will be a future development. I hope that in the amended edition of the map that the ABC Highway, running from the sea port to the airport, will be well delineated on the present map.

That is the observation I would like to make.
1.00p.m.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, first of all in reference to the points raised by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East, I think he has a point that any maps produced today of Barbados should in fact show, on

the ground, all that Barbados has, and I think that that new highway, the Adams-Barrow-Cummins highway, is a significant landmark in Barbados, and as such it should have been shown on this map other than by, as I understand it, dotted lines. I myself do not see it. Anyhow that apart, that does not really and truly invalidate it. Oh, yes, I see it. It is here but it is shown as a dotted line. It should be shown in greater detail on the plan.

On the question raised by the Honourable Member for Christ Church West, I had indeed given an assurance to this House as regards the bringing into effect of the Act when passed. The Act was passed in March in the Other Place. This amendment will in due course, I hope, be also passed in the Other Place and in due course we have to bring it into effect but it is quite clear, I don't think it need any special pleading, that the Act cannot properly come into effect until all matters pertaining to the boundaries in Barbados are taken care of.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church West is quite right that if we were to bring this into effect now, those constituencies that are defined by way of a boundary line in Barbados could very well be affected, and although it may not affect, we do not know. That will only be a problem if there is a by-election, but we do not know if there will be a by-election. Somebody could resign or somebody could leave for other reasons; so therefore it is quite clear, Sir, that this Act cannot and ought not properly be brought into effect and proclaimed until such times as we have settled among ourselves the electoral boundaries of Barbados. Now I believe that the Electoral Boundaries Commission will be reporting fairly soon, and therefore the time may not be far off when we may be in a position to proclaim this Act.

I think those are the points raised and those are the points to which I respond.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, these changes are not merely casual; they are not merely technical; they are designed with a very specific purpose, hinted at very vaguely by the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister, whom I have always found to be an honourable and innocent person, and from time to time we get a glimpse of the truth from that source. The fact is that the amendments brought to the House in February were unsatisfactory, there has been a bit of a mess up and this now corrects the mess that occurred in February. That is point one.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, I really have a lot of difficulty how the Leader of the Opposition can seek to mislead. He is misleading the House, Sir. This amendment is so simple that even the Leader of the Opposition should be able to read it without difficulty. I do not understand how he can talk about mess up. This makes absolutely no change whatsoever in the map which came in 1979. All it does is make change to the reference, the serial

number. I meticulously read out the entire thing. It could only be mischievous for anyone to suggest that there was a mess up in February. I really feel, Sir, that the Honourable Member should take guidance on that.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I should like to insist, Sir, that my investigation and my information lead me to conclude that if the Government had acted on information available to it at that time that the mess up would not have occurred, and we would not have to be dealing with this today, and I am not going to be deflected from that.

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Anyhow, the mess up is being corrected today, and whilst that mess up is being corrected, attention has to be drawn to the House that there are even basic spelling errors in the map which they have brought to the House today, and a further attempt has been made to indicate to the Government that they have missed out an entire highway on the map and just show it by dots. Now what is going on? It is quite clear to me that there needs to be greater thought going into these things before they come to Parliament, more care taken in examining the correctness of what is brought to Parliament, particularly when it can have implications in relation to polling districts and that kind of thing. But there is something more important and I wish to make this statement here, that this is part of an exercise that will ultimately facilitate the reorganisation of the constituencies for electoral purposes. This is one of the conditions precedent to what will have to be done in order to shift the boundaries in order to provide a more favourable situation.....

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir, I am not even going to let him put that in the record. That is palpably untrue. It is misleading the House. This is no condition precedent. The Boundaries Commission requires no condition precedent to do anything, and the Honourable Member ought to know it, Sir. I can't say he knows it I can't say that. The more he speaks, Sir, the more I am beginning to be convinced that he is just plain ignorant. How else can you explain his coming in here and saying the Boundaries Commission needs this as a condition precedent? If he is not ignorant, Sir, he is being downright wicked.

Mr. SPEAKER: Now I think the Honourable Member should

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I can assure you I am neither ignorant, nor foolish nor wicked or any of those things, and in the fulness of time it would be fully revealed that what I have said here is correct despite the fulmination from the other side, and when you see these vacuous fulminations emanating from the other side, then Mr. Speaker, you know that you have touched a sore nerve of truth. The truth, Sir, can be very painful, and I am

challenging you all now to deny that there has' been extensive conspiratorial consultations relating to certain changes in the boundaries, and the only residual problem is the extent to which St. Michael South Central would be chopped up. 1.10p.m.

That is the only residual problem. I am saying that and they know what I am talking about and if they want me to be more specific I will be more specific.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I am not calling any names. I have not mentioned conspirators.

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

His exact words were "extensive conspiratorial consultations". You cannot have extensive conspiratorial 'consultations unless you have conspirators so do not say you did not say that. We challenge you to reveal your challenge in real terms so the people can hear a "boo". Name the names. Do not come in here with that kind of "flubely-lubely" that you do with people at 6th Avenue.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think the Honourable Member has made his point

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I beg your pardon, Sir.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member must know that I will ignore him. He must know that I am sufficiently aware of certain constitutional proprieties not to accept his invitation. I am smarter than that but that does not, in any way, derogate from the substantive statement that I made.

As I said, Mr. Speaker, in the fulness of time it will be fully revealed and I would say this now that we in the NDP will not be supporting any chopping up, realignments or readjustments of the boundaries of Barbados. We are not going to do it for the simple reason that we feel strongly that when those changes are made, they should be made as soon as possible after an election, to avoid the kind of confusion that we have had in the past knowing the quality of the infrastructure that we have in place and the frequency of errors and so on. That is our position. Let me say that out front.

They are those who have access and they are those who do not have access. The circumstances of our constitutional changes mean that we do not have access but we keep our ears to the ground and we know what is going on although one or two members who do not quite know what is going on would think that I am talking nonsense. I

am sure they are, at least, three people in this Chamber who know for sure what I am talking about and I am extremely grateful once again....

Mr. SPEAKER: I am trying to be clear in my mind what these members know about. What is it that you are referring to that they know about?

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: They know about what I am talking. They are geniuses. They know all about what I am talking, Sir. There are three.

Mr. SPEAKER: In other words, they are not part of a conspiratorial consultation.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I never identified any person, Sir, not me.

Mr. SPEAKER: You have just said three members can be identified in this Chamber. If that is a reference...

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I am not making that linkage, Sir. In fact, I wanted to go on to say that I am extremely grateful for the ever present tendency towards veracity by the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister that he has established the linkages that I have spoken about in diplomatic terms.

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

I have established no linkages that he is talking about. I do not know what he is talking about. If he want to say something, Mr. Speaker, let him say. I deny I have established anything.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member will not stop me. I believe in certain courtesies and he will not stop me from saying "thank you" for the insight which you have given to the Honourable House by clearly establishing the linkages.

We all know what we are talking about. I am quite sure that we know what we are talking about and I hope to come back to thi[^] Honourable House in the not too distant future and, with your permission, although I will not be able to reflect on a vote of the House or to refer to this debate and then, it would be apparent to one and all what I was talking about today.

I am saying that the Honourable Member for St. Michael West and the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister are among the two of the three persons who are fully apprised of what I am talking about.

I thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all let me say, as the Honourable Member for St. Michael West, that I know absolutely nothing about anything he is talking

about, totally, completely, absolutely, nothing. I never understand half of what he says anyhow.

The Honourable Member should be the last member of this House to come in here talking about ineptitude in relation to errors.

The Honourable Member himself knows that as Minister of Finance he brought more errors in the short time he was a Minister than any combination of Ministers in any group at any time any where in the history of Barbados.

We spend so much time correcting errors. We got on the floor of the House correcting errors. He should not attack the Civil Servants the way he is attacking them now. You have no right attacking the Civil Service.

You know that the Chief Land Surveyor is totally, completely responsible for maps. You are trying to give the impression to the people that the Ministers draw maps. The only Minister who has ever drawn a map that could be described as a map on this side is the Honourable Member for St. Philip North.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I do not even know who the Chief Land Surveyor is and the Honourable Member is accusing me of attacking him. I have not criticized the Chief Land Surveyor. I am looking at the errors before me here.

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

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The whole gravamen of the Honourable Member's speech was directed towards what he called "extensive conspiratorial consultation" relating to certain changes in the boundaries. He sought to give the impression that this map was somehow tied up with the cutting up of the boundaries. He specifically mentioned St. Michael South Central and all of us in here understand those references to mean gerrymandering.

This map that we brought today attached to the amendment is a one page amendment sent by the Chief Surveyor to change OSD 2960 Barbados Parish Boundaries Edition 1 - OSD 1989. Those are the kinds of things that are being changed.

The map has the same dotted broken line for the ABC Highway in February that it has in October. The Honourable Member is competent to understand that. He still tries to give the impression that the actual map has been tampered with and messed up, his words. I say, Sir....

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir. I never said that the map was messed up. 1.20p.m.

I say, Sir, that that is a powerful....

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir. I never said that the map was messed up. I referred to errors highlighted by other Members in the House. But I said that there was a mess up in what was brought here in February and now has to be brought again.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I repeat, Sir, that all we have done as the Government is to bring what the Chief Land Surveyor asked us in his professional capacity to bring in order to make this map conform with the international requirements.

So far as being careful, this Government could not have been more careful. This Government, when the matter was being dealt with in London sent the Officer himself to London to participate, to observe and to direct.

There is no one over here who gets involved in map working, map reading and map drawing. We are only the Government. We do not pretend to be like the Honourable Member, the Leader of the Opposition who is God Almighty on earth. We are only ordinary Members of Parliament who are holding ministerial office by and with the consent of the people. So we do not pretend that we know how to do everything and that we have a direct communication with God who consults with us on every subject under the sun.

We admit....

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I go to church because I admit to being a sinner. Why do you not confess your sins?

Laughter.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rest my case.

Laughter.

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

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

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee.

Clauses 1 to 3 inclusive were called and were passed.

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

On the separate motions of Hon. B. M. TAITT, seconded by Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN, the Bill was read a third time and was passed.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 3. POLICE

(AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) ACT, 1989.

Order No. 3 was called - To move the Second Reading of a Bill to amend the Police Act, Cap. 167.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, the matter for consideration is the proposal to amend the Police Act, Cap. 167 to make provision for police officers so that they may receive no less than half pay when on suspension. The existing provision is that they receive half pay and therefore, that is the difference.

This Amendment will allow for some degree of flexibility in exceptional circumstances where it might be considered that the police officer involved should even receive full pay. But at the present moment, it is asking to be amended so that they receive no less than half pay. That is the basis of the amendment.

Mr. SPEAKER: It has not been seconded.

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

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

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Barbados Labour Party is in support of this Bill, if it has to be made law to put it beyond doubt that when officers are suspended in those disciplined forces that they get at least half pay, then there can be no quarrel with that. But this Amendment to the Police Act must certainly inspire a wider debate, Sir,

I think the whole society will agree that a stable and contented police force is absolutely essential to the maintenance of law and order in any community and certainly in Barbados. More especially, Sir, is this necessary and vital in Barbados, insofar as we are a country which for many years now has been promoting successfully tourism as an essential sector in the economy and indeed, we have been promoting the selling of services as a long-term strategy for the economic benefit of Barbados and with a view to the economic diversification.

If we are hoping to continue to attract visitors from overseas to Barbados on holiday or in some cases for

retirement, then one of the preconditions to any campaign aimed at winning people to come to these shores must be not only political stability which we have always prided ourselves in having, but a community that is congenial and in which those who come could feel safe, as well as those who reside in it permanently must be made to feel secure in this country. 1.30p.m.

I think, Sir, and I said it on the weekend on a programme when a radio station interviewed me that all the Governments - I am not exempting any - have tended to give too low a priority and too low a rating to the question of maintenance of law and order and the provision of adequate facilities for those who have to operate the various components of the justice system. I hope that in the future the criticisms and the pleas for improved conditions will not have fallen on deaf ears and that future Governments will really start seriously to address the neglect that has attended many of these agencies of law and order. Efforts were made, Sir, between 1976 and 1986 to do something for the benefit of the Police Force and indeed for the courts, but a lot more has to be done. I know that it is a question of scarce resources and a question for the Ministry of Finance always to allocate in terms of priorities. I say, Sir, that we cannot continue to have in Barbados constantly every few months entreaties by people in the criminal justice system especially for better accommodation and even better pay, not that I am admitting that the pay is too low or anything. I am not on to that at all at this moment. I am speaking generally.

The Police Force, indeed, any properly organised and run Police Force has certain basic needs. Out of the top of my head, Sir, I can identify four or five. The first one would seem to me to be adequate manpower and adequate emoluments. The second one would be a sufficiency of equipment. The third one would be reasonable accommodation for the personnel. Fourthly, would be positive and respected leadership and, finally, continuing training for those officers within the force to keep them abreast and up to date with the changing world and the sophistication of crime and the need to respond adequately to the changing circumstances.

It has been popular on the part of the Commissioners of Police to make statements at least one year asking for more men and more equipment and Ministries of Finance in the past and now have had to be circumspect and careful about answering these regular requests. Indeed, are the requests reasonable must be the criterion upon which the Ministry of Finance which is the provider of finance must determine a particular application.

Let us look at the question of manpower and equipment first, Sir. About 1984 they asked for 1200 policemen. By December 1985 they were given 1200 policemen because there was a phasing in of people, 50 at a

time and so on, and the last batch came in December 1985. Fortunately, the Government of the day was able to get the Commissioner's unequivocal agreement and statement that he was satisfied with that number. It is on the files up there. He was satisfied with 1200. Over the years too, Sir, they got more and better equipment. One of the problems, of course, is that motor vehicular equipment does not last long in the Force. They had a record, certainly when I was around in the Ministry, for frequent write-offs and so on. I do not know if it is so bad now. Motor cars and motor-cycles had a * very quick turnover rate, turnover in every sense of the word. Having regard to the nature of the work that they do, I think that we have to look at and perhaps examine carefully the type of equipment that is best suited in our conditions to the type of work they have to do. I believe that generally, certainly when there was a new installation of telecommunications equipment in 1985 and 1986 I was responsible as the Minister at the time, the telecommunications system was beefed up, in fact, _m modernized to the point where I do not think that there can be any cause for further telecommunications equipment. We also had a fleet of new cars, Grenadas, during my time. Four years have passed so you want renewal of that rolling stock.

At the level of accommodation, Sir, whereas prior to 1976 the police in this country had no proper dormitory accommodation. The barracks were bereft of proper beds and the recognition that the political leadership had for the «* police was to speak of them, especially the Harbour Police in terms of "varicose veins old men" - a famous statement of the late Mr. Errol Barrow. One of the first things that the Honourable Leader of the Barbados Labour Party, the present leader the Honourable Member for Christ Church West, was to ensure that the police in the barracks in Bridgetown Central had proper beds and that went right through the force.

Asides.

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Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Well, you can reply. The Acting Prime Minister can reply and the Honourable Member for Christ Church West will speak in this debate and he will in due course tell us the precise record. We made an attempt, Sir, to recognise the inadequacies in accommodation and physical structures by planning the redevelopment of certain stations and so Oistins was done. The new Airport Station which was opened last year was planned and designed when I was the Attorney General, * because before that there was an old building up there that had one of these asbestos roofs and was very deleterious to health. 1.40p.m.

I am not getting into the argument with the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East, who is a medical practitioner, the doctor on call, Sir, on this matter. I will put it this way then, Sir, and say that most workers'

organisations throughout the world take a very dim view of providing workers' accommodation in buildings which have asbestos roofs. Put it that way, Sir.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: It is not true. Well, if it is not true ... we do not want to be sidetracked as to why people over here at the Treasury Building were promised a new roof by the then Minister of the Public Service and so on if the complaint was not legitimate. If it is a matter of assumption and belief not grounded in fact medically, one of the members on the other side can correct me. I am of the view that it is a perception among workers' organisations that it is not healthy for people to work in those buildings, but do not let us get sidetracked.

We needed a new station at the airport for several reasons, particularly because of the drugs trade, and secondly, because of the age, the antiquity of that building up there, so one was completed early last year.

The Police Band Headquarters was a disgrace. I went there and saw it. I found plans for a new building when I went and we had to revise those plans to cut the coat to suit the cloth we had in terms of finances, and a new Band Headquarters is going up.

At Hometown it was decided that there was to be a new complex, but at the same time plans had been drawn for a District B at The Glebe, St. George as part of the Glebe, St. George Development. Plans had been drawn, submitted and approved by the Ministry. They had been drawn by Mr. Athelstone King a long time before his unfortunate death, and the priority was to do District B first at the same time as we were doing the Band Headquarters and then do Hometown. The present Government has changed the emphasis and the priorities, and that is something well within the competence and discretion of Government, and I am not complaining about it. They chose not to do District B first but to do Hometown. Perhaps that might be justified on the basis of population, levels of crime and so on in the District E area.

What I am trying to get across is that there has been a plan, and that work has been going on on the plan, to upgrade the facilities for policemen. We know that the Bridge and Harbour has to go. I condemned it and I incurred the criticisms of my colleagues in Cabinet at the time who thought I was a little too outspoken and was reflecting on the party at the time, but when I went on a visit I said that it was unfit for human habitation, and I believe that there are plans to do some work there.

District D in St. Thomas, similarly. That has to be condemned. It was condemned and we thought of building one at Welchman Hall until it became clear that with the Cave so close to that area it might not be the best thing to

build the District D station at Welchman Hall. You have the Post Office in that area and you do not want to put too many more public buildings there. I therefore revised the planning on that when I discussed it with the then Minister of Housing and Lands, Mr. L. B. Brathwaite. What we had decided to do, subject to Cabinet approval, was to build a complex at Cane Garden, which is a pretty focal point. People coming from Shop Hill way or through Porey Spring must end up at the bottom of Shop Hill. Those coming from Welchman Hall end up there, and Cane Garden is right there. We thought that we would have a housing development east of the present development, a Fire Station, for which there is great need in St Thomas, and a Police Station at that Cane Garden site. That would have, I think, relieved the problems that we have at District D.

