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THE House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1986 - 91

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, February 6, 1990

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 12:15 o'clock.

PRESENT

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

Hon. H. deB. FORDE, Q.C., M.A., LL.B.
Hon. B. M. TAITT, B.A. (Hons.), M.P.A., LL.B. (Hons.), (Minister of Health)

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

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

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

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

Mrs. M. BARKER-WELCH, (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education and Culture)

Hon. C. V. WALKER, (Minister of Education and Culture)

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

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

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

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

Mr. C. LeR. TROTMAN, M.A. Mr. R.

L. MORRIS, B.A., Cert. Ed. Mr. P. J.

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

L.E.C. Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON,

LL.B.

Prayers were led by Rev. Father Ivan Harewood.

Mr. SPEAKER: The House is in session.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of Tuesday, January 30, 1990.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I move that the Minutes for the meeting of this Honourable Chamber held on January 30, 1990 be taken as read and confirmed.

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

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

ORAL REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works, I would like to give notice that the reply to Parliamentary Question, No. 108 asked by the Honourable Member for St. John is ready.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that the reply to Parliamentary Question No. 119 asked by the Honourable Member for St. Thomas is now ready.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 1.

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

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1989-90, No. 12 HEAD 13 -PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE - \$4 446 297

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, under Head 13, Subhead 1, Object No. 6 supplementary funds are being requested in the sum of \$3 919 as an additional sum of money to that of \$11 900 which was provided in the 1989-90 Estimates of Expenditure. At the end of October, Sir, expenditure amounted to some \$9 819 leaving a balance of \$2 081 and that will be inadequate to meet expenses until the end of the current financial year.

There was a revision of the travelling allowances under the Public Officers Loan and Travelling Allowances Regulations with effect from August 1, 1988 and based on an average expenditure of \$1 200 per month, it is estimated that the sum of \$6 000 will be required to meet expenditure between November 1989 and March 1990. Taking into account the balance at the end of October the sum of \$3 919 is, therefore, being requested as a supplement for this Subhead and Object Number.

As far as Subhead 2 is concerned, Sir, Object No. 10, supplementary provision in the sum of \$13 310 is being asked of this Committee. 12.25 p.m.

For Subhead 3, Object No. 6, the sum provided in the Estimates has proved insufficient because of additional travelling costs as a result of the revision in the Public Officers Loan and Travelling Allowance Regulations which came into effect, as I have indicated before, Sir, on July 1, 1988. Because of the deficiency, funds are required for this agreed expenditure. As far as utilities are concerned, Object No.7, the utilities to be provided for include telephone and electricity. Under this object Classification the sum of \$5 063 is provided in the current Estimates but at the end of October, expenditure totalled \$4 506 leaving a balance of just \$557.

The headquarters of the Central Emergency Relief Organisation, a most important body in this country, subject as we are to threats of natural disasters and other emergency conditions, those Headquarters are now located at the Garrison. They were previously located at Government headquarters in the Annex building. When the headquarters were located there, there was no provision made for electricity because the electricity was being met by the Barbados Defence Force on that particular building. A meter has now been installed and it is necessary to meet the charges for electricity from November 1989 to March, 1990, \$800 with an outstanding Bill of \$347 giving total anticipated expenditure of \$1 147 for electricity.

In addition to that, Sir, there are some telephone service charges from November 1989 to March 1990 of \$1 731 and a telephone allowance of \$139 to be met. When the balance is taken away from those required expenditures, supplementary provision in the sum of \$2 460 is required.

Under Subhead 8, Object No. 11, Sir, the sum of \$54 162 was provided under this particular Subhead. At the end of October there was a balance of \$12 293. That amount is inadequate to meet expenditure to the end of the Financial Year because of the repairs to equipment and other incidental expenses which have to be met. For example, there were repairs to equipment of \$5 000. These are all other done or anticipated to be done by the end of the Financial Year. Repairs and Maintenance of Vehicles \$2 400, Repairs to Furniture and Equipment \$2 000, Insurance On Equipment \$8 000 plus \$1 500 for insurance on the new vehicle. Then there is refurbishing of the vehicles and cost incurred for petrol and oil. So that supplementary provision in the sum of \$19 508 is required for these purposes.

Under Subhead 12, Object No. 6 for Travel, a supplement of \$10 736 is being requested to the sum of \$26 350 that was provided by the Honourable House of Assembly for the current Financial Year. At the end of October, 1989 the balance was \$3 534. Expenditures for travelling will have to be met for the remainder of the Financial Year. A breakdown would be as follows:

- (1) for the Deputy Permanent Secretary, Travelling Allowance \$355 by 5 months giving \$1 175;
 - (2) for the Chief Security Officer, a similar amount; and
 - (3) and for 4 Security Officers \$ 10 720,
- giving a total of \$14 270.

When we take away the balance under the Subhead, supplementary provision in the sum of \$10 736 is required.

I think, Sir, that gives some details of the purposes why this supplement for Head 13 is being required and I beg to move that the supplementary provision in the sums indicated for this particular Head stand part.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I beg to second that, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. R. P. BYER: Mr. Chairman, there are just one or two matters that fall within the ambit of this Head that we are looking at at the moment.

The first thing I want to speak about is Ilaro Court Sir, as a young man I have for some time been very concerned about the arrangements we have at that place for the accommodation of Leaders of State or Prime Ministers. That residence is supposed to be the Official Residence of the Prime Minister. Culloden Farm, as you know, was formerly the Official Residence but it was thought that another residence ought to be found for the person who is: the Prime Minister of the day.

What has happened over the years, as we all know, is that the residence has only been used by two Prime Ministers. Two Prime Ministers have lived at that residence wholly and solely, as far as I could recall. I have a little difficulty with that because I believe that we play at politics with a lot of things that we ought not to play politics with. It is about time that the politics be taken out of what are trite things. I believe that if we have a residence for a Prime Minister that the Prime Minister ought to live at that residence.

What it means is that we end up having to maintain an Official Residence and if the Prime Minister does not live there, then a housing allowance is paid to the Prime Minister. Even though that is legally right in my own mind I believe there is something morally wrong with it. I believe that, as a country, we ought to stop playing politics with these small things and if a Prime Minister is the Prime - Minister of the day then he ought to occupy the residence that is provided for him and in a case like that the housing

allowance would not be payable to the Prime Minister. That is my position on the matter and it is a position that has found its way as part of the policy of the NDP. 12.35 p.m.

As I said, Sir, it is a very small thing. Even though it is a small thing, it is deserving of mention today. It would appear to me that if we could adopt that practice then areas of what I consider to be waste and overspending would be eliminated. I think it is time that the Prime Minister of the day should occupy Ilaro Court as his official residence. When the time comes for one reason or another when he has to vacate that residence then he should vacate the residence.

Barbados seems to me, Sir, to be the only country in the world where we have this kind of anomaly, if it may be called that

Asides

Mr. R. P. BYER: I said, Sir, it seems to me. I am not debating any politics about this. If Honourable Members know otherwise, then when they get up and speak they can say otherwise. I have not come in here today to make politics out of this. I am merely speaking my opinion on the matter. If it is offensive to some people, then that is a matter for them. I am not going out, Sir, deliberately to mislead this House because I was very careful in the language that I chose. I said it seems to me. If he wants, I will say as far as I know. Even if it is not the only place in the world that it is not so, then it is high time that we do something about it and we ought to regularize the situation and stop playing politics about the whole thing. I do not know if it is because the Barbados Labour Party was responsible for the erection of the residence or the renovation of the existing edifice that was there into what it is now that the Democratic Labour Party do not want to occupy it. I do not know. It seems to me that whatever is the reason it is not a good reason. It costs this country a tremendous amount of money to maintain it with the Prime Minister not living there. But I will go on to something else, Sir, because I think that I have stated as much as I can state about that. I have made my feelings felt so I will move on to something else.

I want to speak, Sir, about the Central Emergency Relief Organization and simply put, Sir, at this stage I would like to know what is the level of preparedness of that organization in case of a natural disaster. We have been spared for sometime now but I believe the time will come when a hurricane will pay us a visit. I do not believe that we will forever be spared. I know that apart from the mock drills that they have CERO does not do anything other than that to test their level of preparedness. That is only in terms of one area. They normally do mock drills in relation to aircraft disasters. I want to know what they are doing, if the Prime Minister can answer, in terms of making sure that the structures in this country can withstand any hurricanes that

visit us. I would also like to know whether the hurricane shelters are of an adequate level of safety and whether there has been any review recently to find out if hurricane shelters themselves will not become sites of disasters in case we are visited by a hurricane or other natural disaster. These are some of the things I would want to find out about the Central Emergency Relief Organization.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. Peter.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, just a few comments on Head 13. The sums of money being sought under this Head by way of Supplementary are not very large but there is still a point of principle that is involved. The Barbados Labour Party, Sir, will not be supporting any Supplementaries where the amounts being sought are in some instances greater than the amount initially voted by Government at the start of the financial year. We charge this Government with over expenditure, Sir. The way in which over expenditure or runaway expenditure arises is by Government bringing to this House and asking us to support Supplementaries which are in many cases far in excess of what the House was asked to vote at the start of the financial year, Sir. I think we have to be consistent in this particular matter.

The Government has a responsibility, Sir, to put its House in order and to indulge in proper budgeting. It is clear evidence of a lack of proper budgeting, Sir, when the House has to be asked in some instances to support Supplementaries which are far in excess of the amounts that were initially voted. Unless the House takes a stand on this issue, we are never going to be able to bring expenditure in this country under control. If the problem, Sir, is that Government Ministries are bringing back at some later stage those very things which the Estimates Committee said that they were not going to be allowed, which is a tactic sometimes used, let us stamp it out. If Government is miscalculating the extent of the programmes and activities that it wants to execute during the course of the financial year, Sir, Government has a responsibility to do better than that. Whatever is the source and the cause of the problems that make us have so very often to come to this House and approve Supplementaries that are in excess of what were initially voted, Sir, it ought to be brought under control.

In that capacity, Sir, we obviously will not be in a position to support a 146% Supplementary for supplies and materials for Ilaro Court. I think it is a bit outrageous, Sir, to have a situation where indeed this residence is not being occupied as far as we are aware on a full-time basis and this House is being asked to approve a Supplementary that amounts to 146% of what the House voted in April for supplies and materials for a residence, Sir, that someone is not living in. If we do not deal with these small things, Sir, then we will never get control over the large picture to the extent that that particular vote, Sir, figures as part of this Head. Given the principle that we have established that we

will not be voting for Supplementaries unless there is some extraordinary circumstance that can explain the change, we will in that capacity, Sir, not be voting for this Head.

The Member for St. George South has delivered himself of certain remarks regarding the desirability of the Prime Minister to live in Ilaro Court, Sir. This issue has already been dealt with in the House at length. The Prime Minister has spoken. He said that if his constituents want him to live in Ilaro he will live in Ilaro Court and if they do not want him to live there, Sir, he will not live there. As far as I am aware, that is where the matter resides. It is certainly not the way in which the Barbados Labour Party would believe that the question as to whether an official residence should be occupied or not occupied should be approached. I do not think in principle, Sir, the question as to whether an official residence should be occupied is a matter that should be determined at the whim and fancy of a constituency branch. It is a national matter, Sir. But if that is the approach of this Government, then it is their approach and one cannot force the Prime Minister to move outside the bounds or the parameters in which he has set himself. 12.45 p.m.

We would have hoped that he would have set himself broader parameters that would guide him in this particular decision, but the point of principle that guides us in this particular respect and on this vote, and will guide us on all subsequent votes, Sir, is that if we are going to charge this Government, and properly charge the Government with over-expenditure and runaway expenditure, then this House has to be a body, as is required by the Constitution, to control the public purse. We would expect, therefore, Sir, to hear explanations forthcoming from Government whenever it comes to this House with Supplementaries that are vastly in excess of what this House was initially called upon to vote in April.

It is in that kind of context, Mr. Chairman, that I am certain will have great difficulty in supporting this particular supplementary. The question, as I said, on the residence is a matter that has been thrashed out, Sir, and that is now in the realm of politics to be debated in another forum.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I rise to support this Resolution and to make some comments on the statements made by the last two speakers.