One of the drawbacks, Sir, that I found to the speedy implementation of plans for the development or redevelopment of the Police Force was not only the question of finance, but the type of structure, the type of building which would satisfy the needs of the police. I wish to mention it for Government's consideration.

In 1985 the Ministry of Legal Affairs spent \$25,000 to do some necessary repairs to District D as a temporary measure, knowing that we were going to move elsewhere ultimately. I remember on my visit to that station I saw, I think they were 18 - Sir, the figure escapes me - beds in one room which no one was using, and I asked the Commissioner of Police who was with me, "18 people sleep here at one time?" He said no and I asked about how many policemen would be there sleeping at any one time and he said there could be six or seven.

Now, when we were all growing up we were familiar with the fact that policemen used to live and spend a lot of their time in barracks. That is no longer so. Many of the 1200 have motor cars and would come to work and leave. They do not work every day of the week, they certainly get, I think it works out to, at least two days off, or it might be more, so the need now to build an elaborate Police Station with massive accommodation facilities is no longer pressing. We can effect important savings in the type of structures that we build.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am sending a message to the police. Do not tell me tell the police that, I am sending a message to them. Make your demands. The demands for better accommodation are reasonable and understood, but do not make demands for palaces where there is not the need. Encourage Government to waste money? I am not supporting that. The only piece of advice I was giving there, Sir, was that having regard to the changed needs of the

Police Force now, the type of station that is to be built must reflect an appreciation of that change. That is in regard to manpower needs and accommodation, Sir. 1.50p.m.

I also spoke of the need for proper emoluments, and I am not going to prejudice any negotiations that are going on in regard to classification and regrading, so I make no comment on that, Sir, but to say that Government must always be aware that disciplined forces are kept satisfied.

Very importantly, Sir, I wish to submit that the question of leadership within the force is also critical to the proper functioning, indeed the proper organisation and functioning of the force. The present situation in Barbados is an unhappy one in respect of the senior management of the police force. One has to be frank. The country is aware of fractures in the senior management of the Police Force. Those fractures do not redound well to the smooth operation of the Force. When I say fractures I mean where certain very senior officers are not getting on with other very senior officers.

I have spoken to the Commissioner of my personal knowledge of some of these instances. I have seen a very senior officer walk across the yard earlier this year, it may have been late last year, it was certainly after the November 30 sick out last year, walk from Central Police Station through the wicket gate, over to the Traffic Court, call me out of Traffic Court, a senior police officer, in tears, crying, screaming with a crowd of people around him, wanting me in a hurry, and when I went to him and asked what happened, he had just been treated very badly by another senior officer, and there were threats and so on. I would not go into it anymore. I will speak to Members privately, Sir. That is only one. There are several others.

The problems when the now Acting Prime Minister went last year December to address the Police at their annual conference, the jeers and the boos that attended his visit and that of the Deputy

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I chose my words very carefully because I knew that he would take objection if I said they booed him but I said that attended his presence and that of the then Acting Commissioner of Police. Those jeers and those boos, Sir, were the expression of...

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS Sir, you said today that you would protect people. I beg you; I want a little protection.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sure you shall have it. It has been so quiet that I almost forgot.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS Those boos and jeers were an expression of the way the men felt in regard particularly to the Deputy. They have no respect for him. Look, let us not play down this. I refer to the Deputy Commissioner of Police, not the Deputy Prime Minister. Let me just say, Sir, that there has been....

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Don't tell me I have to say it. I am speaking first for the Opposition.

Mr. SPEAKER: You are not the official Opposition.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, but I am speaking first on this side. What I have to say on this is going to go on for an hour and a half or two hours. I have not even turned page one of my notes yet, and I have six. So I will give way when they are ready for lunch. Let me put it this way, Sir. It is a question of moral authority.

Mr. SPEAKER: May I make my position clear. The rule I go by, especially dealing with a situation that we have, is that the person who catches my eye first I allow to speak. That is the only rule that I understand that operates in this Chamber. Opposition groups must be able to organise in such a way in my view as to get the maximum benefits, but I shall not be in a position to prejudice anybody based on the fact that I must observe the person who catches my eye first, and it is on that premise that I made my ruling because the Honourable Member for St. Thomas caught my eye immediately the Resolution was seconded, so I take it that the other member did not catch my eye immediately, and therefore I could only go on the straight ruling to the person who caught my eye first.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I think we have to have this matter clarified for the rules of debate, because we cannot have two Members of the other side claiming to be speaking first on behalf of the opposition and claiming to have unlimited time as now appears to be the case.

Asides.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Well I am putting it before the House. It is not a hypothetical situation; it is the Rules of the Chamber. I am putting it before the House that I will not be making objections to any one of the seven on the other side claiming to speak a second time and claiming unlimited time. There can only be one person speaking on behalf of the Opposition according to the Rules of this Chamber.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Rule of the House speaks - and it is very clear to me, and that is why I said the Honourable Member had two minutes - of the Leader of the Opposition or the Member speaking on behalf of the Opposition, and I interpret that to mean that, because it says the Member

speaking on behalf of the Leader of the Opposition and that is why I said two minutes.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of order, if Your Honour is going to rule on this matter now, I would really have to debate the matter in the House because I would interpret that ruling to mean that this House has not taken cognisance of political developments that have occurred, and I would have to move an amendment to the rules of the House, because that virtually would be a ruling that would be muzzling for most time the Barbados Labour Party Opposition. That raises a very serious political question, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: May I say that the rules are given to me by this House. I am not the person who makes them and I interpret them on the basis of what I consider them to be. The second question that arises obviously is that it does not mean who speaks first in this sense, once it is not the Leader of the Opposition, so the Leader of the Opposition, if he gets up and speaks, well obviously have to have unlimited time, because it states that; so therefore if the Leader of the Opposition gets up and speaks, then the Rules will discriminate against him. I agree with the Honourable Member when these things arise that they should be clarified by the Rules of the House, so that the Presiding Officer would have very little difficulty in making that interpretation.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I have to abide by whatever ruling you give, but whatever ruling you give, Sir, if it affect this Opposition, I would have to move an amendment to the Rules of the House very rapidly to debate that matter, Sir, because effectively....

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order....
2.00 p.m.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I am on a point of privilege. I am not going to allow the voice of the Barbados Labour Party which came in here after an election to be subjected and silenced in any way. It is very seldom in this House that I speak in any pejorative terms, very seldom.

Mr. SPEAKER: I consider that a very serious reflection on my ruling because I am taking it very seriously that you are suggesting the very thing that the Rules should not do and that is, to silence any person. The Rules cannot silence you.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The effect of the Rules, if so interpreted, in my view, the effect would be virtually silencing the Barbados Labour Party Opposition to never being able, except on a substantive motion which it moves, to have any major speech in the House, Sir, and with respect, Sir, I would find that very difficult to accept in political life in this country, particularly, after we have been

in this House as the opposition on several occasions, and have been the Government. I would find that very difficult.

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

I wish to say that in the break I would be obliged if Your Honour would get the debates for earlier this year and you would find that when I spoke on behalf of the Opposition first, as we are now, on a previous occasion, I had unlimited time because the Honourable Member, the Acting....

Mr. SPEAKER: Precisely. That is why I am saying the situation is not the same as now.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: It does not matter if you have an agreement or not. It is who speaks first.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: It says the first speaker. I am the first speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have made my ruling and I accept the Leader of....

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The first speaker has unlimited time, and anybody else...

Mr. SPEAKER: I have accepted the Leader of the minority Opposition's suggestion that these Rules should be made clear for the Presiding Officer to make his ruling but if it is left as it is, I would have to operate on the basis of how it is written and that is what it says "the person speaking on behalf of the Leader of the Opposition" so I could not have two opposition members speaking for unlimited time.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have a Parliament. This is nothing that we have devised and brought here in 1986. This is a Parliament that has been in existence for 350 years. There is no Barbados Labour Party opposition in here.

There is one Opposition so do not let us come here now and understand that somebody is going to move amendments because of a Barbados Labour Party minority because there is no Barbados Labour Party minority in here. There is only one Opposition. There is no BLP in here.

We are parliamentarians. We are on the Government side and they are on the Opposition benches. That is what the Rules of this Chamber take cognisance of and when they were framed as they were, I was one of those framers in this Chamber. There is only one Opposition, not two.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have said before on the points you have made. In Parliament there are no parties. You do not

come in here as a party. You come in here as the Honourable Member for the St. Thomas constituency. There is no DLP or BLP in Parliament. I see it as the Opposition and in the debates of this House it makes provision for the Leader of the Opposition and the member speaking on behalf of, or any other member.

The Honourable Member for St. George South rose to speak soon after you rose so I accepted the fact that the official Opposition would be partaking in the debate and, therefore, the option of unlimited time would have gone to the Leader of the Opposition so you spoke as any other member of the House.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, on a matter of privilege.

I believe it is important that we do not begin to invent concepts of turf in dealing with matters of this kind.

The Standing Orders of the House are based on the fact that in here parties are not recognized. As a matter of fact, we are all individuals and the order of business, if it is going to be maintained, would have to be done through the Leader of the House on that side and the Leader of the Opposition on this side.

I have tried to function in such a way that I have no difficulty in ensuring that Members on this side who wish to speak first on a particular matter should have the opportunity to do so deriving that facility through me.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Not me, personally, Sir. Do not get me wrong - the office of the Leader of the Opposition.

I propose, as a matter of principle, to ensure that Members on this side who wish to speak first in a debate be given every opportunity to do so and to enjoy the privileges of speaking first and, I believe, Sir, that if the Rules as they stand are properly observed, there should be no difficulties.

There have been no difficulties in the past and I do not think there should be any difficulties in the future so for the purposes of the present situation, I would suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that you regard the speech being made by the Honourable Member for St. Thomas as the person speaking first on the opposition benches and that such facilities and privileges be accorded to him in that context.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege, Sir.

I have heard what the official Leader of the Opposition has said and whilst I appreciate what he has said, I wish to make quite clear how I understand the Rules

of this House and that, therefore, it is not a question of leave and privilege of anyone.

This is not the first time in the history of Barbados that we have had a position of two parties on this side. It is a figment to pretend that in this House we all come in here as individuals and there are no party loyalties, there is no party recognized in the House. That is an assumption. I do not deal in fictions. I deal in the reality of the position.

When anybody speaks over there they are speaking on behalf of the Government and they are speaking on behalf of the Democratic Labour Party. When you speak over here, in my view, you are speaking on behalf of the Opposition but there are two Oppositions. One must understand that.

I am not in any position on a privileged position. I want us to get that position absolutely clear. Now, as I understand it, the Rules of the House must be interpreted in such a way.

If the Leader of the Opposition wishes to claim his official status and speak anytime, he is entitled to do so, no problem about that but, as I understand it, if anyone on this side gets up and speaks first, obviously, we would always give way to the Leader of the Opposition because of his special status which is enshrined, but then, in my view, Sir, I would find it very difficult to accept, although I have to accept your ruling, that the Rules should be interpreted in such a way that unless I get the fiat of the Honourable Member, then my speech is half an hour or someone else's.

If that is so, Sir, then I think this House would have to get into the 21st Century because we would have to amend, as a matter of privilege, the position to reflect what is reflected in the Rules of other Houses where there is more than one Opposition, and which is well known in keeping with democratic principles and realities and if, therefore, your ruling is correct, I would have to, as a matter of public urgency, move the appropriate amendment to these rules, Sir, and that is all I am saying.

I do not want anybody to understand that I come in here leading the Barbados Labour Party, the oldest party in this country and begging for anybody's fiat, Sir. 2.10p.m.

I come in here leading the Party that is recognized in Barbados for what it was. And I have made a contribution in this House, as recently as the 350th Anniversary celebration in this House, I recorded that history, Sir. I would be failing in my duty if I did not, at this time, as a matter of privilege put our position absolutely clear on this matter, Sir.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege.

Mr. SPEAKER: I should just like to make.... Do you want to make a point?

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Quickly.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I cannot let this debate go without recording my own position on it.

I think that we have to distinguish between our particular views as individuals and the interpretation of this Rule which is the time limit for speeches which is under Rule 30 of the:

"DEBATES IN THE HOUSE
GOVERNMENT BUSINESS"

No. 1 says:

"In a debate on a Government Order, a Member may : peak for 30 minutes, except on third reading of a bill when a Member may speak for 15 minutes, provided that these dme limits shall not apply to the Prime Minister, a Minister moving a Government Order and the Leader of the Opposition"

So there is only one so far:

"or the Member speaking first on behalf of the Opposition."
"the Member speaking first on behalf of the Opposition."

Now, Sir, to the extent that the persoh who gets up first is speaking on behalf of the Opposition, that person, under these Rules -is entitled to unlimited time. The only time a person on that side is entitled to unlimited time is when that person speaks first and he is not the Leader of the Opposition and he is speaking on behalf of the Opposition.

Therefore, Sir, it does not call for any special interpretation of which party he represents. The Rule is very clear. If the Honourable Member who is now speaking, for example, on behalf of the Opposition.....

Mr. SPEAKER: The entire Opposition. That is the point.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The entire Opposition? Then he is not entitled to speak any longer than half hour.

Mr. SPEAKER: That was not my understanding.

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: If he is speaking on behalf of the Opposition....

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Am I still on a point of privilege, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes. That is the point.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: If the Honourable Member who is speaking is not speaking on behalf of the Opposition then he will have to stop his speech when Your Honour deems that 30 minutes have passed.

Now, Sir, if the Honourable Member for Christ Church West wishes - first of all I think it should be clearly pointed out that while some recognition of his seniority in the House may be accorded that strictly speaking, the Honourable Member in the House at this time has no more privilege than any of the other Honourable Members on either side.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Precisely. The only people who have rights other than ordinary Members are the Leader of the Opposition and the Prime Minister. This has been captured in the Rule.

So I think we ought not, as Members of Parliament, to leave anybody beside us with any impression that something strange has happened or is about to happen. There cannot be two speeches of unlimited time from the opposition.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: No. I think the issue arose because of the question as to whether someone from the "Official Opposition" would have unlimited time to speak. The question does not arise. And that was the only issue that was before us.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Chair must always stand above party and politics. The Honourable Member for Christ Church West insinuated as to suggest that I may be practising partisan politics because of parlies,

Now, I should like to diffuse that because my speakership here is based on the fact that not only must I be impartial but I must also appear to be impartial as well. And it is on that basis that I discarded any idea about BLP or DLP and I would not even entertain it in here. So that is removed.

What I am concerned with is what is the constitutional position in respect of the composition of the House which is clearly the Government and the Leader of the Opposition. Any other Opposition as far as I am concerned, is just a matter of what they want to say.

But the Opposition must always be recorded and I am sure the Honourable Member would agree with that, that the position gives that right to the Opposition as a constitutional one.

So the Honourable Member has only two more minutes. I have made the ruling on that.

Aside.

Mr. SPEAKER: He had two more minutes, at the time that I told him, at the intervention.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, in the circumstances, I did indicate in my intervention that the contribution currently being made by the Member for St. Thomas may be regarded as speaking on behalf of the opposition. And therefore I....

Mr. SPEAKER: I understand the Leader of the other opposition group to say that he did not want any favours. That is what I understood.

Laughter.

Mr. SPEAKER: And since I understood that, I would stick to the two minutes. But if they are agreeable, sure they can go on.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Okay. I do not consider it a favour, Sir. I consider....

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: In that case, Sir, if the Honourable Member for St. Thomas, as it appears now to be the case is speaking first on behalf of the opposition, and unless he intends to conclude his speech in another 3 or 4 minutes, if he so intends, I will have, Sir, to move the suspension of this House for lunch. So I just want to have his assurance that he will not be concluding his speech in a hurry.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I indicated that there was no way that I could conclude in 3 minutes, even 30 minutes, Sir. So I would be happy with the suspension now, Sir.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: In that case, Sir, I move that further consideration of this particular matter be postponed.

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

The question that further consideration of this Bill be postponed was put and was resolved in the affirmative without division

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: In that case then, Sir, I want to move that this House be now suspended until 3.45 p.m. an hour and a half, Sir.

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

*The question that this sitting be now suspended until 3.45 p.m. was put and was resolved in the affirmative ** without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly at 2.20 p.m. 2.20 p.m.*

RESUMPTION Mr.

SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Before we adjourned, I was....

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir. At this time, Mr. Speaker, it is usual to proceed with Question Time and Private Members' Business. The suspension of the Standing Orders would have changed the procedures at this point in time.

I have had a brief word with the Honourable Leader of the House whose word I always consider almost sacrosanct * in my experience and he has given me the assurance that we will have no difficulty in proceeding next week because he did not anticipate this position. The reason why I wish to make a public^ statement is because he only has one vote on the other side on any decision in this regard.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, whenever the Honourable Member quotes me, I have to get up. Sir, I did not tell the Honourable Member next week. I told him to let us choose a time among ourselves. The Honourable ** Member remembers well. Let us agree on a time. That is what I told him.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Somehow I understood that to be next week. Perhaps we can settle for that time or at the earliest time preferably next week.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of privilege, the Leader of the Opposition is going to have to get this right ~ because the tradition of this House demands that we can accept that when the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the House go behind the Chair that what transaction occurs there is one that we can believe in. Constantly so far we have been seeing the Leader of the Opposition misunderstanding the communication, Sir. I think that he is going to have to get whatever is necessary so we can believe that those consultations are reasonable. I think that I speak for all the other Members of the House, ^

Sir, in hoping that the Leader of the Opposition will soon get it right so we do not have these problems anymore, Sir.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have got it absolutely right, but I did make the point that the Honourable Member has one vote and I know what I am talking about. The Honourable Member for St. Michael West will respect, I am quite sure deep in his heart, any conclusion reached by the Honourable Leader of the House. But I would not put it beyond him to cast his vote otherwise in a political situation, Sir.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, on a point of order. I am sure that you would want that struck from the record, Sir. He is accusing me of duplicity. He is accusing me of all kinds of things, Sir. He is saying in my heart that I believe one thing and would vote another, Sir. I would like that struck from the record, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think that you have put it right by speaking for yourself. The Honourable Member for St Thomas.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I was wondering whether this well bucket principle would ever stop. It is one up and one down.

Mr. Speaker, before the suspension I was addressing the problems of physical accommodation for the Police Force and I think that I was on the point of making the observation that because of the change with the then requirements for policemen there has to be a new type of architecture in respect of physical accommodation that will be built. The Police Force has come under public scrutiny and adverse comment for the last few years and I can only attribute that situation to a number of reasons, Sir. I think it was last year or it might have been 1987 about August there was open criticism of the Attorney General by the Commissioner arguing that there seem to have been a lack of Ministerial policy. I do not think that there was ever a response from the Attorney General in answer to the allegations of the Commissioner. It is argued that it was indeed provocative. If the Commissioner was right and there was no response, then it is saying to us that the present Government at the level of formulation of policy had none or had none that was worthwhile. There has been never any clear-up of that.

The second area that gives concern, Sir, and I touched on it earlier is the internal relations between members of the force *inter se* particularly between the senior managers of the force and the junior officers. It is significant because you cannot have a senior member of the force being called a liar or in this case two senior members being liars during a coroner's inquiry and the next day they send in sick certificates because the example that is being set for the junior ranks is that you can use a sick certificate if you can get somebody to give it to you as a cloak for any reason -

incompetence, inefficiency, or whatever. So that the moral authority of the management of the force is weakened by the bad examples set by the senior management in the force themselves. It is an area that calls for attention. It is not beyond the responsibility of the Attorney General to speak to the senior managers of the force about those matters. That is not interference.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Yes, if I did it in my time - yes. There was once a terrible thing in the Press between the Commissioner and Mr. Lunn - a terrible exchange of virulent language, charges and counter-charges against each other in the Press. I summoned them both to the Ministry after work one evening and we were there for an hour and a quarter and I told them my mind that we could not afford to send those kinds of signals to the general public and I wanted him to pull back. I am not going any further, Sir, because a matter is in court and as a result of that I have refused to be a witness in the matter because I thought that I was doing something in a different capacity. They never thought that that would end up in court. If I am wrong, Sir, for having tried as the leader of that department for which I had responsibility to reconcile the parties and say that we cannot have this dirty linen washed in public - you are members of a disciplined force - what example are you sending to the other people out there? If I am wrong for doing all of that, I stand condemned. I think that I was right.

Of course, Sir, the force would have been weakened in its effectiveness by its attitude of some of its members to the public. There have been bad cases but, nevertheless, I believe that a genuine and sincere effort is being made by the Commissioner to clean up the kind of image that the force has and he has to be given a little time so that we can see the benefits of whatever he is doing.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: No, the Commissioner in the Barbados Force. No, no, no! You have got to be fair. If he is making an effort, he is making an effort. When they are worthy of criticism, I am going to criticize them. When they do something or say something commendable, I will do that too. I cannot come in here and bury my head in the sand like an ostrich and put my foot up in the air.

A lot of the problems, Sir, over the years has been a misunderstanding of the roles and the separate ways in which the Ministry should go and the force and its managers should go. 4.00p.m.

I have no difficulty with the judicial interpretation of those roles in a case called *ex pane Blackburn*, I think that is the name of it, around 1968 where Lord Denning tried to set out the respective roles, and they are that in matters of

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Yes, homosexuality in England was one. You can get convicted for homosexuality in public in England but not in private.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I do not know about those things, Sir. I have not had any practical experience but the Honourable Minister of Health is speaking >with a great degree of certainty about those matters.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. Having been myself a lecturer in the Criminal Law, it was my responsibility to be fully aware of these matters and in that respect the Honourable Member is perfectly right, Sir. I know about them from that point of view. I have no personal knowledge of homosexuality yet. I wish to put it on the record because I know him well, Sir.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Lord Atkin once asked, "Who is my neighbour?" and he got a certain answer, Sir, "Somebody who is reasonably foreseeable", who would be likely to do exactly what the Honourable Minister was speaking of.

But, Sir, I suppose in trying to find some kinds of explanations for the kind of instability that we have in Barbados now one could point to a number of factors: the breakdown in family life or, certainly, a change in the family structure.

When we were growing up, Sir, most of us, I believe, would agree that our fathers went out to work and the mothers remained at home and there was always that domestic, maternal influence to which resort could be had and then, of course, the extended family really worked.

I am talking about 30 years ago when most of us were at school. Now, husband and wife, or man and woman, are out to work. Very often the children leave school and get home before their parents come back and the children are, therefore, left to (as we say) fend for themselves for a long time and they are vulnerable and they can be exposed to all kinds of influences.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am just saying, Sir, that I think that we have made a lot of progress. Women have come along and done well and are recognized as equal partners but, at the same time, the need for both parents to be at work has left a vacuum within the home and I think we have to address that. Parents, indeed, have to look at that to ensure that children have good supervision.

Then in the schools - because they leave from the home and go to school and we have to ask some questions now and reflect upon whether the school system is providing the kind of support to the family which the school system of the past used to. I think that is the question.

Time was, Sir, when you left home and you went to school and it was necessary for you to get a flogging in school and you had to take it. When you went home and complained that you got some lashes, you would get some more. It never did any of us any harm. That used to happen.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Yes, my father was a disciplinarian, Sir. He used to give you a couple. I got some. The last set I got was when I was 15, soon after he came back from England on a course. I was annoying him, Sir, and I got a lash across here, one good one, Sir.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Yes, he went to England on a course. After he came back from England in 1955. He went there in 1953 and came back early in 1955. That was the last one I got, Sir, at age 15.1 got a few at school, Sir, one of which was wrongly inflicted but I do not mind that, these things happen.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: My good friend now, Sir, I am not calling his name, caused me to get some in the Sixth Form too. I got some since in the first year Sixth Form but I think it has got worst.

We have heard stories over the years of parents wanting to go to a school to look for the teacher with something wrapped in a piece of paper. I think that has gained momentum in Barbados in the last 15 to 20 years and, of course, teachers now resile from the imposition of corporal punishment and I think there is too much laxity in the management in schools.

I know that the regulations have changed and you cannot be as free with your hands now as you were from the old days as a teacher but, I think, these are areas that we need to look at and discuss, that require public discussion and some synthesis of thought or decision for us to come up with a solution.

There is no doubt that there is a breakdown in the authority of the church. The church cursed the politicians but we must look at them and see how many of them are cursing each other. They go to church against each other, file all kinds of libel cases and so on and then do not pursue them. They refuse to accept the discipline or the authority of the Bishop - I can only speak about the Anglican

Church, and I do not know even too much about that, but things that I have come across and you hear of it and the Church must not wonder why it is losing its influence in Barbados.

It is losing its influence in Barbados because of the very example it refuses to set for itself, a good example, so it has no moral authority in the eyes of many young people in Barbados.

I would also say too, Sir, that we as politicians have to carry some of the responsibility for some of the foolishness that happens in the society. I have always been concerned in here in debates about parliamentarians' salaries to take a position and I do not hide from it.

We have sold ourselves too cheaply all the years. You can set an example. You can be a good and humane politician without being arrogant or without forgetting or being oblivious to your responsibilities to society. You do not have to sell yourself short.

There are people out there who look to us in here for leadership and we have constantly to be aware of the kinds of examples we set to them and whether in some of our conduct we are not doing violence to our positions as role models.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am not chastising anybody, Sir but I think that we have to be careful. And the Member for St. John has had some lashes in the press and so on. I am not in that mood today. 4.30p.m.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: No, he had some from the Chief Justice. What has happened, Sir, that led to an unprecedented, in my time certainly, comment by a member of the Judiciary at the opening of the October Assizes, this October is a serious thing.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: It was unprecedented, as far as I can remember, for a member of the Judiciary of such high rank to have issued stern warning as it were to politicians. He talked about would-be leaders who must be careful about.....

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS:..... this is the Chief Justice at the opening of Assizes -..... how we make attacks on the Judiciary that in turn cause people to lose respect for the Judiciary. It is unprecedented for the judicial arm to get so

active in matters which really are the proper province of the executive arm. And we have to be careful. I do not know what the signal is that was being sent. I do not know if it is that there is a void in the political leadership.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Is that not it?

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I will come to that in due course. I have talked, Sir, of some of the specific incidents. But the mere fact that the Chief Justice has had to issue those warnings should be salutary. And I think he is sending a message to us that we examine ourselves and how we behave.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: I cannot hear the Honourable Member.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, people too easily allege that television and unemployment are causes of crime. Again, Sir, I wish to warn that we cannot be so simplistic in our judgement.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Influences through television and unemployment as a factor which is dehumanizing and which can lead to frustration and ultimately crime, those are factors which may predispose to crime but there is little evidence that they totally explain.....

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would not want to repeat what I have said just now. I can hardly hear the Honourable Member.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, I am saying that there is little evidence that will totally explain unemployment and television criminality. But I am very concerned, Sir, about the level of unemployment in Barbados and I am confused about it.

We have not had official statistics out of the Statistical Department since the third quarter in 1988. But I see the Central Bank Quarterly Report that came out last week put an unemployment rate of 16.1% between October 1988 and March 1989.

But I also saw yesterday, the Minister of Labour reported as having made a statement, and it has not been denied so far, that 28 000 of the nation's 40 000

unemployed are young people, prominently displayed on the back page of yesterday's NATION. I read it, Sir. I am not reading from it now.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Yes. I read the newspaper cover to cover. And when I see things like this, I cut them out and put them safely with others.

Do you know the implication of that, Sir? The implication of what the Minister is reported to have said which he has not as at twenty minutes to five on the 24th October contradicted, the Minister of Labour himself, is that the unemployment rate in Barbados is 33 ¹/₃% with a work force of 120 000.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, ...

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: If the Clerk would pass my calculator to him, he can work it out now. A work force of 120000.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. I need not say any more then, Mr. Speaker. But just for the Record/it is obvious I could not have said that the unemployment figure is 40 000 when he has just said that the Central Bank's statistics said it is 16.1%. I never said that.

What I did say is that the number of young people in the age group 16 to 22 is about 28 000. How the 40 000 came in is anybody's guess. The number of young people in the age group 16 to 22. About 4 000 people are born every year. So multiply 4 by 7, that is 28.1 do not know how they got 40 000 people involved in that.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I was waiting to hear the Minister deny that he ever said what was reported. I have not heard that.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I have just said I never said that. I went on to say that I said that the number of young people, the number of persons in the age group 16 to 22, we were talking about the National Youth Service and I was saying that we are dealing with people between the ages of 16 to 22 and that is about seven years span. If you multiply 7 by 4 000 which is the average birth rate, it is 28 000. How 40 000 got into it, I just cannot understand.

Aside.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: We were not talking about unemployment at all.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Alright, Sir. I hope that the Honourable Minister, Sir, would now write to the

newspaper and get them to correct what he said. If he does not do it....

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: then really his explanation today is not an explanation at all and I will have to be guided by the reliability of this report. 4.40 p.m.

At this point certain remarks made by Hon. B. M. TAITT were ordered to be expunged from the record by Mr. SPEAKER.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Now Sir, I have talked about unemployment and we all agree that it is unacceptably high. There is a dispute as to the figures, but even the Prime Minister conceded it was unacceptably high. He even conceded that he did not have a solution. You remember his own confession in the Budget last year, Sir, that it is unacceptably high and something needs to be done about it, and then he added a few words that were very pregnant with meaning - "but what?" We will see who can answer it, Sir. When the Labour Party left power unemployment was 15.4% and you can find it there in the statistics of the Economic Report.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order please. Order please.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: 1986, Sir, that is incontestable. As at May 1986, Sir - I am not dealing with * the end of the year.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. In 1981 the employment figure was 101,000. Between 1981 and 1986 they lost 8,000 jobs.

Asides.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: The point I am making is that it went up to 18.6%. Look at the statistics.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I do not want to get the debate into an economic debate.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am trying to see if I could avoid that.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Yes, Sir, I was only dealing with unemployment in the context of its being one of the factors that may predispose to crime, Sir.

I have to get to the police because great pressure is now being exerted on the police to try and keep law and ^

order in Barbados. One of the other reasons, Sir, for all of this lawlessness that is going on is that there is a public perception of a vacuum in the political leadership in the Government, Sir.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: ...In the Democratic Labour Party. We are not managing anything. You all are the managers. The people feel that the leadership of the country is weak and ineffectual. There is a vacuum created and old mass will follow because unemployment which in hardship, Sir, has gone down and hopelessness which the young people of this country are feeling, because no one on the side of the Government is able to articulate for them a vision for the future, a vision of hope. When the time comes for Opposition parties to articulate their visions, the public will see. You did it in 1986. You will not listen. I wish to warn, Sir, that hardship, hopelessness, and frustration are the midwives of anomie and the Government better take heed to what is going on in this country.

Do you know what is the perception, Sir, being circulated out there now? We are having a lawless society because we have a lawless Government.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Not by me, by the people out there.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Do you want to hear them? A Government that is setting one group against another or at least.....

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: No racial group.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading this House in saying that this Government is setting colour against colour when he represented a Government that took all the white people by themselves quietly and dismissed all the rest. The last thing that this Government can be accused of is setting race against race. Not the Government. Do not say the Government. You are misleading this House, Sir. This Government has allowed people to be free again in this country and allowed Elombe and everybody else to be able to go on television and radio that you and your Government banned.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Do you want to hear about the lawlessness, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: I want to hear about the Police Act.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Yes, Sir, the police have to deal with these things.

At this point certain remarks made by Hon. B. M. TAITT and Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS were ordered to be expunged from the record by Mr. SPEAKER. 4.50 p.m.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Do not let us go down there. We will have a Foreign Affairs debate, Sir, and we will hear who was going to meet whom and then said he had a brain wave and turned around and told people in Barbados on January 1 this year in Rockley. Let us go ahead, Sir.

I have never got involved with people who are espousing progressive causes. I have never conflicted with people who are espousing progressive causes in this country. The people who want to enhance the democratic rights of Barbadians, who want to improve the economic lot of Barbadians generally, particularly black Barbadians, I have never been against them. When no lawyers in this country would represent Bobby Clarke in 1970 I was the only one, in the face of judicial opposition to my carrying out my function as a lawyer, who represented him and I know what he was prosecuted for and I will bring it in here one of these days and read out the words he said, but even though one must allow maximum expression and freedom of speech there are limits that are imposed by law on freedom of speech which we all accept. There must be limitations in the interest of good order, decency, public morality and so on.

I find it very hard to accept that persons are being allowed in this country to make all kinds of insinuations about violence for redressing imbalances; statements which threaten the stability of this country and which could impair the economic viability of this country.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am not paranoid, I am not getting paranoid, the man who is saying them is paranoid. If I am paranoid, so was Errol Barrow in 1970 when Bobby Clarke and Elton Mottley walked about this country caught up in the Black Power Movement and were trying to educate Barbadians about what the Black Power Movement was doing in Canada and the United States. Errol Barrow introduced the Public Order Act here specifically for those two, this progressive man. He said over there at a meeting in Independence Square "they think I soft. Elton Mottley and Bobby Clarke think I soft. Well, I am coming down Tuesday with a Bill that will tell every man whether I am soft or not."

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am not comparing myself. What I am submitting, Sir, is that in those days

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. It seems that we are going to be discussing history. If the Honourable Member is going to complete what he is saying, he should discuss the time when Grantley Adams had the police go behind Errol Barrow and Sleepy Smith saying they were Communists who were trying to burn down the country. They sent the Security Guards to go under the cellar and listen to the meeting that Errol Barrow and Sleepy Smith had. You know about that, because you were in the Labour Party from early, so complete the picture. Do not let us confuse the young people.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am not allowing these kinds of debates to stray away from the main Resolution, and if Honourable Members find difficulty in sticking to the Resolution, there is a very simple solution.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am saying, Sir, that the police in every country have a duty to deal with seditious statements or breaches of a Public Order Act.

Certain remarks made by Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS were ordered by Mr. SPEAKER to be expunged from the record.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have a standing regulation of my own out of the Rules themselves that to mention names in this Chamber I need substantive evidence to support it, not even notice. If it comes before me and there is no proof to it, it will be automatically removed from the records of this House, so if you are making a statement and you cannot substantiate it by any documentary evidence, I will simply ask that it be struck from the record.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Do you want the actual case report of the Commissioner of Police against.....

Mr. SPEAKER: If a statement is made against somebody, then you have to substantiate it. *Asides.*

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I did not muzzle anybody.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Oh yes, because it has been there, like hanging, as a means of ensuring proper conduct in public places.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am not permitting that kind of discussion.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Ask them to keep quiet, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: If you continue to listen to them I will probably ask you to conclude.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I cannot concentrate on you and they are

Mr. SPEAKER: You are speaking to the Chair. I do not hear them and therefore you should not.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, you have your ears covered, you cannot hear them.

Mr. SPEAKER: I can lend you this, if you want it.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, I am not going to prolong it. We will find an appropriate moment or appropriate Bill to deal with those. I am just saying that I think the leadership of that party ought to have the authority within the party to control persons from their excesses. Generally where the person is trying to educate Barbadians and shape them, I have no real quarrel with it, but the methodology that he is using I say is sinister; It is a methodology based on a distortion of historical facts too, because in 1937 down here was not burnt up, Probyn Street and all there was not burnt up. Checking with people who were around, including some of our veterans on Sunday, it never happened. A word to the wise.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, on a point of order. I really hate to do this, but the Honourable Member is misleading the House. He has sought to give the impression that somebody who he clearly is alluding to is a member of the Democratic Labour Party. He is not a member and therefore this party cannot control anybody. 5.00 p.m.

The point is that if he is not a Member, that is a fact, and the Honourable Member is putting in the record that somebody is a member of the Democratic Labour Party who is not.

Mr. SPEAKER: And you are correcting it by saying it is not true.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I am sure he would want to correct that.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: If I said member, I meant supporter.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The day I become a supporter of the Democratic Labour Party, may I cock up and die.