I am glad to see that the Honourable Member for St. George South has now changed his opinion about living at Ilaro Court. I want to remind the Honourable Member that he and the Members of the NDP were at one time members of the Democratic Labour Party, and under our late Prime Minister the Democratic Labour Party took a decision about Ilaro Court. I think the members of the NDP were part of the Democratic Labour Party when we took that decision about Ilaro Court. Of course one is entitled to change one's

mind, and having crossed the Chamber, of course it is your right to change your mind. What I will say about that is that you are not consistent when you do that, you lose your logic.

With respect to living at Ilaro Court, I think that Ilaro Court is the property of the people of Barbados. It is .. Government property, it is not owned by the Prime Minister of Barbados, so when the Honourable Member for St. Peter talks about not spending money on Ilaro Court because the Prime Minister does not live there, it is absolute nonsense. We are coming here to spend money on Government property, and let me say this. The Prime Minister of the Barbados Labour Party, Tom Adams, took a decision that he was not going to live in Culloden Farm and that he would set up his own house that he would live in, and spent \$5 million, and you are talking about spending \$13 000 on Ilaro Court? When Bree St. John went into Ilaro Court they ripped out all the toilets and all the facilities at Ilaro Court, so it was probably better that he did not live in Ilaro Court. They painted all the mahogany white, destroyed the house, so it is probably better that he did not live in Ilaro Court. They spent thousands of dollars in curtains, but the \$13 000 we are asking the House to approve is to be spent on Government property, it is not the property of any individual or any politician.

I also want, Mr. Chairman, to pick up the views of the Honourable Member for St. George South with respect to CERO and hurricane preparedness. I think the point he made is a very valid point when he asked what state of readiness we are in to face a hurricane, but I do not think anybody can answer that question. The proof of the pudding is if there is an emergency how you handle it. You can have all sorts of simulated tests, you really do not know what will happen in terms of an emergency.

Let me give you an example. When Hurricane Hugo hit Montserrat, the very buildings that were used as hurricane shelters were the ones that were blown down, and some of the very small wooden houses remained standing. The point I am making is that hurricanes and disasters are beyond the control of man. When they had the earthquake in California, several of the buildings which they considered to be earthquake proof were destroyed, and when the engineers in the United States went back and reviewed what was happening with respect to the buildings in cities like New York, they had to do another reassessment based on what had happened in California.

It is a very good point, but we have to understand that we really cannot predict what will happen in a given hurricane, because different hurricanes and different earthquakes have different strengths and the extent to which they respond is dependent on the force of the individual disaster we have. I think we always have to look at our preparedness for a disaster and we have to be upgrading based on the technical information that comes to hand from time to time.

The final point is this. The Honourable Member for St Peter said they are not going to support the supplementary because we come back here for supplementaries. The point is that an estimate is exactly what it says, an estimate of what should be spent, and there are times when the estimates will be too great or they will be too small, and therefore it must be logical that since it is only an estimate and not an accurate figure, you will have to come back and reassess the situation. So to take the philosophical position that you are going to oppose all Estimates because the Democratic Labour Party is coming back for Supplementaries, and you know the prophet of doom and gloom is saying that the economy is going to collapse overnight, that since 1986 there is devastation of the economy, but only this morning the people in Europe had to tell you that the Barbados economy is performing properly. You cannot read that, it takes economists from overseas to evaluate the economy of Barbados to come and tell you, the economist for the Barbados Labour Party, how well the economy of Barbados is doing.

Economies in the western world are in shambles, including that of the United States, who have now got to rush to Japan to prop up their economy, and if the United States have to go to Japan to prop up their economy, what about a small open economy like Barbados? We will get back into that. I will get into a tangle with you about what is happening in the western world, and in the eastern world as well, with respect to economies. The only strong economy in the world today is the Japanese economy, but we will get into a tangle with that

The philosophical position you are taking about opposing every Supplementary Estimate does not make sense, but I suppose you have to find some basis on which to have some political mileage, and therefore that is your political way of getting some mileage, but from an economist's point of view it is philosophically a stupid position to take.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, one has to be very careful in accepting when the Member for St. Michael South East gives this House anything which purports to be fact. We already know that this Honourable Member caused this House to believe that the Errol Barrow Memorial Park was a park built entirely through voluntary contributions, when in point of fact the truth was eventually that the park was built through public funds. Therefore we have to be very careful with this Honourable Member, we have to be careful with his misrepresentations.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, on a rcint of order. The Honourable Member can bring no statement that I made any place at any time that the Errol Barrow Park was built through voluntary contributions. Where he can find the statement, he can say that the Marcus Garvey Library in the Errol Barrow Memorial Park was built

through voluntary contributions only. He can say that, but his statement is completely false and unfounded, and he should withdraw it.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Just before the Honourable Member continues, we are not dealing with the Errol Barrow Memorial Park at this juncture.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Yes, Sir, but we are dealing with the credibility of the Honourable Member. 12.55 p.m.

You have heard me say in this House that the Barbados Labour Party would not be supporting supplementaries that have certain features. I was very clear that we will not support supplementaries where the supplementaries being sought are equal to or greater than the amount originally voted. But the Honourable Member, Sir, is so ignorant really that he would now interpret that to mean that the Barbados Labour Party is not going to be supporting any supplementary at all.

(Mr. CHAIRMAN ordered that certain remarks made by the Honourable Member for St. Peter be struck from the record.)

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, I will make the point that less than ten minutes ago I said in this House that the Barbados Labour Party will not be supporting supplementaries if certain features are in the supplementaries, and that Honourable Member interpreted that to mean that the Barbados Labour Party will not be supporting supplementaries at all. I am saying, Sir, therefore that he either cannot listen properly or if he had heard what I said, he completely misrepresented the point I was making, and I stand on the point.

I want to say, Mr. Chairman, that a complete veil of hypocrisy on the part of the Democratic Labour Party hangs over the entire arrangements and hangs over the use of Ilaro Court. Let the debate come to this stage now.

(Mr. CHAIRMAN ordered that certain remarks made by the Honourable Member for St. Peter be struck from the record.)

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, Ilaro Court is the place ...

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Can we have fewer interruptions?

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, I am by no means seeking to imply that the Prime Minister uses Ilaro Court for any sinister or corrupt purposes, but all I mean is that it

is a place that is used temporarily and at his convenience. It is the place that he goes to, - I am not trying to cast aspersions - and it also true that the former Prime Minister, Mr. Errol Barrow, also used to use it to the point where he could come to the House during the course of an Estimates debate and report to the House that a colour television had been stolen from it. In the 1987 Estimates he raised that point.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, it has to be recorded in the House that the Prime Minister, whether he is using Ilaro Court or not, is responsible for it. It falls under the aegis of the Prime Minister's Office, and the Prime Minister is the Minister who must report to the House about Ilaro Court whether he is living there or not, and the late Errol Barrow made it a point to say so.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, it seems as if the/* Democratic Labour Party believes that they have a right to^ be as offensive as they wish to be without rebuttal from anybody. We heard a lot of low talk. In the middle of my speech I made a simple point, that the criterion that the Prime Minister has used to determine whether he lives in Ilaro Court or not is in our view narrow. We felt that a constituency branch should not determine what is in fact a national matter; but it is the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East who brought to this House the notion >^ that somebody tore down curtains and ripped out toilets and ~ a lot of nastiness, Mr. Chairman, that we on this side know is not true. It was a lot of foolishness and this debate was brought to that level by the wild insinuations there have been in Barbados from 1971 about the former Prime Minister of Barbados, Mr. Bernard St. John. This is something the Democratic Labour Party will use and use all the while to discredit the man's character. And they are to be as offensive as they wish and we are to ignore it!

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

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: We are to ignore the fact that one of the reasons why the supplies and materials vote in fact has increased to the point where a supplementary of 146 per cent of the initial vote is now being sought obviously has to do with the fact that this is not a residence just lying down while the Prime Minister lives elsewhere. 1.05p.m.

This is a residence that is in general use and we feel that the aura of hypocrisy that has surrounded this whole arrangement must be now swept away and that if the Prime Minister wants to indulge the appetite of living in his own house while having a "Camp David" to which he can retreat from time to time, if our policy is to be brought to that level*- and we are to support that by way of supplementaries amounting to 146% of the initial vote, the Barbados 1 Party will not be supporting it, Sir.

I am obliged to you.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Debates like these make us realize why the body politic might not have a very high opinion of the people that they put in here to represent them because the attitude adopted by some of the speakers here about the way how politicians conduct themselves on these matters and the question of raising an issue that operates on a higher plane than is being dealt with at this point in time, I think, has to be addressed.

I support the Resolution. I have no difficulty whatsoever in supporting the Prime Minister's stand and the stand of the Democratic Labour Party in terms of the use of Ilaro Court. Only small petty-minded people who have not yet developed can get into issues as to whether the Prime Minister should or should not live in Ilaro Court.

That is an issue for people who have just come out of a long history of lack of development and have no self-concept and self-esteem to get into this kind of debate. People with a long history in civilisation do not get themselves bogged down in such minuscule, trivial matters. We live in a country that is almost schizophrenic in its development.

I represent a constituency that has thousands of people who come to me who need a house spot or a house to rent at the bottom stratum of life in this country and all of you face people who, or at whatever times you meet your constituents, want a house spot or a housing area house, as we call it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The asides I am hearing are too loud.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: I also represent a constituency "" that has mansions, houses that are worth nearly a quarter of a million or more dollars and that is part of the schizophrenia in our country. If the Democratic Labour Party which is a party that represents the masses of poor people in this country decided to set an example that they will not live like lords in Ilaro Court...

Aside.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: I will debate with you on any of " those issues any time.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the Honourable Member just hold on a minute.

Standing Order No. 33(6) specifically outlines what ;-the behaviour of Members not permitted by the Chair to speak should do and I do not wish anybody to be pointing y>ieir finger at any other Member while I am speaking either.

If we cannot have better behaviour than this, then I shall have to take the rules that apply to such behaviour and apply them to the behaviour of Members.

Continue.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: It is a philosophical issue involved here. If the Democratic Labour Party decide that we are not going to inhabit Ilaro Court, which is a beautiful museum, because it has no real relationship to the lives that the people lead out there, I can understand why the Barbados Labour Party would take exception to that.

Part of the reason why they were tossed out in 1986 is because of the way they exhibited themselves to the masses on living. A certain editor of a certain newspaper in Barbados said when he turned up in St. George at an NDP meeting all the cars there were bigger than his and he does not drive a small car. So if the two Opposition parties are exhibiting a certain standard of living for Barbadians, the ones that they come and ask for their votes...

Aside.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: You can debate what I am saying. I am talking philosophy now. I am not getting down in the gutter with you guys.

I used to hear Mr. Barrow talk about people with a mauby pocket but a champagne economy, sending wrong signals to the country that we must live a lifestyle that is not real to Barbados. That is what I understood Mr. Barrow's position to have been, in spite of what the Honourable Member for Christ Church West might be saying in here. That is what I understood his philosophy to have been and, as I understand it, the same argument being used by the Honourable Member for Christ Church West cannot apply to the Honourable Prime Minister who has taken a philosophical position in the line of the Democratic Labour Party...

Aside.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: When you fellows start getting to Elections you start getting scared. You get on very badly. You get on worse in here than the people on the streets get on. You begin to panic and I have no difficulty whatsoever in supporting the philosophical position.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN stands.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I do not know if this is decidedly an effort to embarrass the Chair. If it is, I believe that all Honourable Members understand that the Chair has the last word. I believe that Honourable Members understand their responsibility in this Chamber and that they will behave as

such. I do not wish to have any further intervention in this debate on that particular matter.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: As I was saying, Sir, on a strictly philosophical position the Democratic Labour Party is at one on this issue. If the Prime Minister believes that day-to-day habitation of Ilaro Court and the lifestyle that goes with that sends images to the Barbadian public that he is not prepared to send, I think he has a right to make that decision and that has been endorsed by the people of this country.

Those of you who wish to impose your own lifestyle and your own views of living on the Democratic Labour Party, you have the right, come Election time, to go out there and put that to the people of Barbados. In the meantime it is foolish and frivolous to come in here every time you are talking about Ilaro Court and raise the same foolish points all the time.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to speak on the issue of CERO and I speak because of close personal involvement in the Wotton community where there is an emergency almost every year. Now, there are different types of emergencies. Some emergencies are those that cannot be foreseen.