Sir, getting back to the police, the police in this country as in any country must be seen, I don't want to be

misquoted, Sir, as almost professional soldiers in the war against crime. I am using an analogy with war, and they must be organised and equipped as such. The public's role to me is quite clear. The public must notify the police of anything that is suspicious, must cooperate in the giving of information and so on, and of course keep out of the line of fire. But there is another aspect to this. When the police have caught you and you have been convicted, you are then sentenced. Now it is important in discussing this whole business of policing and crime as we have been this afternoon, Sir, not to stop short yet, and I crave your indulgence to just say for the sake of completeness that what we have to address now with a view to a more liberal penal system which will suit the needs of today's offender, is a regime that has enough variety to deal with the various offenders who have different needs. Gaol cannot be the only answer; so to build more Glendairy is foolishness. We have to have a hierarchic structure, a tiered system of penal institution to deal with the offenders who are caught by the police.

The Chief Justice made a call in the same October 2 speech to the jurors about the need for other systems, and I noted that last week the Magistrate in St. Thomas imposed as conditions of probation a number of things, one of which as I remember was to write 100 lines. Another was to do 120 hours community service, painting old people's houses.

I crave your indulgence, and I will make it a document of the House, a paper of February 9, 1986. In the *Sunday Sun* of February 9, 1986, the guest columnist, Tony Best, - it is all written down there, Sir - carried the substance of an interview with me in New York.

Mr. SPEAKER: I hope you are not going to read it.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I said I would make it a document of the House, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: A paper as a document of the House? The rules already state ...

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: All right, Sir. What I was saying to Mr. Best in New York was that at the time we were trying to plan a new penal system and I had had meetings with certain of the magistrates, particularly the one who is responsible for juvenile offenders, the Probation people, the Prison people; we had a large meeting one day, and broadly the consensus that was reached was that the time had come when we had to give effect to community service orders and have offenders do work in the community as punishment without locking them up. That was one.

We had a problem with remand where magistrates were tied to a system that said "remand you for seven days until next week" and you had automatically to go to prison, and if you are too old for Dodds, when you go to prison

there is the possibility of all the learning processes that you can go through in prison, and I think commonsense would inform us that it cannot redound to the benefit of a young person who may be up let us say for marijuana, he has been given bail of \$2 000 but he can't get anybody to sign for him, so he has to go to prison.

Now we need something else. We need remand homes away from prison. We need attendance centres where if a young person is convicted, the order will provide that he has to attend under the supervision of, let us say for the sake of argument, I am not insisting, the police or it may be the Defence Force, and he has to do certain things in a structured regime. So that instead of sending him to prison for three months, if you had the attendance centre you could send him there. In England they go further; they even have detention centres which are short, sharp, shock situations, and it is necessary for us really to give careful thought to the development of the system. I have it clearly understood in my head, and indeed the Labour Party in its manifesto in 1986 set it out. The first thing you have to do is to get a Director of Correctional Services, and we have many Barbadians of high quality particularly in the States who have worked in the criminal justice system who have got good degrees, and good practical operation of these systems. You can recruit one, bring him back and the first thing you have got to do is to change a lot of the legislation that relates to young offenders, throw away a lot of it and bring one comprehensive piece of legislation dealing with all of the various systems that we have and the type of sentence that can be imposed; look to one Act and you will find everything in there, from remand to hanging.

Sir, I have said repeatedly that the old sergeant's quarters at police stations which used to be residences for the sergeants, but even all that has changed now, should not just be allowed to fall into dry rot and disappear. We should rehabilitate them and use them for some purpose connected with the penal system. If they are bad push them down, but there are some that are not bad. District "C" is good; District "D" has been allowed to fall into disrepair and will soon fall into desuetude but District "C" is one that I know. I believe District "E" out in St. Peter on the hill is good. Those should be places manned by police officers as attendance centres, and you send young people who transgress there: you have to turn up at 10 o'clock in the morning, or if you don't want to use police manpower for that purpose, you can create a couple of jobs with people who are like Probation Officers, or if you want something really tough, use some people from the Defence Force. These are details that can be worked out. But what I am saying, Sir, is that we must save those buildings and use them as structures within the penal system for the treatment, I use treatment in a broad sense, of these young offenders.

Sir, I am going to wind up and let others get a chance to speak. 5.10p.m.

One of the problems, Sir, of the Police Force has been politicisation of the Force. It was unfortunate, but it had to be done in 1987 or 1988, Sir.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church West, myself and Mr. Tull, called for the resignation of the Commissioner of Police. It was a hard thing to do but it had to be done, in our view, because of a statement which he wrote in this report in 1986 which, to anybody reading it objectively, it gives a certain impression.

He is the only person who contends otherwise than what these words say. He says we are drawing the wrong conclusion.

In this report laid in this House, Sir, the Annual Report of the Commissioner, 1986, at page 39, paragraph 221:

"The drug problem remains the biggest challenge facing the Force. At the beginning of the year it was quite clear to police administrators that there was widespread perception that the drug trade was supported by prominent people in the society. This led to a general air of mistrust and lack of confidence in the willingness of the nation to bring drug dealers to justice.

222. The Police Force itself suffered immensely from this climate, since potential informants refused to supply information to the Force. This lack of information and an unsupportive public virtually emasculated the Force's drug control programme. Eventually, members of the Force were themselves accused of supporting the drug trade.

223. However, this climate changed quite significantly after the change of government at the end of May, and gradually the Force began to receive pertinent information once again. As confidence grew in the system, the level of information improved, and by the end of the year the Force resumed with full vigour its drug control strategy."

Now, when he writes the report for this year we will see the level to which the drug business has dropped in Barbados. His hands are not tied now.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: This is a serious situation. We have a drug trade in Barbados that is of alarming proportions. I believe the Minister of Health himself recently gave some figures about the number of addicts, I think 115, at the Psychiatric Hospital.

When the present Government was in Opposition, they were going to clean it up.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Well, more are coming all the time. More are outside than in. They have failed. The youth of this country are now more into drugs than ever before. There is no doubt about that and new ones are coming on stream and the Commissioner is saying that a lot of the crime now is drug related and so on. They are using also what some call ice, whatever that is.

When the Narcotics Bill comes we will talk about that but we in this party read last week of a call and heard the Chief Security Officer for a consensus among the leaders of the three parties about drugs.

I wish to make it clear, Sir, that that is very laudable and commendable ideal on the part of Government's Chief Security Officer but in terms of practicality, we in the Barbados Labour Party will not be sitting down on this matter with the Democratic Labour Party.

We have been the victims of the nastiest, most scurrilous and vicious remarks that have destroyed the reputations of people including some of our wives, including my wife, by persons in the Democratic Labour Party who, in the words of a late parliamentarian giving evidence in his own case in the Supreme Court when he was asked about the things he was saying, what he was charged for said that he had to report to a certain person - you cannot call names in here - in Black Rock every day for instructions about what to say and how to say it. That is in evidence and all of that muck and nastiness to destroy people in this party and now you are asking us to forget and come and sit down? No way. Lovely idea but no way, not on this.

If you want to talk about unemployment or anything like that, sure, but not on drugs. They would have to give a public apology and say they were misled all those people who told Errol Barrow that they had the information about people in the Labour Party and when he confronted them they had nothing. It was empty, nasty and vicious. I am not forgiving anything. I forgive a lot more but not that. It was hurtful.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You are coming after me. You can remind them who they were.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: We are keeping our ears to the ground and we are hearing some things that will make our heads grow.

I just want to end on this note. We in this party are distressed at the level of crime in this country and we are distressed, as I said earlier on, at the crime, lawlessness and indiscipline and we will co-operate to the extent that is practical in assisting in reducing some of the tension.

I told the Acting Attorney General when he introduced a number of lawyers to the Bar a couple of weeks ago all the efforts that I am personally making and I have been in touch with the Superintendents in the North to tell them what I have been doing in my constituency with groups in various areas in trying to get some of the tensions in the districts eased.

I have been doing it consistently on a weekly basis. We can play our part in that regard and the three of us - I am sure we speak for the party - are determined to assist in that but we cannot be hypocritical on the drugs business to ask us to come and sit down with people who set out deliberately to destroy our reputations.

Much obliged, Sir.

Mr. R. P. B YER: Mr. Speaker, having sat and listened to the Honourable Member for St/Thomas for probably over two hours, close to three, there is hardly anything much left for anyone to say. He has covered most of the ground and covered it particularly well and I would want to associate myself with some of the remarks he made along the way.

At the outset, I would want to register the support of the National Democratic Party for the measure before the House because it is our belief that measures of this nature that seek to enhance and promote the welfare of the Police ought to be encouraged and ought to be promoted.

Now, one thing that the Honourable Member for St. Thomas said which was of particular interest to this end of the Opposition, the National Democratic Party, was the call for a Commission of Enquiry into the Barbados Police Force and it is heartening to hear that coming from him given the fact that one of the members of the Barbados Labour Party up until recently as last Sunday has been fulminating from the corners of his mouth and out of the bowels of his belly about us riding on the backs of the Barbados Labour Party. 5.20 p.m.

Now as early as May 16, 1989 the Leader of this Party has been calling for a commission of enquiry into the Barbados Police Force. Actually the call was made at the NDP Convention at St. Christopher Boys' School, Christ Church on the May 16, 1989. And the.....

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Sir. I just want to clarify. When I was making the point I did not remember. Now that the Honourable Member for St.

George South has spoken, the Honourable Leader of the Opposition did make the call.

I should like it to be clearly recorded that I support that call.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Yes, Sir, you see I do not believe in politics that one should get into the whole act of playing games. This whole call about one party having a monopoly and an idea for example like local government is, to me, stupid. Nobody can have a monopoly on something like that on an idea like that that was around for such a long time. This is why I thought that I would draw to the Members' attention that we did call for this enquiry as early as that date and for that matter that the enquiry that the Member for St Thomas is calling for did cover the very ground that he advocated. For example the Leader of the National Democratic Party and the Leader of the Opposition said that the enquiry into the Police Force should look into matters related to training, management of the Police Force, equipment and deployment of personnel in that organization. That is our belief up to this moment

Now, Sir, the composition of this enquiry as well, as the Leader of the Opposition then said should comprise officers or some representative from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the Metropolitan Police of Britain. And he thought as I said that it should investigate options for training, management of the Force, manpower and equipment and deployment of personnel. And we are still calling on Government to have that enquiry.

Sir, we are at a very critical period in our history. Critical for more than one reason. Over the past couple of months - and I must say, Sir, that this debate is taking place against a backdrop of a number of things. For example we have warnings by a police source that we should brace ourselves for an all out war amongst drug barons as they fight for control of the illegal drug market in Barbados. We had a contract on a magistrate's head after he refused bail to a number of persons brought before him on charges of causing a disturbance. This debate today is taking place against the background of discontent or I should say reported discontent in the Police Force. The constituents of that discontent have not been made known to this speaker, talk of corruption in the Barbados Police Force, the escalation of deviants in our society, evidence in the formation of gangs, street village and otherwise, sporting names like "disciples" out of St Thomas, the "CNN" out of Black Rock and "CBC the Bronx" out of St. Lucy, drug related murders...

Aside.

Mr. R. P. BYER: - "CBC the Bronx". Do you not know of that one yet? "CBC the Bronx" out of St. Lucy - the disappearance in kidnapping circumstances of two children, heightened activity in Caribbean drug trafficking.

We now have a support for the view that Trinidad is one of the - a report in the NATION newspaper of Tuesday, August 15 said that customs officials are now reinforced in their belief that Trinidad was a current main source of illegal drugs and the young people were being discouraged. This is after three young women were arrested for bringing drugs out of Trinidad. So there is some increase in drug activities in the Caribbean. Then we have, Sir, the situation of minors and minors' violence. I call it that. We had a murder at one of the schools in Barbados. Now we had reported in this morning's papers the shooting^at one of the other schools.

Aside.

Mr. R. P. BYER: That is not the point whether it is the first time or not. I am just trying to paint a picture against which this debate is continuing. It may not be the first or it may not have been the last. I am not concerned with that.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. I do not wish to interrupt the Honourable Member's speech. It is only at the point when in a litany in the concept of *eiusdem generis* in the litany of drug related matters, he then included a murder at a school and somebody being shot. It has been customary for us to leave juveniles and the children out of these things. We had somebody who stabbed somebody to death at another school sometime ago. We have always had incidents at school.

He is going very well but I do not think we need to draw the children in the schools into dope related matters in the context of what he is saying. That is all I am saying.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Sir, this is a phenomenon in Barbados and it is something that has to be discussed. If we are serious about discussing crime in Barbados, we have to talk about it. I am not talking about dragging anybody into anything, Sir. Minors' violence is something that is happening in Barbados increasingly so, Sir. And there is more than one case. I am merely referring to the matter. There are cases before the courts in this country. I will not refer to them. I merely mention them. So do not tell me that you should not mention them. It has to be mentioned if you are going to be serious about this.

And, Sir, there is also the concern among ordinary....

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The newspaper barely reported that somebody shot somebody in a school this morning. Nobody knows why or where or anything. We are here in the House of Assembly and here we are dragging it in as part of the dope related things. Do you mean there had never been any problems before there was dope? There was dope ever since but this is a child shot another child. Do you want to suggest now that the country is so bad and all kinds of things?

Mr. R. P. BYER: I will repeat again, Sir, what I said before and no amount of cross talk from that side will stop me from what I want to say, that there is minors' violence in Barbados. Do you want to deny that? Yes or no? There is minors' violence in Barbados.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Repeat it! Read it!

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please. Order, please. Two Honourable Members are on their feet.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Repeat it!

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

Hon. B.M. TAITT: Read it!

Mr. R. P. BYER: As I was saying, Sir....

Mr. SPEAKER: And I should like to suggest to Honourable Members when addressing the Chair, at least try to give that kind of dignified approach to the Chair. I am just asking that.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Yes, Sir, as I was saying. And, Sir, we have also concern among ordinary Barbadians that the rich and powerful seem to be beyond the law. And certainly, Sir, one could not miss as well the disclosures recently, even though it is said that that was not the first time that hit men or potential assassins are allowed to leave Barbados, having been discovered by the police, and go away. So that this debate, Sir, is taking place against the background of many things. 5.30p.m.

As I was saying, Sir, I think that we ought to be serious in our approach to these matters if we want to discuss the whole aspect of the police and law reform and if we want to discuss crime in Barbados in a manner to see whether we can come up with possible solutions.

Now my own belief, Sir, is that the police form a very important part and a very important chain in the machinery of Barbados. If we are to believe some of the matters that we have been hearing, Sir, about discontent in the force and the fact that there seems to be a split down the middle of the Force - a split is between senior officers and junior officers - which allows for an indisciplined force, and a situation which allows for the building of frustrations among officers who might be affected because of the split. Then we have got to pay particular attention to the manner in which we approach matters dealing with the Police Force as those matters impact on law and children in Barbados.

Now the Member for St. Thomas approached the problems in the Force from a number of angles. I think there were about 4 or 5 different situations that he outlined

in terms of dealing with the problems in the force. Now certainly, Sir, given the present climate in which the force is operating, I would think that there is a case for more money to be spent in improving the equipment that members of the force use in their approach to the solving of crime and so on. I know, Sir, that we are faced with a problem of scarce resources. At the same time, Sir, I would like to think that if we privatize those resources in such a way that we give priority to the most crucial things and to those things that are pressing and in need of attention, then it would seem to me that this is one of the areas that we ought to address.

If we are to strengthen and buttress the machinery of justice in Barbados, I believe, Sir, that we must pay particular attention to the maintenance of law and order. For too long now, Sir, we have been putting things like these on the back burner. For example, we have not up to this time been able to erect a Supreme Court Complex which is something that is very important if judges are to function in a manner befitting their judicial office and in a manner which would lead to speedy dispensation of justice in surroundings which are congenial. That is but one aspect of it. Sir, we have other areas like the Registration Office, something of which I have always been clamouring for support in. All of these things go towards making sure that our system of justice functions well.

I have often been of the view that money spent not only in the maintenance of law and order, Sir, but money spent to support any such system is money well spent, because ultimately if our system breaks down or if it deteriorates to a point where we become ungovernable then it would impact on other sectors of the society. One of those sectors I can see immediately being threatened, Sir, will be tourism because people when they go abroad as tourists like to travel to places which are secure and where they know that they will be able to spend their money properly and enjoy a good holiday.

We need to spend more money in equipment for the Police, not only equipment for the detection of crime but supportive like squad cars and proper finger-printing equipment. We also need to upgrade and computerize the whole system. It would also seem to me, Sir, that we have got at some stage if we are to control illegal flow of drugs in Barbados to link the Police Force, Customs Department, and the Immigration Department in a way better than they are presently linked. They have got to be linked by way of computer.

Many persons come into Barbados and sometimes it is left to the memory of the Immigration Officer as to whether Luis person might or might not be a person that is desirable. For example, the person might have been convicted before and he might have been kicked out of Barbados. That fact might not come up on his passport because it might not be a difficult thing to have his passport changed when he gets back to his country. We need to have a system where it is

easy for officers from anyone of these Departments 'at the touch of a button bring up information as to whether or not such and such a person ought to be allowed into Barbados. That is one of the areas where I would like to see linkages between the Police Department, Customs Department, and Immigration Department.

I would also think, Sir, that there is need for better police training. The criminal of today, Sir, is very sophisticated. The criminal is always I suppose one or two steps ahead of the law enforcement officers and I think that we need to spend some time in this area as well. We have got to deploy much more resources not only to upgrade the physical conditions under which policemen work but also to put some money into more training programmes for policemen.

It would also appear to me, Sir, and I think it would naturally follow that we have got to look at the system of salary emoluments in the service. I believe, Sir, that it takes a very long time for certain policemen to earn \$1800 a month. I do not know the length of time, but I know for a fact that the salary scale is unfavourable to policemen. They have to work I would think, Sir, some very difficult hours. I know there is something called a duty allowance. I do not know how well that works. It would seem to me that they ought to be compensated for the kind of hours that they keep. There is no point saying that they belong to a disciplined force and that they are in the service of the country but at the same time doing nothing to show that you appreciate the good work that they are doing. I do not know how well they are faring in the present regrading exercise. I would think that in this exercise that some effort should be made to pay particular attention to a salary scale which I think, Sir, is very unfavourable to policemen in the sense that they have to work a particularly long time to earn a decent wage.

Sir, in the present climate, it would seem to me that some of the arguments that we advance for supporting increases in pay for judges and other judicial officers ought to apply to them. We have got to take away the temptation out of the job, Sir - the temptation to accept bribes. The pay has got to be decent to allow them to afford a comfortable living and to allow them to stay away from the more unsavoury influences that attend them daily as they go about at their work.

Another area that we have got to look at is in the area of the promotion opportunities for policemen. Years ago as a revenue measure the grade or the rank I suppose is a better term, Sir, of Lance Corporal was abolished.

Asides

Mr. R. P. BYER: But the rank of Corporal, Sir, was abolished and then there was an increase, I agree, in the area of Sergeants. I wonder if the time has not come for a

serious re-thinking of this area where you bring back the grade of Corporal in the Force because many policemen sit the exams that are given and they pass them but then they have to work for many years before they are promoted to the rank of Sergeant. Some of them take 10 or 12 years and in some respect, Sir, a lot of it has to do with the internal politics in the force in whether or not a person is recommended for promotion. 5.40p.m.

That has to do with the internal politics of the Force, because if you are a bright person but you are on the wrong side of authority, then it would seem to me, human nature being what it is, that one would suffer in any promotion opportunities he has.

If we proceed along this way, and if we are to accept that the Police Force is currently understaffed and undermanned, then I think a natural conclusion would be that we would have to increase the manpower in the Force. We must of necessity think in terms of increasing the numbers. I think it is about 1200 strong now and I would think that some increase in that number should be considered at this moment. A reasonable increase, probably 400 men, might be adequate to do the job that is required, but certainly if we are to accept these proposals that I am outlining here in terms of more equipment, more training, the upgrading of physical facilities, especially in the way outlined by the member for St. Thomas, better pay and so on, and a more enhanced career structure, then I would think that you should go the next step and increase the number of men currently in the Force.

Sir, at a later stage, and when we come to deal with the Resolution dealing with law and order, I will have more of an opportunity and more time to expand on some of the matters that I have thrown out here this afternoon. I had prepared myself a very long speech today but I was pre-empted in doing that.

Before I sit, there is one thing I would want to report on. We are in the habit, I think, certainly in democratic countries, whenever we do not want to act on a particular matter we decide to have a Commission of Enquiry. We have had several Commissions of Enquiry dealing with the breakdown of law and order in certain areas. We have also had a study on penal reform in Barbados, a study that was done, if I may be permitted to call the name, by Delroy Chuck, who is a lecturer, and Howard Jones, who had done a study on penal reform in Barbados, and most of the things the Member for St. Thomas spoke about, for example, non-custodial approaches, anti-sentencing, community service orders, and so on, all these things are outlined in the Jones-Chuck Report. All of these things have been touched upon.

I have a serious problem in understanding how a Magistrate as a condition of probation can impose orders of certain kinds on people. I do not think that the law allows

for that, but certainly what the Magistrate did is to show the direction in which we ought to go. We have to reform our penal system. Our penal system is in dire need of reform and we have to reform it. It is no point extending and expanding our prisons, we have to get into some non-custodial sentencing policies and practices. These are things we have to do and everything is outlined in that Report by Chuck and Jones and you have to take it off "the shelves, dust it off and read it and see how best we can apply it to some of the problems that we are faced with today.

If we are to be serious in our approach to problems of crime and criminology in Barbados, as Members of Parliament we have to read something in this area, we have to understand it. We have to understand about deviants, most of the things the Member for St. Thomas spoke about. The area is not a particularly difficult area, because it is really a sociological approach to the whole thing, mixed with law, a sociological and a legal approach to the solving of problems with crime in our society and if we are going to have any serious impact in this area, as parliamentarians we have to know the theory behind the area.

As I ^aid, it is not a difficult area, but it would be interesting if some members would begin to read in this area how enlightened they would become about some of the problems we have in the country at the moment. It was only Sunday that I had the opportunity to return to this area in reading the history of crime in the society. It is a very interesting area and I think that in Barbados we could use some of the approaches that have been put abroad by some of the very serious people who have studied this area. We can only be critical in our approach to laws brought down to examine the whole nature of crime in society if we are also exposed to the learning in the area. If we are not exposed to it, Sir, I do not think there is much we can do.

I, as I said before, Sir, support the measure and I would hope that we will begin to see the light and spend some money in maintaining law and order, or more specifically, enhance our justice system. If law and order continue to deteriorate in Barbados, as I said, certain key sectors of the economy will suffer. We have said, and it has been proven over and over again, that tourism is one of the linchpins of our economy and certainly if our system of law and order collapses, tourism will collapse and so with it will the Barbadian economy.

It is time that we stop paying lip service and improve the conditions under which our policemen work. That is my call to this Parliament and to the people of Barbados.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I do not wish to be unduly wide ranging in this particular debate. This particular Bill relates to the conduct to some extent of disciplinary proceedings within the Police Force and one particular area of it.

There has been a lot of talk during the course of the debate about the general level of law enforcement in Barbados, problems of deviants, lawlessness and so on, but the persons who are called upon to administer the law themselves must feel confident that there are in place mechanisms to ensure that they themselves are fairly treated in respect of their own disciplinary matters within the institutions in which they function. 5.50 p.m.

I have had one or two experiences, Sir, in appearing before disciplinary tribunals on behalf of persons who were • disciplined, and disciplinary tribunals both under the legislation relating to the police and the fire service and other administrative sectors of Government, and these internal tribunals are usually determined to be quasi-judicial proceedings. They are covered by the outstanding piece of legislation which was passed by the Barbados Labour Party in 1980 for which the Honourable Member for Christ Church West can take full credit. It is an outstanding piece of legislation because it codifies the common law position and all of the difficulties with the Anisminic principle and all of the other administrative law difficulties that had occurred during the watershed period of British administrative law. This codifies it. It brings the question of administrative law and the remedies available to citizens and other persons who appear before tribunals and the general conduct of these quasi-judicial proceedings and some not even quasi-judicial clearly within one piece of legislation, and this legislation should in my view have generated a commensurate level of activity within the administrative law sector of Barbados. In Britain there is a mass of law relating to administrative matters, tribunals, local government hearings, the decisions of Ministers which are being challenged on a daily basis within the British courts under the common law principles of administrative law. But in Barbados, and one has to be very careful in being critical of persons who are called upon to exercise any judicial or quasi-judicial capacity, many of these tribunals are not acting on the very basic principles of natural justice that must apply. In one particular case I recall appearing before one of these tribunals in which the person who was the judge in the matter also ended up prosecuting the matter and determining the outcome of the matter, and this offends against the very basic principle rule against bias, the *audi alterum partem* rule, all of the very basic principles of administrative justice.

Npw it so happens that in many of these cases the imposition of punishment is so meagre that the persons do not consider that it is necessary to take it any further.

Mr. SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member please take his seat.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER took the Chair.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Member may continue.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I do not want necessarily only to be critical of the manner in which those tribunals are conducted because I am not in any way annoyed with the persons who conduct them. I do not think they know any better. I believe that the Administrative Justice Act was passed in this country and not enough was done to bring to the attention of the persons who are working in the area of management and discipline, persons who have senior positions in the uniformed services or whatever other departments of Government. The tenets of natural justice have simply not been brought to their attention, and when you raise it with them, their answer really is to send to the Attorney General's Chambers for a junior to come down and assist them or something like that. But these procedures are very simple. I do not think that there is anything so intricate or academic about them that it cannot be explained to persons who are called upon to exercise these functions, that there are certain basic principles that they must observe: the giving of due notice, the manner in which they must come to their decision, how evidence should be led, that the person who is determining the issue cannot also prosecute it, and that the person has a right to be heard in their defence, etcetera, etcetera.

In many of these tribunals, as I understand it, sometimes the party who is accused does not even appear or is not even given an opportunity to respond to the charge that is put before them, and I think that this matter is one that should be of grave concern to us, and the fact that Barbadians are not raising these matters in the law courts might be an indication that they are not aware that these rights exist firstly, but secondly that there may be concern about the cost of carrying the matter any further when the penalty might only be a ten dollar fine or a two day suspension or something like that. But the very principle of natural justice is an important principle that must apply impartially and to all the proceedings that come within the ambit of the legislation.

We have come to the juncture in this society, Sir, where people are adopting a position that to be critical of any aspect of the machinery of justice is a tremendous offence, and we have heard speeches recently which have raised the question, as the Honourable Member for St. Thomas said, of the rule of law, how sacrosanct the rule of law is. One of the basic tenets that I think we have to have in our minds is that the basis of the rule of law is that the law itself, the manner in which it is executed and the persons who execute it are up for scrutiny, and that as in that famous British case that went to the Privy Council, but it is really a Trinidadian case, justice is not a cloistered virtue and she must stand up to the vigorous and respectable criticism of members of the public. I think that this attitude that we are displaying now about criticism of the judiciary is a backward attitude.

I remember when Lord Denning resigned, a couple of days before the newspapers in Britain, many of them the most respected of newspapers, printed massive headlines with very unflattering things to say about Denning. Instead of the law is an, they put Denning is an on the top of the headlines; I think it was the Times Newspaper, the Observer, because he said that black people, or the implication was that black people should not sit as jurors in trials in which black people are involved, and they considered it a racist statement and he had to resign because of that. He felt compelled with his own intuition as outstanding and progressive a jurist as he was to resign, and the newspapers in Britain did not adopt this attitude that they should run for cover, that Denning all of a sudden had lost all of his respectability. They felt that Denning basically on this particular issue was wrong and they criticised him soundly, vigorously and sharply for the position that he took.

Now we are not allowed in debates like this to call the names of judicial officers, and rightly so, but as far as I am concerned, the only way that our system of justice can stand up to the very tenets upon which it is founded, inclusive of the rule of law and whatever other interpretations we have added to that, is if it is open to vigorous criticism; so it would be foolhardy of anybody to take a statement that might be made in this particular Chamber relating to a particular issue and to issue a press release to the newspaper saying that that statement is responsible for the break down of law and order in this country, particularly after that person spoke immediately after the speaker who was critical and agreed with everything he said, and the Hansard will show that when it is printed, and went on to say that he himself was concerned about persons who were sent to the psychiatric hospital because of the stigma that was attached for the rest of their lives.

Now something has to be wrong with that kind of thing and it is retrogressive thinking; it is retarding the progress of this country that people are taking this position that when you criticise any of the institutions, you are wrong. No doubt tomorrow we will read that the Honourable Member for St. Thomas went overboard in attacking the Church, no matter how true what he said was. You will hear that he is ungodly, unholy. The point is that the only people in this country who are to be attacked regularly, vociferously, sharply with the worst language possible are politicians. 6.00 p.m.

Secondly, there are politicians who are contributing to that morass of ignorance by adopting the positions that they adopt and causing other persons who are unsuspecting, might not have understood the nature of the debate, to believe that people in here are generally carrying on a free-for-all, abusing the Judiciary, and abusing all of the major institutions of the state, but that is the juncture that we are at today.

It will not silence me because in or out of the House of Assembly I will adopt the position that the only way the institutions of this country can grow and serve the needs of the people is if they are regularly criticized, that includes Parliament, the Judiciary, the Crown and Her Majesty, and the fact of her relevance or non-relevance, all of those issues are national issues that are worthy of discussion, and I will not be hiding behind the veil of ignorance that exists in this society where people are led to believe that those institutions are up there and that the slightest wobble will bring them tumbling down and that, particularly, if politicians say anything about them that they are automatically demeaned or reduced in their stature. That to me, as I said, is retrogressive thinking.

We have to build institutions in this country and we have to strengthen them. We have to be open to criticism of ourselves, that is also respectful if vigorous, sharp, or whatever, but if we carry out the charade that all of us are in consensus in an issue in here and then two weeks after somebody adopts a position as though they were never part of the debate, as though they did not share your concerns for the freedom of the people of this country, as though they were not interested in the fact that very often persons who are unrepresented meet a fate in the courts of this country that is not similar to persons who are represented, that they are not concerned-that there are times when excessive powers are used by the law enforcement agencies, that there are times when politicians, as Ministers, or as Opposition members, may act in certain situations that we think are worthy of criticism.

I will not list any more of the issues but those are the kinds of issues that we raised in here and then at the end of the day when we have reached that consensus somebody would take a political advantage as being the most important issue to them and, as far as I am concerned, prostitute the issue in the public forum for the benefit of some short-term political gain, or because, at the end of the day, it will bring derision on a particular individual.

I deprecate that. If we are discussing issues, we are discussing issues and I do not think that it is fair for those kinds of situations to occur because, I think, that they lower the tone of Parliament and they lower the tone of the achievement that we might have wrought in here.

I participated in many debates on law enforcement and on the Judiciary and on every occasion there has been consensus in this Parliament. There has never been but consensus and this Government carried out its commitment to upgrade the law enforcement institutions in this country, perhaps, not at the level that is desirable, but the law courts have been practically transformed.

You can go into the Law Courts now and they are properly painted. They have equipment. They have up the

Coat-of-Arms of Barbados. They look different Okay, they can look a lot better.

I have been to the Hall of Justice in Trinidad and seen what modern Law Courts can look like but at what cost? Five million dollars a year just to maintain the building. Well, we are building a centre. It may not cost \$5 million a year to maintain but we have taken a position on the issue and I believe that other persons who share with us in these debates in this House of Assembly should now look on those achievements in respect of upgrading the facilities as something that has been done and now look at the persons who act within those institutions and let us come up with a formula that will be suited to the needs of the people.

There is no need for that kind of antagonism that a statement by a parliamentarian can, in some way, be linked to a contract on a Magistrate's head. Foolishness, again. It demonstrates the level to which people will sink in politics and the advantage that they think that they can gain from any small issue.

I was not speaking for me because, fortunately, none of my clients found themselves in the position of being remanded in the Psychiatric Hospital. I was speaking for the people who we should be concerned about, the people who are never either given legal aid in this country and the people for whom nobody will get up at the Bar table and speak, even if I am guilty of it from time to time, but that is a fact and there are many of those people and our duty is to look at the lot of the disadvantaged, to look at the lot of the persons who are backward, and are given that helping hand and extend that helping hand to them, and that, I think, is really what this debate is all about

As I said, we ranged far and wide in this particular debate but anything that goes towards giving some succour to the persons who have to administer justice in whatever way in this country, will be well-intentioned on our part. But it must have commensurate results and if it is not achieving those results, we are entitled to call to account any of those persons, be they the head of the Judiciary, and any of the judicial officers.

We are entitled to call on them to account to the extent that the administration of justice forms an integral part of the development of this society and the issues that we are supposed to discuss here relates to the development of the society, not the ones we discuss outside.

Sir, one of the other criticisms that came forward with which I have to take a signal departure was the question of the slowness of the Police administration to act in relation to statements that are made by people in Barbados relating to race and all kinds of things.

I have never adopted the position that the Public Order Act is necessary in Barbados. It is a piece of legislation that

is there and, perhaps, it has its usage every now and again but I do not think there is any need for us to invoke that kind of legislation at this time.

Every citizen is entitled to his view and all of us are entitled to stand up and defend this view and if the white population of this country was more vigorous in defending their view instead of trying to hide behind other black people to trot out their views for them, perhaps, we would have more racial harmony and if the Indian population was more vigorous in putting forward their point of view instead of adopting the attitude that they are some kind of minority that is silenced by an oppressive black majority, then, perhaps, we would be moving to a closer racial harmony and if the black population opts to put forward its point of view, or the several points of view that exist within the black population, then, we should not be seen to be restricting those points of view, that is my position.

I do not think that there is any reason for us to adopt the position that certain people in Barbados are being allowed to make statements. That is the kind of argument that is used by the old man who writes in "The Nation"¹¹ newspaper every Friday that if capitalists and members of the CIA, Seaga and the rightist! Prime Ministers are speaking, CBC should carry it but one day they carried a little interview with Manley in which he was telling the people of Jamaica that the Government must resign and if it does not resign in six weeks he is going for the Government and, all of a sudden, that same gentleman who talks about freedom every week wrote an article chastising CBC for publishing Michael Mauley's speech and he is the beacon of freedom and associates himself with a party that he considers to be the beacon of freedom in this country, his newly found, newly delivered and, as the Honourable Member for St George South would say, "washed in the blood of the Lamb" when it comes to issues like freedom.

Bill as soon as people like I or others adopt a position that is slightly progressive, the newspapers are attacked for being irresponsible for printing it and, no doubt, he will think, that the newspapers are irresponsible for printing reviews of persons who come to DLP meetings, but my view is different. Let us bring everybody down at the DLP, If you want to come, let us hear your view. 6.10p.m.

You can put forward your view. All can come. There is enough room there to accommodate your view and to attack your view, rip it to shreds and stamp it into the ground. That is my view of how we should develop public discussion in this country. Encourage all views. Do not try to stamp out any. And do not allow the agencies of law enforcement to believe that they should be entitled to restrict the point of view of people. Let a hundred flowers bloom, let a hundred thoughts contend down at the Auditorium of the Democratic Labour Party. That is what the young members of the Democratic Labour Party want

Applause.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: We want to hear all the points of view and we will sift the good and the bad. And we will state our policies to the public. We are not going at any house any more quietly to sit down and discuss any policy. Let us bring it out into the open early that every citizen who wants to make an input can make it. No secrets, no strategy, no tactics. I do not believe that that assists us in any way. What might assist us is the manner in which we package it and how nicely it looks when it is delivered to people. But let us bring all the issues down there. And if it means bringing the man who says "Burn down Bridgetown" down there, bring him down there and persuade him that he is wrong. And if it is the man who says "Privatize the Foreign Service" who will be speaking some time shortly in some other avenue in Belleville, bring him down to the DLP and let us tell him why he is an idiot and the Foreign Service in Barbados cannot be privatized.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Well, I do not want to do that. That would cause too much of a furore. You all would think that that is strategy and the rumours propagated by you all that I was about to head to 6th Avenue would probably be thought to be true. You come to me. I do not mind. Let us expose those people to public discussion. Let us hold them up to the kind of ridicule they deserve for exposing these antiquated and outdated views in a country that is developing and moving into the Twenty-First Century, that nearly every area of national life in this country can be privatized, in a small, open economy with a small resource base. That is what we are hearing in this day and age. That is the philosophy of the major Opposition Party in this country. And it will be trotted out some time later this week. So we can contend with all of those ideas. Bring them all in and let us show the persons who are wrong why they are wrong and out of that we will come....