I believe the Honourable Member for St. Peter probably had a similar circumstance in St. Peter in terms of Speightstown flooding as these are emergencies that can be anticipated because these areas are prone to difficulties as the Honourable Member for St. Andrew, and probably the Honourable Member for St. Joseph know. We are in areas where emergencies will occur from time to time.

Sir, what I found very surprising on the last occasion of a flood in Wotton is that when the various Government agencies turned up, it seemed to me that they came as observers and on-lookers, including the officers from CERO who came to me as bureaucrats to make notes and so on but the real problem at the time was in blocked suck wells and it did not seem to me that anybody really came prepared to work, that is, to clean the wells and drains. That work was done by the residents of the area.

I really do not want to see any Government institution that in a time of emergency adopts a bureaucratic position, a position of coming to take notes, ask questions, give advice and not to take that kind of practical action.

I would like to see a crack group that can come out, diagnose the problem, get down to hands and feet working. That is what I would like to see done in all of these circumstances because when all of the persons who came to observe had gone home, that is when the residents started to deal with their own problems.

I would like to congratulate the residents in any constituency, any area, who are prepared to do that. But I believe that CERO should have a facility, a crack group, maybe coordinated from the different areas, the Defence Force or whatever, but there should be a crack group that comes out there to diagnose the problems and to work.

I do not believe that there is any problem like that that you can come to and with analysis cannot find out what the problem is and try to introduce some short-term solution. That really bothered me on that occasion. I would like to see that crack group that is prepared to come and work, not just to ask a lot of questions and to look official, just walking about looking at things. We really need a Central Emergency Relief Organisation that has teeth to come and work when we have these problems.

Those are my comments, Sir. Thank you.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Mr. Chairman, in a lot of respects I was particularly disappointed by the manner in which the last speaker approached this matter and I took some of the comments that he made rather personally. But that is my concern, not his. I will deal with that at another level. 1.15p.m.

But this is what I was speaking about when I suggested that we remove politics from the whole thing. What he, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East, said about my being part of a decision on Ilaro Court because I was a Member of the Democratic Labour Party, is true. But as he said, I have a right to reassess my positions on these matters. It was for the very exchange that we had between the Members on that side and the Members on that flank of this side that I am suggesting that we remove politics from the whole thing.

I do not see what philosophical position could be taken about not living in Ilaro Court. That is the Prime Minister's position. If he wants to live there, that is a matter for him. The point I am making is that, as a nation or as a House, we should come to some firm decision about that. It costs the country when the Prime Minister has 2 residences to occupy. That is the point that I am making about the whole thing. To come in here and talk about how he has a developed mind and all of these kinds of things is' foolishness. That has nothing to do with a developed or undeveloped mind. It has nothing whatsoever to do with that at all And then to go on to talk about being petty and then to talk about a car and that kind of thing without examining the Members on his side to see what they drive. How low can we get? It is foolishness. It is nonsense.

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Certain remarks made by the Honourable Member for St. George South were ordered by Mr. CHAIRMAN to be expunged from the Record.

The question that Head 13 stand part was put and was resolved in the affirmative without division.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1989-90 NO. 12

HEAD 14 - MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT, TELECOMMUNICATIONS

AND IMMIGRATION

Subhead 1 - General Administration Subhead 3 -

Airport Management Subhead 4 - Maintenance and

Development Unit Subheads -Air Traffic Control

Services y- Subhead 7 — Immigration Services

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, it is proposed that a number of Subheads relating to Head 14, Ministry of International Transport, Telecommunications and Immigration which are supplemented.

In the first instance Subhead 1 relates to Personal ^ Emoluments, the sum of \$39 202 was voted at the beginning of the Financial Year. During the course of the year there had to be a number of substitutes and, as a result, acting allowances have had to be paid. This has had the effect of depleting the vote and it is now proposed to supplement that vote by \$10 000 in order to meet estimated expenditure to the end of the Financial Year.

Another Subhead worthy of comment is Subhead 3, Airport Management Services. Under Subhead 3 - Airport Management Services, Item No. 6, the Government enters ~\ into a contract every year with private operators to provide transportation for officers to and from the airport. At the beginning of the Financial Year it was estimated that \$352 920 would have been sufficient for this vole and to provide this service. This has proved insufficient for the reason that there has been an increase in travelling allowances payable to public officers, also to meet the contractual payments to the private contractor Paramount Taxi Service as well as to the Transport Board which has informed the Ministry that from September 1989 its rates charged for providing that service would have been r' increased. It is now estimated that the amount of \$34 500

. would be required to supplement this vote. Under Subhead 3, Utilities, during the year \$1 745 421 were provided. This in fact was about \$400 000 less than in the year 1987-88 and about \$40 000 less than the year 1988-89. This provision has proved to be insufficient. The funds under _* this item are used to meet telephone charges for the airport management services including the PABX system as well *!jas electricity and water services for all users at Terminal 1.

f Let me say here, Sir, that part of this money is recoverable

from the money that we are now seeking and part of the vote as a whole is recoverable from the private users of these services.

Object No. 25, under Supplies and Materials \$1 600 is required to supplement that one. That is a very small amount required to supplement that vote. That relates to supplies, the VIP lounge. Airport Passes, requisite stationery and office supplies.

But worthy of note, Sir, is Item 25 dealing with Plant, Equipment and Furniture. Parking Attendants who operate on a 24 hour shift system are supplied with cash tins in order to place their day' collections as well as parking tickets for cancelled tickets. There is no proper place to secure these cash tins. It is felt that in order to provide proper security that a night safe would be acquired with deposit wallets and trap keys so that each individual will have to be responsible for his own collections and it would be much easier for audit and easier too, Sir, in order to identify any problems that might arise. The cost of providing this night safe is estimated to be \$13 320.

Under Subhead 4, Maintenance and Development Unit \$22 800 was voted for this item which was indeed over \$10 000 less than was voted during the last financial year. 1.25 p.m.

Expenditure at the end of September, Sir, was \$20,000 leaving a balance of \$2,800. We estimated, Sir, that we will now require the sum of \$11,825 taking into account the balance left in the vote in order to provide sufficient funds for this item for the remainder of the financial year.

Maintenance of Property - The amount voted was \$486,999 and the amount that we are now seeking, Sir, to supplement this item is \$80,205, an increase of about 16% or thereabouts if my mathematics is correct. The services planned for utilizing this money are:

Maintenance of The Grounds - \$30,000

Electricity, Electronic Plumbing, Baggage Conveyors, Air Conditioning Spares - \$25,000

Janitorial Services including all public places at the airport-\$16,000

Repair of Vehicles (30) - \$70,000 Roads and

Buildings - Terminal 2 - \$17,750 Runway Taxi -

Parking Area - \$8,095 Office Equipment and

Furniture - \$2,000

The balance in the vote, Sir, is \$88,641 which leaves an amount of \$80,000 now being required to supplement this item.

Operating Expenses - \$40,906 was voted for this year to meet the cost of postage, uniforms, rental of land, car park tickets and receipt books. This amount, Sir, was exhausted by the end of September. It is now proposed, Sir, to seek approval of Parliament for the sum of \$15,536 for the following expenditure.

Additional charges for Uniforms - \$5,000

Car Park Tickets - \$5,236 Receipt Books for

Car Park - \$5,000 Postage-\$300

Air Traffic Services - We are seeking, Sir, approval for additional expenditure of \$5,440. The original vote was \$9,350 and out of that vote it was necessary, Sir, to expend a committed sum of \$1,195 as arrears resulting from increase in rates for the payment, Sir, of travelling allowances. The average monthly expenditure on this item between the months of March and September was \$1,133. Taking into account, Sir, the increase in allowances, it is anticipated that the sum of \$5,440 will be required to supplement this vote.

Immigration Department - There are two sums here under various items, Item 7 and Item 25. The sums are \$16,250 and \$5,100. At the end of September, halfway through the financial year \$41,066 was spent, Sir, including the sum of \$1,303 of arrears for telephone allowance payable in respect of one officer at the Immigration Department over the last financial year. So the balance in the account was \$8,050 which was insufficient to meet the full expenditure for this year and, therefore, the sum of \$16,250 is required.

Finally, Sir, \$5,100 is required for Plant, Equipment, and Furniture. During the year, Sir, there was break-in as is well known at the Immigration Department and the teller locker used for the security cage was damaged beyond repair. It is therefore proposed to acquire a replacement of the teller locker at a cost of \$5,100 which is the exact amount now being sought, Sir, to supplement this Object No. 25 of Subhead 7.

Let me state, Sir, that at present the fees collected are being placed in the vault which the Chief Immigration Officer maintains is inconvenient and, therefore, we are seeking to acquire a replacement for the teller locker that has been damaged.

Sir, these are the explanations for the various items for which Supplementaries are being sought and I move that Head 14 stand part

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

Mr. R. P. BYER: Sir, there were comments about the Immigration Department which falls under this Head. I want, Sir, to begin by congratulating that Department for the work that is being done. During the past year I know of one or two matters, not personal matters in any way, which we should be more than congratulatory about. The officers of that Department, Sir, exhibit a high degree of professionalism and this is even exhibited in the way they carry themselves. I think they look very smart in their wear and things like that.

Having said that, Sir, I would want to still go on to make one or two general remarks about the Department. For example, in the area of the processing of certain applications. Certain applications by the very nature must take a long time to be processed. In processing of applications for work permits and so on, one has to be particularly certain about the person who is applying for the work permit. Applications for immigrant status and residence are applications that could be processed a little more speedily.

Now I know for a fact in the area of work permits that one or two potential investors to Barbados have taken their money elsewhere because of the long period of processing an application for a work permit. On one occasion the Minister did make some comment about the period of the delay after an application for a work permit is sought and I was wondering what might have been the cause for the delay in this area. If the Minister has that information at his finger tips, I believe this House would be indebted to him if he could supply it. There might be more than one reason for it* there may be reasons that are peculiar to a particular case. Certainly, we should not run the risk of losing foreign investment in Barbados because a Work Permit application might be long in being completed.

Now as we expand as a community, I am certain that the work of the Immigration Department will also expand and that Department will also come under stress. We have got to think down the road of the future of the Department. Certainly, regarding the level of operations that go on at that Department, I do not know what provision is being made for the physical expansion of the Department but the time might very well be right for us to consider that. 1.35p.m.

Certainly the accommodation for members of the public who have to deal with that Department ought to be looked at. There is some need for upgrading. Several people go there daily, so that the wear and tear of the building would be particularly high and in the area of the waiting room we

have got to pay some attention that the present level of accommodation does not deteriorate any further.

In the long run the work of the Immigration Department will become more difficult, because more and more people will seek to gain entry into Barbados. The numbers last year were not very high, but I am certain that in years to come we will have more and more people seeking entry into Barbados at one level or another, either as permanent residents, citizens by way of descent and also people who are seeking work opportunities in Barbados, so that some planning has got to be done to provide the services in that Department that will be needed to deal with the inflow of people into Barbados which I predict will increase in the not too distant future.

Apart from the matters I have raised here, if the Minister could give me some information in those areas I will be very glad.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, as the Honourable Member who has just sat down and other Honourable Members well know, the work at the Immigration Department is quite varied. It deals with citizenship on various grounds, it deals with applications for immigrant status as well as applications for work permits and it also deals with applications just to reside as visitors. There is a lot of work at the Immigration Department. A number of persons have sought permission to reside in Barbados for any one of those categories of, let me call it residence then, whether residing to work or residing as a visitor, or residing as a permanent resident, or even as a citizen. Lots of applications are received. As a matter of fact, applications are received from persons for citizenship who have never come to Barbados. That is so because of the Constitution provision that permits the wives - of Barbadian citizens to be registered, if they so wish, as citizens of Barbados. They need not come to Barbados at all, the mere fact of being the wife of a Barbadian husband entitles one to be registered as a citizen, and they do this.

The Immigration Department is now operating in tight physical premises and they are also operating in a place temporarily provided for them. It is intended eventually when the work on the top floor of that building which they now occupy is completed that they will again be removed to the top floor. I know ideally the Immigration Department would wish to have both floors. We do not think as yet that it is necessary to move them, but that they should overflow when they have removed upstairs into the floor that they now operate.