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Did I hear major Opposition Party in Barbados? Did you say in Barbados or in the House of Assembly?

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Oh sorry. In this House. I do not hold any brief at all for you all. Your brief is being well held over there, as I understand it. I was not here when the debate took place but you all now have to seek the permission. You got permission from the Opposition Leader. I do not seek anybody's permission, over there or over here. I come in any order. It does not bother me.

The point is that the Democratic Labour Party as a political institution has to show that level of maturity, even if the others do not do it. They can hold their closeted meetings. They can ride piggy back on anybody. Let us get this political party back to those philosophical moorings, that when we are critical of the institutions that administer

any part of our destiny in this country that we are doing so on our philosophical convictions. That when we put forward any kind of policy whether it is economic, social, political or religious that they are grounded, those policies on our philosophical convictions, arising out of the Academy of Politics or discussions that take place down in George Street. And if we take that step forward, we would not have any difficulty.

Press releases could be issued day and night, day in, * day out. Press releases that could try to make black people appear to be white or white people appear to be black. Press releases that could whitewash all the issues in this country and make people who have no integrity suddenly believe they have integrity can be issued on a daily basis. But people will know that the real ideas for development will be down on George Street and that is where they will go on. We would not try to sell them to them. We would not send the police out. They can hold meetings wherever they want # to attack us. That to me is the mission of the Democratic Labour Party. We have to put that kind of scurrility about attacking ourselves behind us and get down to discussing those issues and criticize the institutions that affect us, not turn on ourselves and criticize ourselves for being critical. If we criticize ourselves we do it and we face each other. But when we criticize the institutions, the institutions themselves have to respond. You do not have to take on a , position for an institution. If it is strong enough it will respond creatively. And that to me is the way forward for the development of Barbados.

I feel that if the Government pursues the kinds of initiatives that it has in relation to the law enforcement agencies, the Judiciary and those other institutions of national significance, if we continue to demonstrate this care and concern, we will have no difficulty in convincing people that the Democratic Labour Party is a Government that is building institutions and not tearing down this country. ***

Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have had a long Debate and I must say two very sensible and informative contributions from this side of the House, a ^ very erudite presentation by the Honourable Member for St. Thomas matched, although much briefer, by the presentation of the Honourable Member for St. George South. The debate has been reduced to....

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: ... party, political interventions, to use the mildest word, by the Honourable Member for St. John who - unfortunately has developed the habit of *

speaking at all times without any form of preparation and no doubt that explains why at the end of half an hour, all one can recognize is an attempt to defend a most unfortunate statement which he made in the past in relation to the Judiciary.

There are one or two things, Sir, I want to make clear from the outset. It is absolutely important that in a situation where there is clear evidence of a deterioration in law and order in Barbados, where the resources of those persons responsible for the maintenance of law and order are stretched to the limit that we should not be saying anything which would undermine the authority of the Judiciary in this country. It is one thing to criticize structural factors in relation to the Judiciary, it is one thing to criticize the legal framework or the administrative framework. 6.20p.m.

It is certainly wrong and can never be right for anyone seeking to represent people in Barbados to refer either to the Judges or the Magistrates in this country as being "foolish". It is fundamentally wrong. The language is wrong. It sends a wrong signal to the people out there in the community and I think that instead of trying to defend it with all sorts of words, it will be better to get up and say I am sorry about that particular statement. I say nothing more. I am speaking of law and order.

Asides

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

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: On a point of order, Sir. I issue a challenge to the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central to deny that when I finished speaking on that day he got up and agreed with everything I said and supported my speech. Deny it.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is not the place for challenges of this order. I am not interested in such challenges. Let us continue with what I have to say. I have been around here long enough. When Hansard comes out, the people will see what you have said and they will make a judgment. All I am saying is that if the Honourable Member feels very strongly about matters relating to the administration of law and order and matters relating to the Judges and Magistrates in this country, I agree with it that he has a right, that he has a duty to come and raise the matter on the floor of the House. I fully agree with that. That is not the issue. You have spent twenty minutes of your speech dealing with that as an issue, but that is not the issue. The issue is how it is done. The issue is the language used. The issue is the signals that you send out there - whether when you send those signals out you are making it easier or more difficult for those responsible for protecting the overwhelming majority of this country from criminal elements. It cannot be right to do that and it cannot be supported. I will be very surprised if any responsible person

on the other side would get up and say that that is the way to handle that matter. I will be shocked indeed if anyone said that.

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I will be shocked. Keith will do that. However, Sir, I do not wish to get into that. I wish to repeat the issue is not whether parliamentarians have the authority and duty to criticise the performance and the workings of institutions in Barbados. No one has ever challenged that right in Barbados. In fact, Sir, the only challenge that I have known relating to that area I believe from time to time the question arises whether parliamentarians should deal with matters which are before the courts *sub judice*. Apart from that, I have never heard any barrier established in this House in relation to criticisms affecting the administration of justice in Barbados. I have heard criticisms from several people on all sides of this House. I have never heard anyone couch those criticisms in the kind of language which can have an adverse effect on law and order in Barbados apart from the statement which dubbed the Magistrates of this country as being "foolish".

I believe....

Hon. B. M. TATTT: Sir, on a point of order. I have been listening to this debate and it is going on and I have seen it published and I think, Sir, that the Honourable Member at this moment is misleading the House. I was here to hear it, Sir. The debate was about the Mental Health Act which I had introduced into this House. The Honourable Member was discussing the specific point that when a person who was unrepresented stood before a Magistrate, that unrepresented person was being remanded to the Mental Hospital for refusing to answer. That is where the word "foolish" was applied. I think that the Honourable Member is giving the impression that the Member said that all the Magistrates in Barbados are foolish and I think it is unfair for this to continue in Hansard and to be pushed into Hansard by the Honourable Member who is obviously misleading if he puts it in that context, Sir. I was here and the Members were here and he was speaking about a specific situation.

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: The only way, Sir, to pay the Honourable Member for St. Michael West the supreme compliment is to recognise what he is doing and to ignore him is the only way to give him a sure sign that you recognise exactly what he tried to do, but he knows perfectly well. You would never use that kind of language. I have never heard you. I find you criticise all sorts of things in relation to the administration of justice. You have never used that language and you will never use it.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. I may not have used that language in the particular case only because I have never been in the Magistrates Court in the position the Honourable Member is. I have never practiced in the Magistrates' Courts and, therefore, I am not able to say whether they remanded them for not speaking. But I would say that had I been in any Magistrates' Court anywhere and I had seen having taught the people in human rights and other courses in law that the rights of the individual is superior to anything else, I would consider that it is a foolish magistrate who would remand somebody to the Mental Hospital for refusing to answer a question. I have no difficulty with that. I have no difficulty lining up on the side of those who feel that in the same way that you have foolish economists you can have a foolish magistrate. I have no difficulty with that.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before the Honourable Member continues his speech, let me just remind Members that we are not really discussing a debate which already took place in this House. There was a debate which took place sometime previously and the Rules do not permit us in this session to enter a debate on that particular matter. The Honourable Member, Leader of the Opposition, is speaking for a half hour and he has already used six of those minutes and I will give you some extra time in view of the interruptions which we have had. I will give you another 3 minutes. Perhaps you should bear that in mind the extra 3 minutes in view of that.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Three more minutes.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is right.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I fully agree with your ruling. I am not basing my speech on anything that has taken place in this House. I am just talking about remarks made. What I will say is this that even with the intervention by the Member for St. Michael West just now one was very careful to note the context in which he used the word "foolish" which was very different from the context in which it was made. That was not lost.

Anyhow, Sir, if I may move on. I think, Sir, the second point I wish to make is this. There has been a lot of discussion on the Public Order Act and the application of that Act. I believe and I wish to make this clear that it is fundamentally wrong in the context of Barbados today to be advocating violence as a means of social and economic change and I deplore that kind of statement by whomsoever it has been made. If it was made by any Member of the NDP, I will give up immediately and dissociate myself from it and dissociate the NDP from it. There is no way that we should come in here and be seeking to defend words which can clearly be interpreted as incitement to violence in Barbados. That was the purpose of the Public Order Act to put an end to that kind of activity. There is one thing that I certainly support. I support those persons who promote the

concept of racial awareness in Barbados. I support those persons who try to make us more aware of our historical background. I support those persons who demand a wider share of the economic cake in Barbados. All those things we can support. When it comes to the question of advocating violence for the purpose of social and economic change in Barbados, I say that should be condemned and I will not sit in this Honourable House, Sir, and see anyone trying to justify that kind of behaviour in Barbados.

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: They are not the same things. I have listened to the Honourable Member for St. Michael East discuss racial matters over many, many years going back for about 30 years and I have never heard him get into the area of advocating violence or what one can consider destructive racism. I have never heard him get into that. I have heard him use the language of the fifties and sixties which tend to couch social history and social change in certain types of language, but I have never heard him cross the border. 6.30 p.m.

There is a border that I have heard others cross, I have never heard him cross that border.

There is a distinction between racial awareness, the promotion of racial awareness, the promotion of the welfare groups and advocating a philosophy where you should use violence against others in order to achieve the objectives of a particular group. There is a big difference. We all know it. Those of us who have gone through the experiences of the fifties, sixties and seventies know what we are talking about, and there is a distinction.

On the specific piece of legislation before us, Sir, I want to make it clear that we fully support the attempt to make sure that Police Officers when they are suspended for one reason or another would not fall below a given level of salary. I would also like to say this, that I believe that the time has come when we have to look at the level of pay offered to policemen in Barbados.

Many of those officers have to struggle for 10, 12, 15, 16, 17 years before they can earn a decent living in Barbados. There are many officers in the Force for ten years who have to struggle to buy lunch in the Police Canteen.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Oh yes, a major struggle, and if you were to look at the salary scales paid to Police Officers, you will see that they earn very small salaries. Let us be fair about tfcis. The removal of the rank of Corporal simply accelerated a little the vertical mobility for those below the rank of Sergeant but has not fundamentally altered it. What

I am saying now is that the Government has an opportunity right now, during the regrading exercise, to address this particular matter in respect of the Police Officers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I say that the Police Officers in respect of the present regrading exercise should have some priority looking at the problems they face now, the challenges facing the Police Force and the challenge facing law and order in Barbados. I believe that there is an opportunity here. I want to say this.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, on a point of order. It does not behove the Honourable Member who is now speaking, who knows that in his other capacity as Minister of Finance that he has had, because we are dealing with the finance of the country, to make specific recommendations on payments to various people, a former Minister who recommended 3% as the maximum that could be offered to a particular sector, now to be heard telling this Government to make adjustments because policemen are underpaid. The same policemen are the policemen who were there when he was Minister of Finance and he recommended 2% and 3%.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: The police were happy in 1986 because they had increased disposable incomes, they were faced with an inflation rate of only 1.8% and the net increase in disposable incomes to the Police Officers was substantially above 3%, in fact to all persons in the Public Service in that year. That is a fact. I go further and say this, that the Police Officers were invited to accept that settlement in 1986-87 - not by me, I never attended any meetings - because they were promised an immediate regrading in 1987. That is a fact. It was a condition of the settlement throughout the Public Service that a regrading exercise would take place immediately after.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. The regrading has taken place and it was going to be with effect from the date it was said.

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

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I am on a point of order.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Member has risen on a point of order and I think we have to recognise that the reason why I am sitting here is because this debate is conducted by rules. I would like Honourable Members to observe the Standing Orders of this House. That is, the only way we can proceed comfortably with the debate. I do not think as Deputy Speaker I should have to conduct the debate as a schoolmaster.

With those remarks, perhaps the Honourable Member can make his remarks.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Yes, Sir. On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. The

regrading exercise which was promised is an exercise which is ongoing. It is being conducted by three persons who have been *appointed* to do it. It is not as though the regrading exercise has been refused, therefore what I said about the 3% is basically valid because the 3% that the Honourable Member recommended in 1986, together with the regrading, the regrading is going on and they got a lot more than 3%. Therefore, for the Honourable Member to give the House the impression that somehow the police are being treated separately and distinctly from, for example, the nurses or the other groups that work in the general area of essential services, is misleading and unfortunate.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have never mentioned any other group. All I am saying is that I wish to let the Royal Barbados Police Force know that I give them my fullest support in their struggle for better wages and for better conditions of service. I wish to remind Barbados that as a condition of their acceptance of the settlement in 1986 that they were promised two things, an early regrading and also that the Capital Programme of Government would be restructured in such a way as to attend to their grievances in respect of accommodation, equipment and so on as a priority. I say no more. I do not like referring to decisions that took place when I was Minister of Finance, but from time to time I am called upon to set those things out.

Now, Sir, there are one or two other points I wish to make. The question of a Commission of Enquiry. I am very pleased to see that there is general agreement between the two Opposition parties that there should be a Commission of Enquiry into the Royal Barbados Police Force. I think it is obvious. Here you have a major problem affecting the Royal Barbados Police Force. It is a problem of morale, it is a problem of administration, it is a problem of training, it is a problem of discipline, all sorts of problems. When these things arise in a Police Force it is often a very good idea to establish a Commission of Enquiry not to pursue anybody but in order to identify the problems in the Force, identify the problems in the country that they have to face and make recommendations to adjust the Force in such a way, whether by way of numbers or by whatever means that the Commission should recommend, in order that the Force is better capable to respond to the problems of law and order in Barbados. 6.40p.m.

I think the time has come for that, because when you look at the kind of debate that has been taking place within the Force, outside the Force, between the Force and the Government, in fact between the Force and successive Attorneys-General and so on, it is quite clear to me that what is needed is to have an impartial body having a look at the Force and making the appropriate recommendations. I think it would be to the advantage of all of us in Barbados if that were done.

Before I proceed I want to say something. All of us in Barbados have a duty at this point in time to give our fullest support not only to the Police, but to the magistrates and the Judges as well in what has become quite clearly a rapidly deteriorating state of law and order. Three months ago I came home, I think I was in Jamaica or Miami or somewhere, around 7 o'clock in the evening, went to my house, went straight to my study, just turned on the lights in the study, picked up the newspapers that were on my study desk and started looking through them, and I saw, a murder, a murder, a murder, a break-in, a shooting, a shooting. This was two or three months ago reported one after the other. There was death and destruction, and for the first time, Sir, something very strange happened to me for the first time in Barbados. I put down those newspapers and I got up and turned on the lights in every room in the house and then started looking to see if anybody was in the house. It is almost incredible that normally one would go in one's home and the assumption is that no one has been there, that you are safe and you don't have to worry. Let me tell you something; I just give that as an example. There are many people in Barbados today who do not feel safe in their homes. There are many people who are afraid because of the escalation in crime. There are many people in Barbados who are taking all sorts of protective measures because they are afraid of what may happen to them in their own homes.

We have reached a stage in Barbados in respect of law and order where, as I well remember, you got the same feeling that you got probably in Jamaica in the early seventies or thereabouts. You see the same kind of problems and the violence, Sir, of the kind of crimes that you read in the newspapers from day to day. This is a matter that ought to disturb everyone, and there is no point for anyone on the other side to take any comfort into believing that it has nothing to do with them. It has something to do with all of us, and you have a special responsibility, because you form the Government, to take appropriate action to try to prevent this further deterioration and to reverse the process in respect of law and order in Barbados.

There is no point trying to fool yourself; the drug problem has got worse in Barbados; there are more and more murders in Barbados; there are more violent crimes. These are facts; you cannot escape from them. So what is the point of trying to come in here and pretend that this is not a problem, because if we pretend that there is not a problem, then you will be sending the signals out there to the forces of law and order that you are not really concerned about their welfare or about giving them the resources to fight the criminals in this society. There is no point trying to fool yourselves. We all know it; everybody in Barbados knows today that the crime problem has got very much worse, as a matter of fact, I would say, almost in the last few months from what I can see. It has nothing to do with people getting caught. There are a lot who are not.

You take a simple matter, Sir, like safety on the roads in Barbados. No one is accusing the Government of causing that problem. What I am saying is that you have a responsibility as a Government, we all have a responsibility, but you have a special responsibility because you are Government to recognise that this is the situation and take steps to deal with it.

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Did you stop him?

Now, Sir if I may continue. It seems to me that the Government seems to think that if they say it is not so, then it is not so. Everybody in Barbados knows that there are gangs. There are people who are assaulted by gangs almost on a weekly basis in Barbados, yet we see a statement emanating out of New York which I hope was incorrectly attributed to the Attorney General that there are no gangs in * Barbados. Simply by saying that there are no gangs in Barbados does not mean they do not exist, and if you do not recognise that there are gangs in Barbados, then how can you deal with the problem of gangs.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir, the honourable Member said that he saw a statement coming out of New York which he hopes is not true. He now goes on, assuming it is not true, which we all may assume, to build on that as if it were true. He can't do that to the ^m House, Sir, not if he wants us to understand what he is saying.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: If I may continue, Mr, Deputy Speaker, there is some evidence that the harassment of tourists on the beaches of Barbados by criminals peddling drugs is beginning to have an adverse impact on the image of Barbados as a tourist destination. There is some evidence of that, I have already indicated that arising out of some research on a Barbados beach, that there, has been good *** evidence that some 33 to 34 percent of all persons bathing on that beach were approached during a three month period by persons offering them narcotic drugs for sale.

Now recently I had the opportunity to address in Nassau the Conference of the Caribbean Hotel Association held there about two months ago and to share in a panel discussion with the head of the drug enforcement agency for Latin America from the United States Department and the head of the Jamaica Tourist Association and what has ** come across quite clearly is that not only in Barbados but at several points in the Caribbean that linkage between drugs, crime and various sorts of attacks on tourists has had a negative effect on tourism and the tourist plant issue in the Caribbean as a whole, not only in terms of Barbadians, and let it be clear that our first duty is to make sure that Barbadians are protected, that they can sleep comfortably in their homes, that our police officers have the resources to ensure that that can happen. But in terms of a major section

of the economy of Barbados, there is evidence that crime principally involving drugs and harassment of tourists on the beaches to get them to purchase drugs is beginning to affect the image of Barbados as a tourist destination. 6.50 p.m.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Two more minutes.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: So, Sir, if I may wind up very briefly, I want to make it clear that we...

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, please.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, will you please ask the Leader of the House to behave himself, Sir?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, please.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have not been able to use any of my two minutes....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am hearing you, you can speak.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: ...because of the misbehaviour of the Leader of the House. I am calling on you, Sir, to protect me from my good friend the Leader of the House. Look at the Leader of the House misbehaving himself.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: The facts were that when the...

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That question has not arisen. The Honourable Member has two minutes to speak.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: But then the member himself said "two minutes what!"

Aside.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Member may conclude his speech.

Mr. R. P. BYER: On a point of order, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

Mr. R. P. BYER: I am going to get to that, Sir.

If the Leader of the House reads Order 13, Rule 2, he would see...

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think the Honourable Member is really out of order. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition may conclude his speech.

Mr. R. P. BYER: With respect, Sir. I do not understand how you can tell me that I am out of order when I have risen on a point of order.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Anyhow, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the debate has gone on for a long time so I would only utilize two minutes of my unlimited time.

Briefly, in summary, Sir, let it be known that we support the Police in their quest for better conditions of service. Let it be known that we believe that a Commission of Enquiry would assist the Police in solving some of their administrative problems. Let it be known that we are committed to helping the Police in their war against drugs. Let it be known that we deplore irresponsible statements in relation to the Magistrates and the rest of the Judiciary in Barbados and let it be known that we deplore any statements which tend to incite violence in Barbados.

These are very clear positions that we have taken in 'summary. We have a substantive resolution. I would not seek to anticipate the House, Sir, but there is a substantive resolution dealing with questions of law and order when these things can be dealt with in a more precise manner and those recommendations which will find themselves in our Manifesto which is in an advanced stage of preparation. Some of them would, probably, be revealed on the floor of the House.

Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would not like to see the day when an attempt is made to politicize the disciplined forces in our country. I believe that policemen, firemen and members of the Defence Force must have their own political views. That is natural. It is normal.

But I believe that the disciplined forces, in this country, has been under a tremendous amount of pressure in recent times in attempts to politicize them in a party political way and I believe that that cannot be to the best advantage of the members of these forces or to this country as a whole.

I believe that it is not good that political leaders should be making a pitch for members of these disciplined bodies. I believe that that is not a good position to take and I would warn any leader in this country who claims that the leader has the good of the country at heart, to back off from that kind of position.

I believe that we have an excellent Police Force. I understand that there are international problems in terms of the kinds of organizations that can be encouraged in disciplined forces in that almost nowhere in the world would you find that the Police Force are allowed to form a trade union. That is an internationally accepted situation and, therefore, in terms of trying to get their interests well

looked after, in matters relating to pay, discipline, other conditions, and other benefits, the Police are, to some extent, at the mercy of the administrators in the country.

Now, there may be a case for certain matters to be looked at in terms of improving the situation of the Police Force in Barbados. It is my understanding that the Government of this country has set up a committee to look at regrading and to look at the conditions of employment affecting the Police as well as all the other Civil Service groupings in the country and my understanding is that the Police have the right and the opportunity to put that case to the committee. I understand that that has been done.

I understand, also, that that committee has reported on the measures that it intends to implement and that the Police, like any other grouping, has been asked to comment on the proposals and I believe that the Police understand their responsibility that they will have to look again at what they want to ask for their members because we are not living in a world only of wishes, people creating wish lists, and tomorrow they become a reality but we are living in a very real world.

I am not making any special case for any group of workers in this country. The Police have a responsibility in this country, so, also, do the Sanitation workers have a responsibility, so, also, do the Insurance Claims Adjusters have a responsibility, so, also, do the lawyers have a responsibility, or the trade unionists, any group, but what has been happening is that some people want political advantage in this country.

They have been selecting groups of people. They talked about - the nurses at one time. The next time they talked about the Police. They are looking for people in what is known as the essential services and they are trying to arouse these people to mischief in this country and the same people would understand what is happening.

It is mischievous. It is dangerous. It is violent in intent to be singling out groups of people in this country and giving the impression that there is some special wrong that is being done to them and that they should take up their cudgels against the rest of the society.

Let me make this very clear. Anybody who is asking at this time for any kind of enquiry into the Police Force and then are saying that they are the friends of the Police have to be making sport. You are not asking for an enquiry into the Force because you are saying that everything is going right. You are asking for a Commission of Enquiry because you are implying that something is drastically wrong inside there...

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: An Honourable Member is on...

Mr. R. L. MORRIS... and they are the same people that you want to carry out the enquiry on. That is the hypocrisy that we have.

Mr. R. P. BYER: On a point of order.

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

Mr. R. P. BYER: I would like to give this Honourable House the assurance that nobody on this side, including myself, is making sport when we call for an enquiry into the Police Force.

I was very careful and very particular when I referred to a speech that was made by the Leader of the Opposition to spell out with particularity what areas the Leader of the Opposition was calling for to be enquired into and I also went on to say that they were the same areas that the Honourable Member for St. Thomas highlighted in his speech. 7.00p.m.

The language that was used by the Honourable Member is certainly out of place in here. Nobody in here makes sport. It is suited for the platforms outside. We are serious people in here.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Sir, if I could just clarify because I did make a call for an enquiry today. I was very careful to emphasize what I wanted the enquiry about, Sir. And I talked about the need to modernize the force. Remember I talked about cost effective measures and so on. And I said it did not have to be a negative enquiry because one referred to it as an enquiry and I said we were not looking necessarily to lock up people for fraud or anything. I was not saying that. It is just like an enquiry into the Civil Service. I made that point, Sir. Similar to the Resolution I brought in 1979.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I recognize two strands of thought in terms of this enquiry. There is one strand that seems to be suggesting to me that, like the rest of the Civil Service, you need to carry out an enquiry in the sense only of looking at the methods used and the bureaucratic system to see if it could be reorganized and so on, as against what I consider the other strand of thought about the enquiry in relation to the administration of justice and making sure that all is well in this country, you have to look at the police force. Two different things, as I see it.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member just spoke in terms of what he specifically wants in his enquiry. And that followed the point of order by the Honourable Member for St. George South which suggested that they dealt with an enquiry of a certain kind.

That is passing strange coming from the Barbados Labour Party because when Johnny Cheltenham brought a Resolution on the Floor of this House to do exactly what they are calling for, the Government of the day bluntly refused. The Honourable Member, the Leader of the Opposition can remember that the Opposition of the day supported Johnny Cheltenham for the enquiry into the Civil Service. And the Government of the day refused to have the enquiry into the Civil Service. Hansard would show that. It is passing strange now that that is the kind of enquiry they would be calling for the police force because the then Honourable Member asked for an enquiry. You would remember that he and the Opposition were the only people who were supporting it and the Government refused to support it.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Sir. He is misleading the House.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before the Honourable Member for St. Thomas proceeds, I will hear you, but I just want to say that I have been hearing the Honourable Member for St. Michael West so often and I am wondering if that is your contribution to the Debate.

Laughter.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I would get my chance in due course, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I just want to be clear on that. The Honourable Member for St. Thomas.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You bowled him very well, Sir. I want to take guard properly, Sir.

Sir, the history of the Honourable Minister of Health is inaccurate. He has got his things wrong.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Yes. I just want to clarify it. Because in 1979 I seconded the Resolution moved by Dr. Cheltenham. He is right when he says, or if he implies that the front bench of the Barbados Labour Party refused to support it after many, many months when it finally came on. We behind there had to enlist the support of Members over there to get it to pass. It passed and nothing happened with it, Sir. So I am not in any way contradicting my position from 1979.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: But 12 years have gone or 10 years have gone.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: They had Cammie Tudor and Allder and Lawson Bailey and all of them campaigning.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Member may continue his speech.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: I was addressing the question of trying to politicize the police force and using as a ploy in that strategy the question of increasing remuneration, for policemen and giving the impression that perhaps one party is more interested in looking after the material welfare of the policemen than others.

Mr. Speaker, it would be a very bad reflection of our feeling about our police force if we give them the impression that the way how they carry out their duties is dependant on the amount of money they get. The quality of policing cannot be determined by the salaries that policemen carry home. Let us be very clear about that.

Aside.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: The Judges? Or any law enforcement officer then. If they have a tendency to corruption they will be corrupt. Let us understand that. Let me tell you something. You cannot buy an honest man. Let us be very clear about that. You cannot buy an honest man whether he is a policeman, a judge, a magistrate or a politician. Let us be very clear about these matters. There is a tendency of course that if a man is in need that he can be approached. There is that possibility. But there is not everybody who will be poor who can be approached by anybody and bought. And if we have to give the police the impression that the only way that they can carry out law and order efficiently in this country is by getting increasing salaries, then we are sending out some very bad messages.

And secondly we cannot use, as a basis for establishing remuneration in a country, the power that any one group has and because the police are related to law and order, they must get more money. That is not, as far as I know, a sensible basis for deciding on salaries and conditions of employment.

Each group must be looked at against the other, in terms of a whole range of things and then make determinations on what they will get. Because otherwise the Defence Force will be saying well we are more powerful than them, we want more money. And then you get that whole sort of hubbub in a country. Let us understand, do not let us start as a small nation along this road.

Policemen are people with a certain sense of vocation. When they go in there, they go in there because they want to serve the country. That is one of the first qualifications why you go in there. Not everybody goes in it because they are looking for a job. A policeman is a special person and

you will not be able to compensate them in terms of monetary compensation anyhow. Just like....

Aside.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: It used to be so? I am not going to make any qualitative judgment on policemen. Because they say the same thing about teachers, that nowadays teachers are not doing this. Every group I am hearing nowadays is different from how they used to be. And I do not believe it. There are people still who go into these offices with conviction. I do not believe that Barbadians have all changed and all of them now want a piece of change. I do not believe it.

All of us in here come into politics because we have a certain motivation, mainly we want to help people. And if we can believe that of ourselves, why can we not believe it of the policemen and the teachers and everybody else? Why are they changed but we are different? Why are we in here? Why are we in here as politicians? Is it because some people out on the street are encouraged to believe that we come in here looking for money, basically? There are a lot of people in here who can make more money doing something else. Or power? That is the impression they get out there on the streets because of how we behave towards one another. Nobody believes any longer that any of us is in here for service, that we come in here because we feel we can help or because we have a philosophy, because we project these things. I believe we are sending wrong messages.

The police have to be looked after like anybody else in the society, but do not let us try to politicize them. Do not let us try to give the impression that the NDP is more interested in the police than the DLP or the BLR. That is foolishness, basic foolishness.

Mr. R. P. BYER: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I in the course of my presentation to this Honourable House did make the point that I believe that the same argument that we use in this House for giving Judges a decent wage can be used in relation to the police force. Certainly I was not trying to give....

Aside.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Just a minute. Let me make my point, Sir. Certainly I was not trying to give the impression, and if that were conveyed, then it is unfortunate, I was not trying to give the impression in any way at all that we are trying to buy the loyalties of policemen. 7.10p.m.

It is a question of giving them a decent wage to put them beyond temptation. We use the same argument in relation to Judges when we want to increase the pay of Judges. I am just saying that the same thinking could go

into the aspect of police pay, regrading as well, Sir. That is what I said.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Quite frankly my arguments are not addressed to the Honourable Member for St George South quite honestly. I am not responding to your speech. I am just making general points to either yourself or to the Leader of the Opposition or whoever, or if somebody on my side got up then trying to give the impression that we are better towards the police, I said it would be destructive, whoever use that kind of argument. The policemen should have their personal political conviction. But do not try to politicise a Police Force. It is a very dangerous thing just like the Defence Force or anyone of the disciplined services and I believe that I see a particular attempt being made in that direction. I do not like it. I do not like it for myself or my children. I do not like it for Barbadians.

Now the point about individuals making social comments in this country that would create a problem in terms of order in the society, you have to be very careful about these things. I do not think that anybody should publicly advocate violence as a means of change. But I think that anybody can look at historical patterns which show that violence has been, is being, and will probably be used as a means of change and people can warn you that if you do not learn the mistakes of history that you may have them repeated again. It happens all over the world and I am ** saying that we would be ignorant not to see what would have happened in countries near to us and if we believe that it cannot happen here. Now that is one of the things that Bajans seem to believe that nothing can happen in Barbados. I do not like people who are fermenting violence in the sense of advertising any use of guns or weapons in the country. Violence is a very insidious thing I believe and there is a kind of psychic violence that can occur without anybody getting up there and advertising the use of guns. Quite frankly, politics in Barbados is becoming extremely ** violent and not in the sense of anybody pointing guns, but the kind of attacks that leaders are having against leaders in this country. I am saying we are having violent use of language. The kind of attacks that have been levelled against the Prime Minister of this country - I call them violent attacks. Nobody is pointing a gun at him, but I am hearing leaders of his own level being violent in their approach to him. If at that level of leadership you all are being violent to one another.....

Asides.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Tell us about it. Tell us about it in your time.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order please.

Asides.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: If the leaders are attacking each other like that and then they think that the boys in the street on their dope, crack, and so on are going to make fine distinctions, then they are making sport. If the Leader of the Opposition attacks the Prime Minister everytime he opens his mouth, sometimes before he opens his mouth - he is doing everything wrong. The same thing used to come from the former leader. One of the worst tragedies that was adopted in this country after 1986 was this going for leadership. This is the first thing that happened. After 1986, there was the death of Mr. Barrow. Everybody landed on Mr. Sandiford. He was the worst thing in the world, the poorest leader, what kind of tie he wore, what kind of glasses he wore....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Who is Mr. Sandiford?

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: in trying to suggest that the leadership in Barbados is the worst ever experienced and you all know that is nonsense. It is the worst kind of sophistry possible. If you believe that at the level of leadership you can attack each other like that and do not send messages down to the society - you talk about violence - that is violence but it is a psychic violence that you are doing to black people and the small people in this country that you do not understand. When four people who were elected by the masses of the people in the country to the DLP then left without consulting the people who put them there, they turned around and launched the worst attack possible.

Asides.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order please.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Do not try to distract people because you did not consult with the majority of people who voted for you in St. George South. Do not try to fool me on that one. I am a politician too.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let me just intervene at this point. I think Members must recognise that the Rules do not permit us to shout across the Chamber and if an Honourable Member wants to address the House perhaps he can do so by addressing the Chair. I see it as disrespect for the Chair for Members to persist in shouting across the Floor despite my effort to intervene. Please continue.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: When that break-away group usurped the power of the legitimate Opposition, that was constitutional violence. You all talk about violence - that was constitutional violence. It was a rupture in our normal politics. These are things that we will have to recover from in time.

Asides.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It seems to me -

Asides.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let me continue. It seems to me that Honourable Members are not understanding the position I am taking. I am very much opposed to Honourable Members laughing and shouting across the Chamber. It does not reflect proper conduct in the House.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: I am going to wrap up soon, Sir. It is very uncomfortable for certain people of what I am saying. When after the elections in 1986 when the Nation Newspaper decided it was going to take on the role of opposition because it felt that too few people had been elected on the Opposition side, their side, and have continued since then until now, the Nation and their organs, to highlight every petty thing and make it a mole-hill trying to make people believe that this country has gone to the dogs. That is being projected by the Press daily in this country by some yard fowls of the BLP. That is violence to a country. I remember well when the former Honourable Leader of the Opposition, Member for Christ Church West, said that the policy will be to infiltrate every organisation in order to project the role of the Barbados Labour Party. That was violence. It was a strange kind of culture coming into Barbados. We never used to believe in that kind of practice before. When I heard the Honourable Member for St. Thomas say that he would be leading demonstrations and marches throughout Barbados at any opportunity, then they started demonstrating up to CBC, calling in cameras up to CBC and somebody demonstrating about some chicken issue all down in front of Mrs. Ram. Their membership demonstrated and not only them, but they came back saying sorry. I am sorry you led the demonstration because it was a thing from my heart not my head, but nobody is going to castigate them for that. But you are creating serious violence in this society. Those are damaging wounds in a society.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of order, Sir. I have been listening to this debate. The Honourable Member is accusing me as former Leader of the Opposition of creating violence in the society. I do not mine whatever adjective he uses and it is disrupting the society. I wish to make it absolutely clear, Sir, that I conform with the laws of Barbados. On a point of order, the Honourable Member must be very careful of what he says. I have always conformed with the laws of Barbados and the exercise of proper constitutional action in this country even under the gravest provocation and I never used violent language, Sir.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: You see, Mr. Speaker, I know that the Honourable Member for Christ Church West is a constitutionalist. I know he believes in law and order sometimes in the heat of the moment we say things that have effects that we do not intend when you tell members to infiltrate all organisations and so on. Well, that is what you were quoted. I do not know if you really said so. 1

is how you were quoted. When you introduce the culture of infiltration into the body politic that never understood that culture before, then the less understanding of your membership might be tempted to do things that perhaps the more educated would not do.

What I am saying, Sir, is that part of the problem in this country is that there has been a rupture from tradition in several ways. I believe to some extent that is affecting us and that sometimes we are not as honest as we should be.
7.20 p.m.