I do not believe, Sir, that where they operate from should indeed hold up the work and the applications of "persons who make application for one reason or another. I have spoken about that here some time ago and it is my opinion that the work could be streamlined. I believe something has been done about it and I was told it is

working far more satisfactorily now than it had been at that time. What is more, Sir, I have got no complaints about that aspect of it. I still know that some applications take some time. That will necessarily be so and it need not be the fault at all times of the Immigration Department, because applicants are required to submit certain documents and until all the documents have been submitted, the applications will not be completely processed. They have to supply certificates of character and they have to seek, from the various police administrations in countries where they live police certificates. Some vetting has to be done in respect of some persons and the particular areas from which they come, and all that helps to slow down the work of the Department.

Be that as it may, I am satisfied from the lack of complaints I have received in recent times that the work of the Department has improved considerably. I am not saying that they are operating at the moment at maximum efficiency. There is hardly anything that operates perfectly and I have no doubt that the present Chief Immigration Officer, who is a very competent officer, knows his work - he has been there for a long time - and I believe that from time to time more will be done in order to make that Department even more efficient than it is at the moment. There are still some problems at places of entry into the country, but I think we have been trying hard and, to some extent, succeeding.

The question that Head 14 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 15 - CABINET OFFICE

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Sir, under Head 15, Subhead 1, Object No. 2 - Other Personal Emoluments, supplementary provision in the sum of \$68 000 is being requested. The purpose for this supplementary is to pay gratuities to the personal staff of the Prime Minister,

The legal arrangements under which these gratuities are payable go back to the Second Schedule of Resolution No. 56 of 1983 which provides for the payment of a gratuity of 20% of salary to the personal staff of the Prime Minister after the satisfactory completion of three years' service, or the proportionate part thereof after not less than two years' service if the services terminate because of a change of Government after a general election.

The staff of the Prime Minister, which includes a Personal Assistant, a Press Secretary and an Executive Personal Secretary, have all completed three years. They have served my predecessor, the late Right Honourable Errol Barrow and then they have served me, Sir, and there has been no break in service. So three years have been completed and the breakdown of the arrangements would be as follows: 1.45 p.m.

The periods would be in relation to the Personal Assistant who was appointed on 4th June, 1986, so there would be salary from the 4th June, 1986 to the end of that year, then there would be the calendar year 1987, calendar year 1988 and the period 1st January, 1989 to the 3rd June, 1989. In his case therefore there would be 20 per cent of the total amount of salary earned during that period of time which would amount to \$27 900.56. The Press Secretary was appointed from 16th June, 1986 and for the three years completed under that period, 20 per cent of the salary earned would be \$21 064.25, and for the Executive Personal Secretary whose date of appointment was 9th June, 1986, the gratuity at 20 per cent is \$18 417.41, giving a total of \$67 382.22, rounded off at \$68,000. This is in accordance as I said with the long standing arrangements and no provision is available in the current Estimates for the payment of these gratuities, and therefore it is deemed appropriate that the payment should be made at this time after the completion of the three years, and therefore we need this supplementary provision.

I therefore beg to move that Head 15 - Cabinet Office - stand part

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

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I have no difficulty with this Resolution. I really only need to remind the House that the persons who served under me during my tenure as Leader of the Opposition are still awaiting their gratuity. I am not sure whether the appropriate Resolution has been brought down to Parliament. I would hope that when the new Act which we passed recently comes into operation dealing with the administration of Parliament and otherwise that we should look at ways of devising policy which would enable these persons who are subjected to the vagaries of the democratic process to be considered in some pensionable form and that their years of service would constitute a pensionable period for a reasonable period of service. It is true that they are not civil servants in the classic sense of the word, and I could anticipate that from within the civil service *per se* there will probably be some objection to treating them for pension on a lesser period than the normal civil servant would have to serve, but I don't think that that in all fairness would be an appropriate way to approach the subject. Obviously there are persons who render service, some of it of a political nature, and the very democratic process envisages this type of service. In fact, in other countries there are precedents where some people come in to service only for the period of time that a particular Government is in office and move. I personally favour the general service being as we have it here, permanent and removed from the changes in political affairs and fortunes; but I do welcome a provision whereby certain members will be attached to Ministerial staff for duties that obviously call for a bit other than the normal public service, and that is on the political basis. I can't imagine for instance that the

Personal Assistant to the Leader of the Opposition might come straight from the civil service; that person would have a dusty time on a change of Government getting anywhere near certain Ministers and what not, and likewise with the Personal Assistant to a Prime Minister or the Executive Assistant who performs other duties than one would send to the Prime Minister's normal public service staff. So my intervention is not critical at all of the Resolution, except to say that I think we should explore ways of improving on the short term gratuity arrangement and look to the position where some of these persons may be able to count their service by way of pension in the future.

I am not sure whether we could find precedent for this in some of the western democracies. There probably is in Canada and elsewhere where they are remunerated other than by a lump sum, and they are remunerated gratuity- ^ cum- some part of it being treated for pension. I would hope ^ that we could explore those possibilities. I don't think it is an issue that will take on a partisan look between the parties in this country. I think it ought to be the best arrangement that we could possibly arrive at in the circumstances, and I hope that the civil service or whatever appropriate body will look at these matters and may be in a position to give advice in the future on such matters. I would hope, Sir, that my former staff who gave quite sterling service for the time ^ that I was Official Leader of the Opposition should soon get - -what is rightfully due to them. I recognise, Sir, that again partisan politics have not advanced to the stage where, now that we have the presence in Parliament of three political parties, we will be providing staff for other than the Official Opposition. I could give the House the assurance though that, when I take over leading the Government after the next election, I will ensure that in case there is a third party left after the onslaught I will provide for the appropriate staff in those circumstances.

I have been examining the precedents in Canada, not only at the provincial level, but at the Federal level where this type of arrangement has occurred, and provision is made without any difficulty. Indeed from time to time when one looks at some of the better precedents of the Commonwealth, you will note that staff for Members of Parliament, staff for Ministers and staff for servicing backbenchers generally in this way are provided, and they are not provided on the basis that it is the sort of issue that ^ people can take and run with for an election, so let me clarify. They are not provided on an elaborate scale other than within the means of the particular country, but they are provided as part of a public service in order that people can efficiently carry out their jobs and their duties. Again, I hope that in trying to improve the institutional framework within which Government functions and within which ^ Government in the wide term including both the governing party and the Opposition parties and democracy mu<£ function, that we will begin to look at these better

precedents and adapt them, given our own peculiar unique circumstances and given our resources as well, Sir. I thank you. 1.55 p.m.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, very briefly I want to speak coming immediately after the Honourable Member for two reasons - first of all to support the Resolution that is before us and, secondly, to let the Honourable Member know that so far as I am concerned he is pushing an open door.

I think that we have reached the stage in evolution as a democracy that we should be able to deal with these matters without any of the political heat which is generated whenever we have to discuss matters on allowances, salaries and that sort of thing.

The people who serve Members of Parliament and especially those who serve Opposition parties, are making a contribution to the democracy of the country and, therefore, have to be treated in a manner commensurate with the civilized development of the society in which we live.

If I remember correctly, this Government gave an assurance that those persons who served in the Opposition before it was truncated by the leap to the left, or the right, as the case may be, which caused the slight deviation from the North, we gave the assurance that those persons would be looked after and I am sure that, whatever the problem is, it is not one of will. I think that that matter, no doubt, will be dealt with when the legislation for the Management of Parliament is completed, and I am sure the Prime Minister will deal with that.

The point I want to make is that I want to put on record my support for the position taken in regard to Parliament and the people who work for Parliamentarians, whether it is at the level of Leader of the Opposition, Prime Minister, or in support of ordinary back benchers.

It is impossible in the 20th Century and as we go into the 21st Century to do the work of representation in and out of the House of Assembly effectively and efficiently without assistance of a certain quality and of a certain kind. Whereas in the not too distant past it might have been thought that a sinecure was being created, the quality and standard of representation which this present House presupposes, notwithstanding the occasional cut and thrust which leads the odd trail of blood, the fact is that this House now boasts a quality of representation that requires some research and requires an approach to problem solving that does not allow for the single man coming down the road smiling and going back and saying that he or she has done representation.

^ It is necessary that there be assistance and it is necessary that the state should pay for that assistance and to

the extent that it pays, it should do so at a level commensurate with what is proper, what is decent and what is right so that I for one would have no difficulty with any proposition that is made for the effective and correct remuneration of those who assist any parliamentarian on either side.

Perhaps, it might be desirable that there be some kind of all party discussion of these matters. There should be an all party committee of Parliament but we have to wait until the Management Commission goes into effect to see how it functions. There has to be some discussion of these matters. If you leave them to the same machinery as is used to determine what happens in the public sector, we are not going to get efficacy and equity prevailing. That is my experience.

I recall very well when we were discussing the Ministers and the Parliamentarians and we thought that we should seek an independent source drawn from the public sector, we ended up with the strangest recommendation that has ever been seen in that regard. It was so strange that it would have made parliamentarians, perhaps, like hoe handles that could be knocked off at any time. You would have to punch a clock as you come in and there is a school of thought that feels that we are at the level where we should be punching a clock.

Mr. Chairman, it is not difficult, therefore, to agree with the sentiments expressed by the Honourable Member for Christ Church West, sentiments which, I believe, have been expressed on this side before and which I believe that the Management Commission will take care of but I suspect the Prime Minister wants to reply to that.

The question that Head 15 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I move that the sitting be now suspended until 3.00 p.m. this day.

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

The question that the sitting be now suspended until 3.00 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly. 2.05 p.m.

ON RESUMPTION

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Committee of Supply has resumed.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1989-90, No. 12

HEAD 16 - MINISTRY OF THE CIVIL SERVICE

Subheads - General Administration

Subhead 8 - Data Processing Department

Subhead 9 - Printing Department

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, Head 16 an additional sum of \$82 997 is needed to supplement this Head. Basically you would recall that travel was increased in the system and most of the Subheads which come will always have travel. Utilities, again this is a situation where the actual amount turned out to be less than is required. The \$54 000 for maintenance of Property, Mr. Chairman, the amount voted fell short by \$54 000 which it is necessary to supplement.

I beg to move that this Head stand part, Sir. Hon. W.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Christ Church West.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I wish to make a few comments under Printing and to enquire. I see there is a tremendous supplementary about 1/3 of the size of the vote in relation to Supplies and Materials under this Head. I assume the purpose why these materials are needed is really to enable the Printery to get on with the printing of Hansard. We are tremendously behind in having access to the Debates of this House or the Other Place. Whilst I know that the arrangement between Parliament and the Printing Department is for the department to print the Hansard, I want to enquire whether the delay is due in any part to the Printery or for whatever cause because I think, Sir, that one needs to be able to refer in this House to the accurate record of the affairs of Parliament. We have gone now for well over a year without having access to these documents and I wish the Minister to tell the Committee what is the current state or printing in relation to Hansard.

I am also aware, Sir, that the Printing Department has a contract of some nature or sort with the Ministry of the Attorney-General for the printing of the Law Reports. I

have heard the complaint made that the charge had become unreasonably exorbitant or high and as a result the recent edition of the Law Reports are selling at a price that make it difficult for them to be retailed properly and to be bought. When we come to the main Estimates later this year, I shall have a lot more to say about the Law Reports. I am more interested in the printing cost now.

I recall years ago that it was not done in a way of making a profit, probably just at the cost price and I am not sure whether there was some hidden subsidy from some other department of Government. But I have heard in the profession the complaint that the price at which the Law Reports are now printed is beyond the economic value to persons who would wish to use the Reports.

I wonder whether the Minister is in any position to make a statement about that.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Without in any way pretending to have all of the knowledge about this, the fact is that the cost of printing the Laws is much higher than would be acceptable in terms of economic cost. If we charge economic cost, the price would be extremely high. The Government made a decision at the level of principle to fix the cost that was somewhat a little below the economic cost.

When one is determining what constitutes a reasonable cost, one is caught between the reality that we are spending public funds and the necessity to allow the legal profession full access to the Law Reports and also to allow for the growth and development of the Law Reports *per se*. While the Honourable Member is probably accurate in his assessment of the situation, the fact is that there have to be some costs.

What they have done is to allow some element of subsidy across the board for the legal profession. It is just really a question of at which point you put the subsidy. But we feel that the cost is fair and under the circumstances, that is the position.

As to the printing of the Debates. One of the problems we had was a technical difficulty arising out of the absence of 1 or 2 Debates to be filled in. The decision has been made to proceed with the debates. Honourable Members would have noticed that the debates have started to cornel again. I believe it is 'the Honourable Member for St. Thomas who had raised the question about this some time ago.

What has been decided is that in those areas where there were gaps, for whatever technical reason, that they will find a way to deal with them. In the meantime the—publishing of the debates has begun again. Honourable Members would recognize that they have begun to *gu* debates.

The question that Head 16 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1989-90 - NO. 12

HEAD 30 - POLICE

Subhead 2 -General Police Services

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 30 stand part.

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

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

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am not going to let go all my powder and shot now because in a month's time we will be dealing with the Estimates in some detail. But there are a couple of matters that I wish to raise.

I am sorry that the Attorney-General is not here but I hope that what I have to say will be conveyed to him by those who are here. The department of the Attorney-General in relation to the settlement of claims by ordinary citizens - otherwise called poor black people in this House - leaves a lot to be desired, Sir. There can be no excuse for a circumstance where the Ministry of the Attorney-General on the 26th July last year offered to a man whose car was stolen by an escaped prisoner in 1985....

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: An escaped prisoner. I think he was "Rough Rough", subject to memory. This prisoner got away. They found the man. The citizen had his car parked outside his house in Melrose. The escaped prisoner took the car and had it driving around - in fact it was a station wagon - for a couple of days. The police caught up with him, chased him from the Lower Green to Horse Hill. When they got him in Horse Hill they jammed it and ran him off the road. The car was damaged. The police then kept it for several months as an exhibit in the back yard. It was therefore exposed to the elements and it started to deteriorate.

After 4 years the Crown agreed to settle. The claim was for S3 700. Estimates were provided by the Courtesy Garage detailing every item of expenditure in the sum of S3 700. The Crown said let us knock off \$500 from the man's claim as verified by the Courtesy Garage on no legal principle whatsoever. 3.10p.m.

But the citizen was in a quandary. This was last year. I was not the Attorney General.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am declaring an interest, Sir. I feel very hard done about it, Sir, not as a MP but I had to write letters to the Ministry.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: No. They took off \$500 that I had paid as a lawyer which they should not have taken, off and then offered the man \$3200. They said take that or leave it. Since July we have been writing letters day in and day out. The poor man had no money at Christmas. They promised to settle. You cannot get a judgment because the year had passed. All that I am asking is to pay this poor man his \$3200. That cannot break a Government.

I have spoken to every Permanent Secretary and Deputy Permanent Secretary. You know I had to go in my pocket to help the man at Christmas on an understanding from the Ministry that the money would soon be coming and soon is ever since July last year. He cannot get a cent yet.

Asides.

Laughter.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: No, no, a little thing though or a small thing.

Now there is another one. Since April last year....

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Man, you all are always promising. Since April last year there was another one with a senior Civil Servant and they agreed to settle. The claim has attracted interest everyday. They promised since April last year to pay the man. Up to now he cannot get a cent. That cannot be fair for almost a year only to pay. It is not to say that we are negotiating. We settled. We are awaiting the cheque.

Now those are two that I know of. I am not speaking of those other matters where the court has pronounced a judgment against the Crown and the Crown has refused to settle the damages or the costs. They have quite a few of them outstanding. I am making a plea again for the Minister to ensure that the Department functions in these regards with more expedition than we have been accustomed to in the last couple of years, Sir.

The second thing I want to complain about, Sir, is in relation to responses from the Ministry about potential claims. I said in here, and it must have been about October, Sir, after we came back from recess, that there is a case

where a lady who owns 13 acres of land at Baxters, St Andrew feels justifiably that she has been wronged because the Crown trespassed on those lands and erected storage tanks. This is opposite of what is called Thompson Bridge in St. Andrew. There was a God given river, if we can call it that or a large stream, running along part of this land at Baxters. The Crown went in there, bulldozed the place, and took the natural river and diverted it where they liked. They took off an acre and a half of the woman's land. They pushed that down into the old river and up to now they have not told the lady - well you know we have gone in and done something or we sorry that we have gone in.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: This was last year. My time? I wrote three Ministries - MTW, Housing, and the Attorney General - about it. It cannot be right that you can go and dig into 13 acres of land and leave the woman stranded. If you get a heavy rain, I am told by the people in the Baxters area that they are fearful that if they get heavy rains where there must be about 10 or 15 houses around they will be subject to flooding. Not one of the Ministers replied to me. Not one of the Permanent Secretaries or any little secretary replied.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You all have not answered me yet. What do you mean that you cannot find the letter? There are three. I am going to send over for the file now and give you a copy.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order. Sir, I do not understand the Honourable Member saying not one of the Ministers replied if he only wrote one letter. There is no system by which every letter that goes to a Minister is circulated to all other Ministers. Maybe he does not know which Minister he wrote to but he should at least know which Minister should reply. You cannot say not one of the Ministers or not one of the Permanent Secretaries. I submit that he is not only frivolous and vexatious, but he is misleading the House.

Laughter.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: A little legal learning is a dangerous thing, Sir. It is true that some claims can be struck out on the ground that they are frivolous and vexatious. In this case my complaint is not frivolous and I am indeed vexed, Sir, that a letter was written to the Ministry of the Attorney General and I am sure carbon copied to MTW and Housing and nobody has replied. I raised it in here again last year, Sir, and somebody over there said *soito voce* that it was Soil Conservation. I will get a copy within the next half an hour and show the Members again.

The third point I want to make under this Head, Sir, is in relation to the travel allowances payable to the Marshals, Court Clerks, and people of that category. The Marshals are very, very dissatisfied - the Court Process Officers - that for many months now their entitlements to travelling have not been met. The Marshals, you will appreciate, Sir, serve documents for the Police and the work of the police and the Marshals cannot be satisfactorily carried out.... -

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am dealing with the police and the serving of documents on behalf of the Police by the Marshals.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Do not expand it too widely though.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: No, Sir, I am not expanding it too widely. I am making a plea, Sir, that in order to minimize the irritations being felt in the Court Processing Department....

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Do you not want me to talk about it?

Hon. M. A. KING: Not under this Head.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I will tell the Marshals that you shut me up and you did not want me to beg for money for them.

Asides.

Hon. M. A. KING: He is just like the Police, man. Mr. Chairman, he is just like the Police. He is setting traps *tot* me. That is all right.

Mr. Chairman, the Resolution before the House relates to the Police and to a specific area of the Police but the Honourable Member is speaking about Court Marshals which comes under, as far as I know, the Court Process Office. He talked about the Marshals serving documents on behalf of the Police. I thought the Marshals served documents on behalf of the Courts not the Police.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your point is taken but I will have to determine the direction that the Honourable Member was going. That is why I asked him not to expand on it.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, I did not hear you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I said the point was taken that this is not under the Head of the Police but I had asked you not to expand on it merely because I wanted to know whu> direction you were going.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I was only saying, Sir, that they take out summonses and informations on behalf of the Police.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: So you think that you have made your point.

: Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am saying they should be properly paid.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The point is made.
3.20 p.m.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Before the Minister replies, I notice from the Note to Object 12 that the vote being requested is to meet the cost of the reproduction of a highway code and the vote is broken down under three Heads. Could the Minister give the Committee some benefit of what the consultation is about, whether the work is being done outside of the regular persons who would normally prepare such a code, what input, if any, there has been from the various insurance and other associations interested in such a code, and what precedents, if any, are being followed?

I notice also art work is envisaged. Is this going to be done in-house within the Printing Department or outside?

I think the Committee is entitled to some background information before the Committee is asked to vote on this matter.

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, firstly in relation to the matter raised by the Honourable Member for St. Thomas about a claim in respect of one of his clients who had been involved in a vehicle collision with Police vehicles, he said he had put in a claim for the cost of repairs • and the Crown had taken off some \$500 and had settled at \$3 200 and he was very concerned, or vex perhaps, that that had not been paid.

I did see the file relating to this matter in which I saw an agreement on the \$3 200 and I raised a query as to why the \$500 had been taken off, in view of the fact that what had been submitted as the total cost of repairs was \$3 700.1 directed that the full cost of the repairs, even though it was *ex gratia*, be paid to the client. In addition to that, I directed also that the costs of the Honourable Member be paid.

^ If there has been some delay, Mr. Chairman, I do apologise for the length of time which it has taken, but there are so many of these claims against the Crown, a mass of them, in respect of all sorts of things. For instance, we will probably have to be coming for supplementaries in relation Jo a lot of orders for costs in relation to matters for judicial review against a number of Magistrates.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church West, Mr. Chairman, raised questions in relation to the highway code and enquired about the sum of \$20 000 for consultation. The work is being done outside of the Ministry of Legal Affairs. We have contracted a gentleman who has considerable experience in this matter to prepare and produce the code and his fee for that service, the consultation and the putting together of the relevant stuff, is \$20000.

In relation to the art work, a local firm has been contracted to do that art work and to produce camera ready copy for printing. The cost of that art work is \$10 000. Another firm has been engaged to print 30 000 copies of the code at a cost of some \$53 400 and we propose, when the code is printed and ready for publication, that the code be sold to the public at a cost of \$10 per copy. It is anticipated that the bulk of the cost, if not all of the cost, of work being done on this project will be recovered in sales of the highway code after publication.

The question that Head 30 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 35 - MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, supplementary provision is being sought under this Head in respect of inevitable expenditure for Personal Emoluments, National Insurance contributions, rental of property, maintenance of property and operation expenses.

In relation to Personal Emoluments, you will recall that the revised salaries and wages payable to the Unestablished Staff and the representation allowance payable to diplomatic staff took effect retroactively from 1st April, 1988 and arrears are payable for the period April 1988 to August 1989 and new salaries and allowances from September 1989, so that the additional amount of \$100 000 is required to cover expenditure on personal emoluments for the rest of the financial year.

National Insurance contributions, Mr. Chairman, are consequential on the increase in salaries and wages. External Service Orders of course provide for health insurance on behalf of the staff employed in the Overseas Missions. At the time of the draft Estimates it is not usual to get the actual cost of health insurance premiums, especially in places like New York, Washington and Brussels, so that these votes require to be supplemented to meet the actual cost of those health insurance premiums.

In relation to rental of property, additional provision is required as we had to relocate in Brussels because of the non- renewal of the existing lease. The cost of rents in New York went up and the real estate tax, which is a component of the rent, to give an instance, escalated from some \$18 297 to \$41 365, an increase of some 44%. In Trinidad

we had a similar provision in relation to the residence where the residence had to be changed, with an additional cost in the rent.

In relation to maintenance of property, this figure covers traditional costs of contractual arrangements for the servicing and maintenance of equipment, vehicles and buildings, insurance premiums, etc. 3.30 p.m.

It is important that the buildings, vehicles and property of the Government overseas should be properly and adequately maintained. In addition to operating expenses, the large figure covers a lot of incidental expenditure. For instance, in relation to foreign exchange losses, the rate of exchange fluctuates from time to time, and sometimes there is such a substantial loss on the exchange and we have to provide for this at regular intervals. In addition to the foreign exchange losses which showed an increase of some \$41 166 over the previous year, there is the cost of transferring persons from post. For instance, you will recall that the High Commissioner to the United Kingdom had tendered his resignation and a new High Commissioner was appointed, so the cost of that was a cost which had not been anticipated.

The term of office of the Ambassador to Venezuela came to an end and there is a new Ambassador in place, and so the figure would include the cost of that move together with reassigning an officer to Canada. So most of the costs are costs which could not have been anticipated when the draft Estimates were prepared and subsequently approved.

I beg to move that Head 35 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs - stand part.

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

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, the procedure of the House is such that it is not possible to debate or to comment on a ministerial statement immediately after it has been made. Last Friday, the 2nd February, the Rt. Honourable Prime Minister made a ministerial statement relating to events taking place in South Africa and the only way in which the Opposition could have shown their approval of that statement, having regard to the rules of the House was thumping on the Table of Parliament, and I think, Sir, to those in the gallery or elsewhere who may have noticed it or have allowed it to go unnoticed, it should have signified quite clearly that the Government of Barbados - the Government used in its correct sense, meaning both those in control of the day to day affairs and those in the Opposition are firmly behind the policy which is being pursued in relation to South Africa, and that we welcome the announcement by the President of South Africa of his intention at long last to free Nelson Mandela

and to make certain changes in the system under which South Africa has been so abominably governed over the last few years.