When in the incident of the minibus drivers when one chap was charged in the courts for breaking the laws and people went down to take a position against the Magistrate, and we heard some big maguffin in this country getting in the Press saying that there is no politician who could try to get rid of the minibuses because that is like slipping a noose round their own neck, and so on, I did not hear anybody from the NDP or the BLP get up and criticise these kinds of fellows for making that kind of comment in our country.

We are allowing a lot of people who have power but no responsibility to do a lot of strange things in our country, and I think even His Honour the Chief Justice took a long time before he made that kind of fighting speech that I heard him make on the last occasion of the Assizes. People with positions of responsibility in Barbados have to speak out against a *lot* of lawlessness. I am not talking about speaking out about political mileage, but taking a position. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition is feeling uncomfortable in his home. He is saying so now and I do not doubt him, but it might get worse if all of us do not get together and take a position that is not partisan against these things, a position that is against violence, a position that is against wrongdoing, a position that is against drugs and all that, and speak out. We have to take that position, not from a partisan point of view, because we have to live in this community and our children have to live. I do not know what the statistics are, I hear the Leader of the Opposition claiming that it is getting worse, but I cannot make that comment until I have the statistics. But certainly sometimes because there are more captures with the drug barons, because more of them are being caught, it might look like it is getting worse. I do not believe that this administration has been bad at all in the way how it has administered justice, I think they are doing better in their attacks against drug people than has been done before. Not that there is room for more to be done, there cannot be any complacency on this, we have to get to the root of the problem.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Time.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: It is not an easy thing, though but if we have to fight together on this battle.

Thank you, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER left the Chair and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, we have had a very long debate on a matter which I thought would not have lasted this length of time. It was very wide and far ranging.

I would just like to re-emphasise the point which I believe the Member for Christ Church East Central made re the police. We have an excellent Police Force and it is a pity that that did not resound throughout the contributions made by so many Members. I believe that this can be judged by the detection rate. If you compare the detection rate of our Police Force for crimes committed and compare it with other countries, you will see that we are doing an excellent job; not that a better job cannot be done.

The other thing which I think we have to understand is the role which the police in Barbados have to play. I might be in a privileged position because I was born into the Police Force. My father was a policeman, I have had the opportunity of living at police stations and I have kept in close contact with the Police Force because I am interested in the Police Force.

In Barbados if a woman is pregnant she calls the police, if your son is in trouble you go to the police, if you want a will written and you do not know about lawyers you go to the police, so that the police are held in high esteem in this country and I think we should let people know that. It is true that in any organisation you will get a few bad eggs, and what we should be addressing here today is to ask those policemen who have called sick for two and three years, who believe it is better to play politics than go and work to get back their jobs, I am asking for the numbers of those who are out for more than three months, saying they are on sick leave, some who are on sick leave and go to the university, let them come out and work or go home, and replace them. That is what the police are complaining about, that disciplinary action is not taken against those who are throwing the weight on other policemen. That is one of the biggest complaints in the Police Force. I keep in contact with them.

Let me say this as well. Those who have never been in the police canteen cannot tell you about the food. The food in the police canteen is the cheapest in Barbados, and the best. Some people would not go in there and eat food with the policemen, but they can tell you how expensive the food is.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir. I believe that the food in the police canteen is among the cheapest food in the island. That reinforces my point, that although it is cheap and good the policemen still cannot afford to buy it.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: If they cannot buy food there, nobody can buy food anywhere in Barbados, but some of us would not go in there and eat food with the policemen, so they would not know.

On this question of murders, I get the police reports every day. Murders in furtherance of crime are down significantly this year, so anybody who has told you that they pick up a paper every day and read about murder after murder is talking about an American paper, not a Barbadian paper. They could not be reading Bajan papers, because murders have gone down this year, especially murders in furtherance of crime. I believe we must have had two so far this year, so people should not come and mislead the country. As a matter of fact, violent crime has gone down this year.

I want to respond to some of the comments made by the Member for St. Thomas, because I think he made a very good speech and it was well thought out. He touched on manpower and emoluments. One of my concerns - and I am not the substantive Minister for the police, so you will understand - is the recruiting system. By that I mean, and I have discussed this with the Commissioner of Police way back in the days when we were in England studying, that I think you have to recruit for the job which they have to do. We have an idea that all policemen should have five *O' levels. If you want people to walk the beat, which is essential, you must have policemen for that. If you want policemen to be in security, a different breed of person.

I think that the question of emoluments has been touched upon and wages are relative. You cannot talk about increasing the wages for the police and not consider what effect it will have "on the nurses, the teachers, the firemen and the sanitation workers, all of whom can put up a very strong case for more money. The nurses can tell you that they are exposed to the AIDS virus. The firemen can tell you they have to fight fires in dangerous heights and they are always exposed to the chances of death. The teachers can tell you they are exposed to parents coming into the schools nowadays to beat them, so where do we begin and end? But money in itself would not attract a man to a job. There are some people who believe that money is all there is in this world. By and far the large majority of policemen are very dedicated and committed.

The Member for St. Thomas mentioned equipment and he, did say that one of the problems we are facing, and let us face it, the policemen are only reflective of the society. A lot of young fellows, they get their cars and they u., what all young fellows do with cars, write off a good number of them. 7.30p.m.

If you spend money having to replace them, you cannot have money to buy other equipment. I know that a

Police Station Sergeant has just come back from England where he attended a course in traffic, where among other things he studied the proper techniques in driving etcetera, and it is hoped that with that we can improve the driving skills of our policemen so that we can save some of our equipment, and therefore money .can be made available for other things.

On the question of accommodation, again I have argued as the Honourable Member for St. Thomas that we do not need these elaborate buildings for policemen. For sure, nearly every other policeman has a car. What we need, and I believe the Commissioner of Police agrees with this, is what you call shop front windows, which are small police stations spread out throughout Barbados with three big police stations. I think we are coming towards that, and in case of an emergency you can commandeer another building and encamp people there, and emergencies hardly last more than two or three days anyhow, and under emergency conditions you do not expect the best there. This 'is what we are trying to achieve.

I should just like to say, however, that in the last three months we spent over \$1/2 million; between 17th July and 15th of this month we spent over \$1/2 million in trying to effect some repairs at police stations.

One of the problems the Government is finding is that when we put out tenders, nobody replies now because there is so much money in the private sector that contractors are bypassing the Government, because it takes a little time for you to get your money, so people are bypassing. That is one of the problems we are facing not only with repairs to the police stations, but repairs to community centres and whatever; so we have spent over \$500 000, and I will say that recently there is a buildings officer within the Ministry of Legal Affairs because we realise that we could not always depend upon MTW, you have to queue up, so to speak.....

Mr. SPEAKER ordered that certain remarks made by the Honourable Member for St. Thomas be struck from the records.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: As I said, there is a buildings officer now and it is proving successful, because it has a hands on policy.

In his contribution the Honourable Member made reference to gangs and gave some of the reasons why youngsters are conducting themselves in the way they do now. One point he did not make mention of was the TV. We are now exposed

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Sir, I think this is a real point german to this. I was careful to say that television and unemployment and indeed I could add

broken homes are three factors that man in the street would attribute as a cause for criminality. The criminological evidence, not impression, is that none by itself is a necessary causal factor, but it may contribute and predispose.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: I did not hear you mention TV although I heard you mention the other things, but I would still like to emphasise the point about the TV for two reasons. Of late we have seen youngsters throwing their soft wear, I think you call them now, on the electric wires. If you watch CNN sufficiently you will notice that the same thing is happening in New York. Unfortunately we are showing the worst of America here and the youngsters are believing that that is the best of America; so that is what you imitate. It is the same thing with the fellows wearing their caps with the peak to the side. The chaps here are doing the same thing. We are good imitators; we are at our best at that. So as the Honourable Member for St. Thomas says, that is creating a problem. Although he mentioned unemployment, it is an attitudinal problem which our youngsters have to employment, and I try as far as possible to understand.

A youngster told me the other day that he objects to working at night, so he is finished with that. Another fellow whose father is a carpenter and wants to take him to work, says he has to give him \$350 a week to go and learn the trade. These are some of the problems we are having; it is an attitudinal problem. There is lots of work out there that can be had. There are some persons who are working seven days a week as artisans in this country who for the last year cannot get a rest. Some people do not want work. We have to change the attitude of our youngsters, because I know that is what is creating the problems which we are having.

I would just like to say as well that I think unfortunately the Press is overplaying this thing of gangs or whatever description or definition you give to them. From time immemorial in this country youngsters have walked about in groups and done foolishness. It is only now that villages have joined up because of the development that you don't hear about them. Even the late Timothy Callender in his books used to talk about St. Elizabeth and St. Victoria, St. Judes, and that is not yesterday, and we read his books, I believe. What was he talking about? You have heard about Carrington Village against the Pine; you have heard about the Pine against Emmerton and Chapman Lane; you have heard about Cool and the Gang. We went for Cool and the gang and put him in our youth group at Trents.

I would like the Press to highlight the good things about young people. 99.9 per cent of the young people in this country are very good; 0.1 per cent play the fool and every day in the paper you see that some little fellow says he prefers to stay home and his mother would give him money and that is a big story with headlines, front page and back page and middle page. Some people, if they can hit the

headlines by doing something bad, will do it. If the press is playing up the bad in the society and a fellow wants to get in the press, he does it. We had a fellow who used to wash cars in the court yard and he killed a man, and every day he would come and say, "Sir, you saw me today in the paper; you saw how the police was holding me?" He killed a man to make the press. It is a serious problem.

As I said, Sir, I am not the substantive Minister for this particular portfolio, but we realise in bringing this amendment that they were at a disadvantage when compared with other civil servants and we wanted to bring their conditions of work in line with other civil servants, so that if people are suspended for one reason or another that it should be left to the discretion of the Commissioner of Police as to the amount of money they should be given while on suspension. It is as simple as that. Because it is a disciplined force, sometimes policemen are suspended more quickly than if they were in the civil service for obvious reasons, but we do not believe that a man should suffer any undue hardship when he is on suspension. 7.40 p.m.

It is all right to say that if the case is thrown out he can get a year's salary but, then, in that time his house might have been sold over his head so all we are saying is that we want to bring him in line with the other members of the Civil Service so that he would not be disadvantaged.

With those few remarks, Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Bill be read a second time.

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

On separate motions of Hon. P. M. GREAVES seconded by Hon. B. M. TAITT, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr L I BRATHWAITE in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee.

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. P. M. GREAVES seconded by Hon. B. M. TAITT Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to Mr. SPEAKER, the passing of one Bill in Committee and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On separate motions of Hon. P. M. GREAVES seconded by Hon. B. M. TAITT, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it was my intention to end this debate this evening at 7.30 p. m. After

the Honourable Minister got up to reply, I did not move that further consideration to the Police Act be deferred.

There is one more Bill and that Bill is identical in language to the Police (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill. Now, Sir, I am at the mercy of Honourable Members. If Honourable Members intend to debate this one, Sir, I will, at this point, Sir, move the adjournment

Aside.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: No debate, Sir. In that case, ' the next order.

ORDER NO. 4 - THE FIRE SERVICE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1989

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

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

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

On the motion of Hon. N. K. SIMMONS, seconded by Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee.

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. N. K. SIMMONS seconded by Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to Mr. SPEAKER, the passing of one Bill in Committee and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On separate motions of Hon. N. K. SIMMONS seconded by Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN the Bill was read a third time and passed.

QUESTION TIME

Mr. SPEAKER: Question Time. The Honourable Member for St. Thomas - Overseas trips - cost of each including accommodation.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I have 36 questions, Sir so I will take my time, one at a time.

To ask the Prime Minister - Will the Prime Minister please state seriatim...

Mr. SPEAKER: One moment. It is question time. The question.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Which one?

Mr. SPEAKER: Questions 98 and 102.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Question No. 98: To ask the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs:

1. Will the Minister state:

- (a) whether there exists in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs a policy to waive import duties in respect of "Terry Cloth", a fabric used for manufacture of bath towels,
- (b) whether there have been any, and, if so, how many applications for a waiver of such duties in 1987 and 1988?
- (c) how many waivers have been granted in 1987 and 1988?

2. If the Minister has granted waivers of duty in respect of some but not all applicants, will he please state the reasons, if any, for discrimination?

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Prime Minister I will give the reply to Parliamentary Question No. 98 as asked by the Honourable Member for St. Thomas, and it is as follows:

"In pursuit of the Government's objective of assisting the hotel industry to improve standards through programmes of upgrading, refurbishment and renovation, and in order to help operators of hotels meet the requirements for registration under the Hotel, Apartments and Guest Houses (Registration and Classification) Regulations, 1982, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs operates a policy of waiving import duty on a range of items for the industry. Terry cloth, a fabric used for the manufacture of bath towels is one such item. 7.50p.m.

The Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs received 5 applications in 1987 and 9 in 1988 for import duty concessions on towelling material making a total of 14 applications for the two year period. Thirteen of these have been approved, 5 in 1987 and 8 in 1988. The other application was withdrawn after additional information was requested. No application for import duty concession on towelling material has been refused during the years 1987 to 1988. The records of the Ministry of Finance and

Economic Affairs do not reveal any discrimination of the treatment of applications by manufacturers for import duty concessions in respect of towelling material for the years 1987 and 1988. All applications were dealt with in the same manner."

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Supplementary. Would the Minister please state whether....

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You see. He does not know, Sir. Before I start, he says he does not know, Sir. Let me put it on the record though, Sir. He can reply he does not know. Will the Minister please state whether it is not a fact that Geddes Grant was flatly turned down? And secondly, will the Minister please state whether it is not a fact that a small businessman called Mr. Holder was also one who was refused?

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, ...

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I have the documents. I have them.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr, Speaker, I have distinctly stated here that there were 14 applications and 13 were approved, one was withdrawn. Implicit in that, Sir, is that none was turned down.

Mr. SPEAKER: Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 102.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Ready, Sir? Mr.

SPEAKER: Yes.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: The Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 102 asked by the Honourable Member for St. Thomas:

"In accordance with the functions of the Prime Minister to determine the allocation of responsibilities among Ministers, the following areas of responsibilities have been assigned to the Minister of State, Senator The Honourable Harcourt Lewis:

To assist the Prime Minister in

- (a) the discharge of responsibilities for the Data Processing Department, the Government Printing Office, and the Central Emergency Relief Organisation;
- (b) the co-ordination and implementation in general of the government capital works programme, and

in particular the co-ordination and implementation of projects upon which the government places especial emphasis such as
the refurbishment of Central Police Station and other Police Stations

the refurbishment of the Parliament Buildings and Courtyard

- the development of the new Judicial Centre

- the computerisation of government services

the development of small business activity

- the development of markets, including the provision of stalls and kiosks

the development of a gymnasium

the development of golf courses

These special projects are either in the implementation or planning stages. All of them will continue into the immediate future. Other special projects being planned for the future include the South Coast Sewage Development Projects and the Coastal Conservation Project."

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Will the Minister please state whether the fact that Hansard has not appeared for this year is due to the appointment of the said Minister as Minister with responsibility for the Printing Department, Sir?

Laughter.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: No! But I would say that that is almost a mischievous question.

Laughter.

Mr. SPEAKER: Are there any other supplementaries? Now, to the Honourable Member for St. Thomas. I recognize that I need to do further scrutiny on some of these Questions and the Resolution placed before me. I was sure I would have been able to have them all ready for you at this sitting. I can assure you by next Tuesday, they would be all ready for you. And I will make sure that preference is given to these questions. They are all nearly all right but there are one or two that I need to give further scrutiny to and I assure you that they will be ready by Tuesday.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. P. M. GREAVES Mr. Speaker, that concludes Government Business for today. And therefore, Sir, I am only left now to move the Adjournment of this sitting.

Before I do so however I should just like to let Honourable Members know that at a Meeting in the near future, if not at the next Meeting, it is possible but I do not see it being likely now, but at a Meeting in the very near future, Sir, I shall be making a Ministerial Statement on CARICARGO. I am letting this House know this at this stage, Sir.

Thank you, Sir.

Aside.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Oh! Honourable Members are anxious to know, even though they do not seem to eat lunch, when the lunchroom attached to this building will be ready.

My understanding is, Sir, that it should be ready in about 2 weeks' time for the use of Honourable Members, depending on the Minister of Health whether or not he gives a certificate to operate the facilities downstairs.

Laughter.

Asides.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: What I should like to do, Sir, is to invite Honourable Members to go and visit the premises that are on the ground floor of this building. Those who have seen it, Sir, would have to agree that it has done justice to the Ministry of Transport and Works that is responsible for the renovations. It is really an excellent job done.

Applause.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I move, Sir, that the House do now adjourn until Tuesday, the 31st October, 1989 at 12.00 o'clock noon.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I beg to second that, Sir, and in so doing would merely indicate that under a well-known rule of law that the discretionary power of the Minister of Health cannot be prejudiced by any other Minister. That is a well known rule by trying to fetter the discretion of the Minister by indicating what a splendid job has been done, et cetera.

I just wish to put on the record that the Minister cannot be fettered in this regard. On the whole question of the health, we would give it the usual consideration we give to these matters and deal with it as expeditiously as we have always done in matters of this kind, Sir. 8.00 p. m.

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I am speaking now in the context of House of Assembly only. The last thing they consulted the Ministry of Health on whether they can serve drinks from the former bathroom you will recall, Sir, we had no difficulty after inspection in passing it as fit and proper. We were a little disappointed that having given them the license to function that we did not see it today, but we will wait and see. We hope that next week, Sir, while pending the decision on the lower level that the Leader of the House responsible for the amenities in this House will see to it that Honourable Members on that side - we do not mine us on this side, Sir - but that Honourable Members on that side are at least given the facility of the occasional glass of water next week, Sir. Do we have that assurance, Sir? The Leader of the House has to give this assurance, Sir. Otherwise, the Minister of Health will not be able to function. There was not even a glass of water, Sir, available for Honourable Members on that side. Thank you, Sir.

The question that this Sitting do adjourn until Tuesday, October 31, 1989 at 12 o'clock noon was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 8.03 p. m.

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THE

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