The party to which I belong and which I now have the honour to lead, well ahead of any country in the Commonwealth, adopted a stance of boycotting South African goods as long ago as the early fifties, even prior to the independence of Barbados, and at a time when South Africa was one of the favoured and chosen dominions of the Crown. The reason why that was done was that we abhorred the abominable system of apartheid, and in particular the treatment meted out to Mr. Milton King, a Barbadian seaman who was treated very badly and killed for drinking in a bar which turned out to be a segregated bar in South Africa. I believe our foreign policy from then up to now has clearly reflected the view that Barbadians will under no guise or at any time give countenance to any system of apartheid practised in South Africa. I take with a very great deal of reserve the announcements made by the President of South Africa. I say this because those of us in the Third World have to be very wary of events which unfold only after maximum pressure has been applied and may be misinterpreted by some countries as a sign of relaxing the pressure on South Africa. In the view of my party this is the time to maintain maximum pressure because the changes being effected are not only being effected in an *ad hoc* and piecemeal fashion, but at too slow a pace given the rights of the people involved and the denial of those rights for so long.

There is another reservation which we want to express, and it is a reservation that I hope the powers in the United States and in the United Kingdom in particular will bear in mind, that a free Mandela, the unbanning of the African National Congress and other similar organisations must not be considered as the end of the road, for there must not only be a transfer of political power in South Africa, there must be more. There must be a genuine transfer of economic power, and we cannot be satisfied with using the transfer piecemeal of political power as a reason for delaying and entrenching in another form the minority race in South Africa. I believe, Sir, that the Government will find, if it wishes, full support from both sides of the House for any strong stance which it takes in the United Nations, in the Commonwealth of Nations or elsewhere on this issue, and I am sure that the policy of boycotting South African goods will continue until justice returns to a land that should have been rightly enjoyed and shared for a long time by the majority races in South Africa. I once had an opportunity offered to me to return to Barbados from Zimbabwe via South Africa, and I was told that I had to be an honorary white and would be given special treatment. I could have taken that way and have enjoyed independence of Zimbabwe for a few more days or I could leave Zimbabwe after only eighteen hours and return to Barbados, and to me, Sir, the answer was very clear, I would have refused and I refused to stay in South Africa at . . .

any time whilst that despicable system obtained in that country. The term "honorary white" was disgusting in itself as a system offered to visitors who went to that country. I am pleased to say as well that the stance and the ideas promulgated by eminent persons including our Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Dame Nita Barrow, has been justified, and I wish again to place on record the support which this side of the House gives to a policy that I think reflects the strong feeling of the people of Barbados. I know, Sir, that during the time that I had the privilege and honour to be the Minister of External Relations for this country I was ably supported in that stance by the Honourable Member for St. Michael East who is now the Minister of Transport and Works. He was then at the United Nations, and I believe our voices were loud and clear throughout the Continent of Africa. Any statement made by our then Prime Minister, then Rt. Honourable J. M. G. Adams or by any Minister of Government was equally loud and clear on this matter. 3.40 p.m.

I have taken note of the fact that both under the Democratic Labour Party and under the Barbados Labour Party this stance has been taken in any fora and wherever we have had to put forward the case on Barbados' position on these issues. I hope it will continue and I am sure it will continue in this vein.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Sir, I rise to associate myself and the party that I belong to with the remarks made by the Honourable Member for Christ Church West which was more or less in response to what the Honourable Prime Minister said last Friday about the imminent release of Nelson Mandela.

I would also want to add that it is unfortunate that the announcement by the President, de Klerk, of South Africa about Mr. Mandela's imminent release was not made earlier.

In saying so I would want to go on to deal with one or two matters that have arisen out of the whole issue surrounding the struggle against apartheid in South Africa, especially the struggle that was put up by countries outside of South Africa and not necessarily by people within South Africa and one of the things I would want to mention is that it has been proven that a system of sanctions does work.

Such countries as the United States of America and Great Britain, have always maintained that the ones who would ultimately suffer most by a continuation of a system of sanctions and if they were to become involved in economic sanctions against South Africa as well as other sanctions, would be the Blacks.

I have often said that in a struggle of this nature an element of sacrifice would have to be made and if black

people had to be sacrificed in the manner contemplated by the President of the United States of America and the Prime Minister of Great Britain, then that would have to be the case.

It has now been shown that would not necessarily have to be so and that South Africa has been made to come to its knees and hasten the release of Nelson Mandela because the sanctions were hurting most in the pocket. It was for this reason moreso than any other that I was firmly convinced that the cricketers from the West Indies who went to South Africa should not have gone to South Africa.

There has been a lot of talk that one cannot take certain things to a supermarket, that it is important that people eat etc. Now, these arguments, when examined on the surface, would appear to make some sense but, as I said before, if blacks in other parts of the world have to make sacrifices so that blacks in South Africa are freed, then that would have to be the case.

The struggle has to be carried on at more than one front and more than one level and if in the struggle it meant that some of our sportsmen in the Caribbean had to suffer, then they should have borne that suffering with a certain amount of dignity. That is my position on that

These views that are touted by some of the columnists in the newspapers in the Caribbean, some of whom I call right wing columnists, do not really add up to much. We have one of them here in Barbados who has often maintained, quite to my surprise, that in the face of the threat of international communism, it was better for the blacks in South Africa to continue to suffer. That was because he had this warped view of a conspiracy theory of communists. It has always been a very backward and almost decrepit way of looking at world events of importance. I could not understand how someone could take that view.

All of a sudden international communism is falling like nine pins throughout Eastern Europe and other parts of the world so it does not make sense for people to maintain views like that I am glad that the unfolding of events in the last couple of weeks has now put the lie to all of the useless and unsubstantiated arguments being put forward by people of that ilk.

Once again I join with the entire House and the Government of Barbados in supporting the statement made by the Prime Minister and as the Honourable Member for Christ Church West said, it is important that we keep up the fight, that we do not relent in trying to put more pressure on South Africa to meet the conditions laid down by the ANC for the release of Nelson Mandela.

Applause.

The question that Head 35 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 39 - MINISTRY OF EMPLOYMENT,
LABOUR RELATIONS AND COM-
MUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Hon. C. A. NEBLETT: Mr. Chairman, this supplementary provision is to cover expenditure for the current financial year for the Ministry for the various departments and the statutory board underwits control.

Object No. 6 - Travel has been occasioned by the increase in travel allowances covering a period July 1, 1988 to March 31, 1989. No provisions have been made in the current Estimates.

Under Object No. 7 - Utilities, a sum of \$5 000 is required to improve the telephone system. The present system cannot be expanded since the Telephone Company no longer carries the type of instruments currently in use. The installation cost for this new equipment is \$875 and there is a monthly charge of \$1 295.75.

Under Supplies and Materials, this supplementary of \$2 000 is required to purchase supplies for electronic typewriters including correcting tapes and ribbons.

Object No. 11 - Maintenance of Property, the sum of \$1 820 is required to pay maintenance contracts for the computer and electronic typewriters and insurance of vehicles to the end of the financial year. 3.50 p.m.

Under Labour Department, Object No. 10 a sum of \$1 600 is required to purchase first aid supplies, office supplies and incidentals for the remainder of the financial year.

Under this Subhead, Object 11 \$4 600 is required to pay the service contract again for a new photocopier, typewriters and maintenance of vehicles, Furniture and Equipment for the remainder of the year.

Subhead 4, Object 12, Operating Expenses, an additional \$15 000 is required because a delegation from the Ministry is currently visiting the United States of America in connection with the Farm Labour Programme.

Under Welfare, travelling is recurring because of the increase in travel rates.

Object 11 has to do with the major repairs being carried out on bicycles, adding machines, typewriters and the upkeep of premises generally.

Under Subhead 9 - National Assistance Board, this grant is to enable the National Assistance Board to pay an increase in the cost of wages and salaries that were not accounted for in the Approved Estimates.

Under Subhead 12 - Child Care Board, the same goes for the increase in wages and salaries. As the House will appreciate, at the time of the Estimates the question of wages and salaries was not completed in terms of negotiation and increases were not settled at that date.

The question of NCC. The supplementary provision is to cover salaries and wages. Again this is related to the Estimates 1989-90 in which no provision had been made for the increase.

Mr. Chairman, Subhead 14 - Youth and Community Development. The supplementary provision is again required to cover the arrears in travel and also under Operating Expenses an amount of \$35 000 covering the amount expended under the National Youth Day.

Object 10 Supplies \$6 000. This supplementary is required to meet the cost of stationery and cleaning materials for office and 30 community centres.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 39 stand part.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: I beg to second that, Sir.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: We understand the Minister is only temporary and he would not have a good overview of the Ministry. It would be unfair for us to probe him on the details of the Ministry. When the substantive Minister comes back next month, we will take a little time on him, Sir. The mosquitoes are something else in this country.

There is a lot of bush in Welches and Warrens—"* Terrace. Send some of the NCC workers, just send like 10 ' of the 1 000 up in Warrens and Welches Terrace and help clean it up for them. The Minister of Education sitting next to you has a problem up there. He knows what I am saying. Absolutely true.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

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The question that Head 39 stand part was put a£j resolved in the affirmative without division.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1989-90 No.
13 HEAD 69 - PRIME MINISTER'S
OFFICE

*Subhead 2 — Central Emergency Relief Organization
(New).*

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, this Resolution is for the sum of \$92 624. It is required to pay for one vehicle which had been ordered but did not arrive during the last Financial Year. It is for the purchase of a vehicle and it relates to the Central Emergency Relief Organization in order to facilitate their work which of course relates to natural disasters and other emergencies which may occur at the time.

I beg to move that this stands part.

The question that Head 69 stand part was put and was resolved in the affirmative without division.

On the motion of Hon. P. M. GREAVES, seconded by Hon. B. M. TAITT, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of 2 money Resolutions in Committee of Supply and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. P. M. GREAVES, seconded by Hon. B. M. TAITT, the Resolutions were read a first and second time and agreed to. 4.00 p.m.

INSURANCE CORPORATION OF BARBADOS
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 1990

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Sir, I rise to move that this Bill be now read a second time. Sir, in so doing permit me to say that the Insurance Corporation of Barbados was set up in order principally to insure the assets and properties of the Government of Barbados and certain of the Statutory Corporations falling under the Government as well as to carry on classes of insurance business as set out in the Act.

During its early years the Corporation concentrated on insurance for the Central Government and the statutory bodies as well on ensuring the property of public officers. Thereafter business was gradually extended to include insurance services to the general public. In 1981 the Corporation further expanded its scope of activities to include inward reinsurance through the acceptance of compulsory cesses of 10% on property business written from all general insurance companies operating in Barbados. These were later expanded to include miscellaneous accident business as well, Sir. In 1983, the Corporation set up a Group Medical Insurance Department - to do the business of underwriting in those areas.

^A Sir, all of these activities fell within the scope of the Act establishing the Corporation and that particular

Corporation, Sir, has been very successful in managing its affairs. It has grown steadily down through the years, so much so, Sir, that in order for it to continue to perform its business efficiently, effectively, and speedily certain amendments are now being proposed.

First of all, Sir, in respect of capital profits and reserves, the authorized capitalization of the Corporation is currently set at \$3 million and the legislation provides for increases in the authorized capital from time to time as the Board may determine. However, Sir, the procedure by which such increases in the authorized capital may be effective is not set and the purpose of this amendment is to put in place a mechanism whereby any future increase in the authorized capital may be effected. The procedure proposed is that a transfer from the general reserves or profits or from both of them should be made of such amount as the Board determines that it wishes for the increase of the capitalization. In this particular way the increase would come not from any injection of funds by the Government but out of the Corporation itself.

Sir, as far as the setting up of the reserves, general or special contingency, or other kinds of special reserves may be concerned the Corporation set up two reserves. One of these is the General Reserve and the other one is the Contingency Reserve so that the Corporation may have access to funds immediately to meet any possible claim which may arise out of disasters or similar situations. There is an indication, Sir, in the legislation that the proportion of funds that can be transferred from the net profit in any year to the General Reserve is set out in the legislation and 25% of the net profit may be transferred to the General Reserve where the reserve is equal to less than the authorized capital and 12 1/2% where the reserve is equal to or less than twice the authorized capital.

A problem has arisen, Sir, administratively and that is that the value of the risks undertaken by the Corporation and retained for its net account continues to grow each year and the Corporation's catastrophe reinsurance treaties will cover a large percentage of the value of the risks underwritten in the event of loss. These are based on the concept of maximum probable loss.

Sir, over the past few years the reinsurance market has tightened considerably and the Corporation has considerable claims in this particular area which have had to be paid out. I am advised that there is a reduced reinsurance capacity worldwide thereby resulting in an increase in the premiums for reinsurance - that is higher rates have to be paid. Sir, it is therefore very important that the capitalization of the Corporation in those circumstances should be increased from its present level of \$3 million and that the build-up of the General Reserve should be accelerated. Part of the purpose of the amendment is to ensure that there is a procedure under which this may be done.

As far as the change in title of the Chief Executive is concerned, Sir, currently the Chief Executive is designated as Manager but with the development of the Corporation and accordance with general practice in the insurance industry and in relation sound management and administrative practices, Sir, the heads of the various sections within the enterprise are at the level of manager and generally speaking persons at that level are designated as manager. It is, therefore, somewhat inappropriate that the Chief Executive should also be designated as manager when you have persons at a lower level carrying out the functions of manager. Also, Sir, in dealing with other insurance companies, the Manager of the Insurance Corporation may be dealing with a general manager from another corporation and they may be doing the same business, but as far as the designation it may appear as though the Chief Executive of the Insurance Corporation is at a lower level than the counterpart with whom he may be dealing. So the Corporation has indicated that it wishes the title of the Chief Executive Officer to be changed from Manager to Managing Director.

Sir, I think these are really the principal purposes of amendment. There is also a section relating to service with the Corporation. This is basically to ensure that those persons who may be transferred from the Civil Service to the Corporation do not suffer any loss in terms of either status, pension, or other rights. The purpose of the Amendment is to safeguard the position as far as that is concerned.

With those words, Sir, I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I beg to second that, Sir, and reserve my right to speak. 4.10p.m.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Mr. Speaker, in lending our support at the Second Reading stage to these amendments, there are one or two matters I should like to raise in the hope that some debate would be generated this afternoon.

I believe at this stage that the insurance industry in Barbados has become very sophisticated and many different classes of insurance are now being offered. A certain level of sophistication is also expected of those persons handling these types of insurance. The Prime Minister mentioned the problems of reinsurance, which I would like to get into at some later stage, but even when we come to reinsurance there is the need for the personnel servicing the industry to be sophisticated in their dealings with other insurance executives that they might come into contact with from abroad.

One of the things which has to be looked at in the insurance industry in Barbados is the question of qualifications of the personnel handling insurance business

in Barbados. I know that the Insurance Institute offers courses in insurance and at the higher levels of operation some General Managers and Managers are very well qualified. I am not knocking the industry in any way, because even though we might have some General Managers in Barbados who are not qualified, this does not mean that they do not have the experience, nor does it mean that over the years they have not served the industry very well.

I believe, as the Member for St. Philip North has just hinted *sotto voce*, that there is need for some regulation in so far as personnel in the industry are concerned. I know the Supervisor of Insurance has the authority to issue a certificate, in a way, saying who is an agent, who is a broker and so on, but I am thinking beyond that.

I know there is a problem in Barbados now as to how - people might be trained, in which system. Our industry has three influences, as it were. There is the English influence, the Canadian influence and the American influence in so far as practice in insurance matters is concerned in Barbados. The problems associated with that were very well set out by Claude Denbow in his book *The Law of Insurance*, which was a study of the Caribbean law on insurance.

You have personnel being trained according to the English system and you have some being trained within the Canadian scheme. I do not know of any that are being trained in the American scheme, but I know for sure Canada and the United Kingdom. There is always some little problem as to whether or not people holding a Canadian qualification are better placed than people holding an English qualification to advise on these matters.

These are matters that the insurance industry itself should look after and should regulate, but there is always an underlying current of jealousy in relation to people trained in one system and people trained in another system. I do not think that augurs well for the future of insurance in Barbados in so far as training is concerned. As I said, we are becoming sophisticated and we need people who are sophisticated in their training and their thinking to deal with matters of these kinds.

I am calling on the Insurance Institute of Barbados to recognise and realise that the system of insurance in Barbados we have inherited is influenced not only by the English influence but by American and Canadian influence, and in a way anybody trained in any one of these systems is just as well placed as anybody else to advise on matters of insurance. Some policies, for example, have some clauses that are peculiar to America, some clauses that are peculiar to Canada and Great Britain and so on, so this is one area¹⁵ that I think we need to pay some attention to and that some¹⁶ regulation in so far as the personnel are concerned has to be examined.

We are dealing with a matter pertaining to the ICB. Over the years, especially during the last couple of weeks, I have had some problems in settling a claim with the Insurance Corporation of Barbados. A habit has now developed in the Insurance Corporation of Barbados in relation to loss of use.

~ Recently I had a matter where a person was claiming a
 •^ very small sum involving a loss of use of a vehicle claim. This vehicle was involved in an accident some time around Christmas and it was in the garage for a week longer than was anticipated. The garage said they would have completed the work in about ten days, but they did not say ten days from when. It transpired that they started to work on the 7th of the month and not on the 1st of the month, so that the vehicle was lying in the garage for seven days not being worked on. When the claim for loss of use was being
 -looked at, the Insurance Corporation said they would only
 «''' pay for ten days, which is the ten days in which the garage said they would be able to complete the work.

I argued with the gentleman who was processing the claim that it could not be right to so penalise the owner of the motor vehicle. Lo and behold, when they sent me the cheque recently it was, just as he had said that he would settle the claim, minus seven days. Even though he might ^> have some point, as he argued that I would have to try and ^ claim the other seven days from the garage, I do not think that such a practice ought to be encouraged in the industry. It is not the best thing to do, because a lot of things can follow as a result of that. One of the things is that a garage can tell you they can repair your motor car but they can only start on a particular date and I do not think that is the kind of situation that ought to be encouraged.

I do not intend to let the matter rest there, I intend to pursue and recover loss of use for the other seven days, but it is a matter I believe, Sir, you might want to take up with ~. the Corporation, because there is some difficulty in settling claims with that body. They always lend to argue and haggle over small matters and unnecessarily delay the processing of claims. That is one criticism I can make of the Insurance Corporation of Barbados.

One of the things which is also causing problems in the industry is the insurance of motor cycles. There are still some difficulties there and I know there are a lot of other areas in insurance that we need to examine to see if we can work out some mechanism for providing necessary coverage for persons in difficult circumstances when it comes to insuring risks. 4.20 p.m.

I have called on more than one occasion I believe, and
 ' other Members have done that long before me, for a system of no fault insurance to be introduced into Barbados. I do
 "AOW know if the industry in Barbados is ready for it yet, but
 (* in view of what the Prime Minister said about the

difficulties in obtaining reinsurance, one wonders whether we ought not to examine this call in the light of that difficulty. I believe that no fault insurance can bring a lot of benefits to Barbados. Certainly for one the introduction of no fault insurance might help to reduce the cost of reinsurance coverage to Barbados. It is all a question of whether or not we are ready for a system of no fault insurance. I do not know how much study has gone into it; I do not have the resources to put into a complete study of the practicability of no fault insurance to Barbados; there might be some figure, some statistics that I am not aware of, but certainly, looking on as an impartial observer, I would believe that the time is right for us to pay some attention to whether or not we ought to have a system of no fault insurance in Barbados, and as I said, there might be significant benefits that we could gain from introducing such a system to Barbadians.

This would also form part of the need to educate and further educate Barbadians about the need for insurance coverage. I do not think that it is a problem, but certainly judging from the amount of house fires that have taken place in Barbados over the years and house fires in situation where people don't have coverage for the houses that are destroyed, it might very well be important that we try and work out some strategy to encourage people to have their homes insured. I have said in here before, I don't know how practical an idea it is, but one might very well have to consider, if the current spate of house fires continues, a system of compulsory insurance for houses even in a situation where it is not a mortgagor/mortgagee relationship, but it is certainly important that we examine this area as well. I don't know how much work has gone into studies about the amount of damage that house fires cause, the complete capital destruction of very expensive houses. People do not insure some chattel houses, and then they become burdensome on the state apparatus to provide them with temporary housing. As it is at the moment this is very difficult to do, to find houses through the National Housing Corporation to temporarily house any person at all. So that one has got to look at these areas to see whether it is possible to reduce the burden and the suffering that can be caused when a person does not have a house insured and that house is destroyed by fire.

There is also one other thing, Sir, I would like to comment on, and it is the fact that Insurance Companies in Barbados are mandated by law to cede 10 per cent of all business contracted to the Insurance Corporation of Barbados. In other words, insurance companies doing business in Barbados must cede 10 per cent of the business contracted by them to the Insurance Corporation of Barbados. Now I don't know what is the need for this. I have never found out what was the rationale. I have searched and have asked questions about it, but it is written into the law that 10 per cent of the business done by insurance companies here must be ceded to the Insurance Corporation of Barbados, and they decide what types of

business they would take, and normally they don't take the high profile risks like motor and health. They take risks that would involve great profits to them. For example, they would take property and other miscellaneous lines that would be of some benefit to them, and they don't take risks like motor and health that have high risks at stake.

Now to my mind, in a competitive environment, I do not think that this ought to be encouraged and it is not enough to say that they assume 10 per cent of the risks. They assume 10 per cent of the risks it is true, but I believe that they gain more than 10 per cent of the profits, so that in a situation of freedom of contract I do not think that this is a situation that ought to be encouraged. I think the Insurance Corporation of Barbados has been existing long enough now that it ought to be able to stand on its own feet and not, as it were, prey on other insurance companies in the manner that it does at the moment. I think that we need to look at the law again and make some effort to encourage the Insurance Corporation of Barbados to drop that demand that 10 per cent of all business be ceded to them.

Those, Sir, were some of the views that I wanted to share with the House this afternoon in the hope that some debate can be generated in these and other areas that Members may feel need to embark upon.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, the Barbados Labour Party Opposition does not have any objections to the amendments to the legislation pertaining to the Insurance Corporation of Barbados, which are being introduced in the House today. As we understand it, what is intended here is that the Government is interested in strengthening the capital base of the company in a way that does not require a transfer through the budget and in view of the fact that the value of the risks the Corporation is being asked to undertake continues to grow from year to year, one obviously can identify with that objective. Indeed even if we were required to have to strengthen the capital base of the Insurance Corporation of Barbados by transfers through the budget, it might even be a worthwhile venture because the Insurance Corporation of Barbados, Sir, has been one of those remarkably successful state corporations. In the course of the last two years the transfers to the Consolidated Fund from the profits of the Insurance Corporation of Barbados have been in excess of the \$3 million in share capital that the Government of Barbados has invested in the Insurance Corporation of Barbados, and its contribution has not only been through the profit that it has realised and its contribution to the Consolidated Fund and hence the general running of the economy, but it has made a number of investments in the Barbados Development Bank, the Barbados Mortgage Finance Corporation, in the area of housing through the holding of National Housing Bonds, in the development of our energy resources through the holding of National Gas Debentures, and even has made loans, Sir, to the National union of Public Workers, which shows that it has not only an interest

in the corporate sector as such, but it has a remarkable interest as well in the development of the trade union sector as well.

When one takes account of the way in which this institution has assisted in the development of the captive insurance industry in Barbados, it was in fact one of the first institutions which established a management company,¹ I am sure the Government owns equity in SEDWICK and" -- Government's involvement in the SEDWICK management company was in fact one of the pioneering steps made to give full effect to the captive insurance legislation under which Barbados has benefited so tremendously in recent times. So this institution, in the course of its ten years, has been a tremendous success, and would give the lie to those who believe that state enterprises cannot be run professionally and cannot be run profitably, in such a manner as to exercise not only a commercial function but[^] also to exhibit a social conscience as well. [^]

My concerns, Sir, not controversial concerns, have to do with things contained in the Annual Report on which I think the House would benefit from an update. It is stated in the Annual Report, Sir, that the Corporation was about to broaden its scope of operations by going into the pension business and it proposed to go into the pension business, so says the Annual Report for 1988, by introducing a pension[^] scheme for the staff of Statutory Corporations, and that this -" scheme was expected to become operational in 1989. - 4.30 p.m.

I am asking for an update from the Minister of Finance as to exactly what is the position in relation to that particular venture, not only to the extent to which it represents an initiative by the Insurance Corporation to go into a field that is not one in which it is traditional to do, but because in another section of the Report the Corporation considered that it had reached the stage where it would have to give consideration to its need to diversify its investment^{""} portfolio in the light of its impending entry into the pension business so that the two things were consequential with each other, its going into the pension business and providing a pension scheme for the employees of statutory corporations, a major new initiative on the part of the Corporation. Its stock would have required it to change, modify and diversify its investment portfolios.

Sir, I am merely seeking an update from the Minister^{*} of Finance if the scheme is now in operation and what is its^v character, and in what precise ways has the Insurance Corporation diversify its investment portfolio given the fact that its former investment portfolio gave rise to investment income of over \$1.3 million a year in income for the Corporation.

2>

The \$20 million of investment that the Corporation[^] held up to 1988, a large part of it was held in term deposits^j with the commercial banking system and one wonders, of .-[^]

course, if in the context of the existing liquidity situation in the banking system whether any diversification of the investment portfolio of the Corporation would adversely impact on that

I would hardly imagine that it would want to diversify by divesting itself of stock of institutions like the Light & "Power, by divesting itself of Government Debentures or matters of that character. Those are my precise concerns to find out from the Minister of Finance exactly if the Corporation has made its venture into the pension business and if that is a sign that the pension business will become an area of concern and growth for the Corporation in the future and if, indeed, that move has brought about any changes in the investment portfolio of the Corporation and if so, in what direction.

I am obliged to you.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: Mr. Speaker, just one comment and it relates to the last comment made by the Honourable Member for St. Peter.

What is not probably generally known is that when we deal with Life Insurance Companies as opposed to Casualty Companies we traditionally here in Barbados tend to think that only Life Companies get involved in pension funds but in the Casualty areas when you move outside of the area of Barbados, you find that they either specialize in auto, home and those areas and they all get involved in the Pension Fund because that tends to be a stabilizer compared with the volatility that you find especially within the auto market.

Aside.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: Maybe he will listen a little ~ while, Sir. I listened to him.

Now, also for the Honourable Member for St. George South, just his other comments in terms of the introduction and whether or not we utilize the U.K. method or the U.S. method.

I think that we will find that over the period of time in terms of whether it be the Insurance Institute of New York or the insurance training within the U.K., they all lend to evolve in the 1990's in Barbados contrary to what was in the 1950's or 1960's.

I recall in 1975 lecturing to the Life Underwriters' Association. Most people do not know that I have spent a number of years in insurance rating and actuarial work, but - at that time here in Barbados nobody wanted to sell term insurance. Term insurance in 1975 in this country was a 'No, No'. I recall lecturing and even the report in the paper on the following day where I was attacked by the same

insurance people to whom I was speaking, where they said term insurance would never be accepted in Barbados. Why? Because it had not been tried at the time. Now-a-days, term insurance is a norm in Barbados.

I just brought that up in relation to two areas with the pension fund - (1) it is something that can happen not necessarily associated only with Life Companies, and (2) the question raised by the Honourable Member for St. George South about whether or not the experience of the U.K. or the U.S.A. could be used with that

I believe a combination of both has actually developed over the years, whether you use it in terms of your rating, your policy writing, or what have you, but we have at this time matured and I just wanted to address those two.

Thank you very much.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, if I may just reply briefly to some of the comments that have been raised during the course of this debate.

I should like to preface my remarks by stating that insurance and re-insurance are of fundamental importance to the operation of business in this country, in the development of the social sectors generally and of the Insurance Corporation of Barbados established under the Barbados Labour Party Government, although it did have some antecedents before that. We are not trying to deny the record and it is one of the Corporations which has been successful in its operations.

I myself, from very early on, indicated my own confidence in that particular enterprise by taking out some insurance with that Corporation so I can declare my own interest in this. I am insured for some of my risks in that particular Corporation.

Aside.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: That is an indication of the caution. But it was because of the fact that they have established a reputation for good business practice and sound and timely administration of the matters that come before them that they have been able to build up their reputation.

Of course, Sir, the area of insurance and re-insurance is fraught with many problems and many difficulties, especially if you are in the area of property insurance and there are all of the imponderables for which one has to make some precautionary arrangement and which, as an insurer, you may not be able to foresee. It is in these areas that one has to be very cautious. In that a number of insurance enterprises in other countries particularly have foundered.

I think that through a very sensible approach to this problem the Insurance Corporation of Barbados has built up experience and expertise. It has expanded its area of operations on a relatively gradual basis and if, at this time, it is contemplating entering into the area of pension funds in the Annual Report as indicated by the Honourable Member for St. Peter, if it is venturing into this particular area, it is approaching it with a measure of caution. 4.40 p.m.

It is not tumbling over itself to get it done in a hurry. But it is taking it step by step and I have not been advised that the whole arrangement has been completed yet. But it is an area, Sir, which is of tremendous importance. The area of pensions such as is being contemplated is very important not only for the insurer but also for the insured. People wish to know that the funds that they may set aside from week to week or from month to month or from year to year are there when they need them at the time of retirement or whenever that designated time is; and it also calls for a high measure of prudence for the person who garners the funds to invest those funds in prudent ways and in ways that will really ensure that they are returns on the monies invested so that when the demands and the claims are to be met that they can be met.

In answer to the question, I would say that, subject to the fact - I do not have the specifics on this matter before me and that is indeed part of the area - I believe that successive Ministers have allowed the Corporation to conduct its affairs without any undue interference, in their day to day management. So if the question is asked, as has been raised, I will seek to get the information and so advise the Honourable Member on that particular matter.

But he is quite right, Sir, that the corporation itself is playing a very important role of intermediation in terms of the gathering of funds and then the investing of funds in a variety of ways. I did not know of the investment. What did you say, loans to the National Union of Public Workers? I know that they do play a significant role in social development. I do not know if they have got as far as the St. Peter development football activities and so on down there. They sponsor certain activities.

Aside.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: In St. Philip North? I think, Sir, this is a possibility and we can be sure as a House that it has been carrying out the functions of the legislation, as approved by this Honourable Chamber.

As far as no-fault insurance is concerned, I heard that particular form of insurance raised in this House before. I believe a former Minister of Transport and Works or Communicauons and Works raised this matter but I do not think that the industry has advanced anywhere in terms of no fault insurance. Indeed in some states of the United

States, if my memory serves me right, where no-fault insurance has been put into operation it has not been without its problems. There are some in New Zealand as well. I did not know the experience of New Zealand, but I know it applies to some of the states of the United States and it has not been without its problems. But I think, Sir, it does solve some problems as well. I believe that the industry would give this matter its further- and mature^ consideration.

I think those relate to the major issues that have been raised. I really do not know of the day to day problems of dealing with individual claims and so on and the problems that Honourable Members may have. I believe that the Member for St. Peter would have had - he has had - a good relationship with the corporation also. We can both speak about the professionalism of the corporation.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

*

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. P. M. GREAVES, seconded by Hon. B. M. TAITT, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. L. L. * BRATHWATTE in the Chair.*

COMMITTEE

Clauses 1 to 4 inclusive were called and were passed without debate.

Clause 5 was called.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to^ move that Clause 5 stand part.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I beg to second that, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is that Clause 5 stand part.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I just wanted the Prime Minister's attention.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: No. This is a constructive point. When he looks at the investment portfolio of the corporation for 1988 he will see that the investments are in a rather narrow compass, Government debentures,^ development bonds, sugar industry bonds and some loans to Barbados Mortgage Finance Company that my friend spokV

of.

I just wish to throw it out that I hope that Government will give active consideration to and, if worthy of implementation, then implementation of a policy which would allow some of our successful companies to invest overseas in good securities. I think there are advantages to be gained for Barbados from that.

I seem to recall that many years ago the Central Bank of Barbados made some limited investments overseas for itself with, of course, ministerial permission. Government has to.....

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: When that happens we can reconsider the position but right now I am not talking about South Africa at all.

I think that Government has to look for investment opportunities that will give the best rate of return on investment.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is...

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Sir, I would just reply very briefly by saying that this whole question of the investment policies, in particular local investment as opposed to overseas investment, is one which I have under active consideration. There are arguments on both sides about the investment of funds,

- (1) whether we should invest the funds in terms of developments inside of the country so that there can be a greater turnover of economic activity inside of the country, and also
- (2) opposed to that view in terms of investment overseas particularly in areas that may be buoyant and particularly in areas which may be very safe.

4.50 p.m.

Sir, we recall at one stage however in colonial times that there were investments from Barbados in South Africa. I think those were changed during the more progressive eras. I believe even now occasionally there has been investment in other Caribbean territories as well. But (he Honourable Member has raised an area there and I will certainly give further examination to this.

The question that Clause 5 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clauses 6 and 7 were called and passed.

[^] *On the motion of Hon. P. M. GREAVES, seconded by Hon. B. M. TAITF, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of*

one Bill in Committee to HIS HONOUR The SPEAKER, 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.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE VESTING IN THE NATIONAL HOUSING CORPORATION OF A PARCEL OF LAND KNOWN AS COLLINGTON, CRANE, ST. PHILIP

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this land at Crane was acquired by the Government in its continuing effort to provide sites and services in most of the parishes of Barbados. This land, Mr. Speaker, was fairly advanced as far as development is concerned when it was bought by the Government. Electricity had already been installed. A lot of the roads had already been put in and a lot of the slipper drains had already been done. The surveying work also had been done and water had been installed to most of the area so we felt this was a good area where the Government acquired the land with sites and services for housing.

At the time this land was acquired the National Housing Corporation did not have any sites and services programme in the parish of St. Philip at all. Given that the site falls within the area allocated for residential development in the physical development plan and that the parish of St. Philip was experiencing a very high population growth rate, it was proposed and agreed that the Cabinet should acquire the site. We cannot dispose of the land obviously unless we vest it in the National Housing Corporation and that is what I do now propose.

I move that the House approves this Resolution in seeking the vesting of this land in the National Housing Corporation.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: We are not going to be long. We are supporting this. I just want to take the opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to make a plea to the Minister of Housing again. Last year June I, in accordance with his instruction, gave his Permanent Secretary five different dates and times on which I would have been available to do a drive through certain parts of St. Thomas with a view

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: and who told him to do that because I did that....to look at certain areas that might have been suitable for acquisition for housing development in particular house spots. They promised to get back to me, Sir, to fix a time and it never happened. But I just want to

say, Sir, that it is not the Minister's fault I gave the Permanent Secretary the information and I am not attacking anybody. I just want to say, Sir, that the problem of house spots in Barbados is a very pressing and serious one. I know Government has certain plans for the moving of the Venezuelan project up to Cane Gardens. But there is a particular area in St. Thomas which I have spoken of in here every year in the hope that something would be done but nothing has been done and it is 40 acres otherwise known as Vacluse Tenantry which has no proper roads or mains and some light There is a nice expanse of land which could be acquired by Government to do a proper development of house spots.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: This is not agricultural land at all. No, no. It is completely off the road in Bridgefield. It will not incur the usual criticisms of the Opposition. There is agricultural land also on the way to Arch Hall on that main road before you get to the big white house, the Cummins property.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: No, you pass the chickens at Bennetts. There are no potatoes there.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Now I am s'ure the Honourable Member knows that I will give him some room but do not stretch it that far. That will come. I will let you make the point.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: All right, Sir, I will wind up then since I promised that I would not be long. The top soil at that piece of land in Arch Hall is about an inch and I do not think anybody would quarrel if Government acquired it At the same time it would form a buffer against the possibility of fire and we have had fires under the bluff at Mangrove Pond nearly every year, Sir. 5.00 p.m.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker, I take what the Honourable Member for St Thomas was saying, but the Honourable Member for St. Thomas must know that after the Venezuelan houses have been built at Cane Garden, and despite the fact that the remainder of the Venezuelan houses will be built at Cane Garden, St. Thomas, that there are over 50 lots remaining in St. Thomas, so the point I am getting at is that it is okay to go to visit St. Thomas with the Honourable Member, but if there are already 60 lots available in St. Thomas I would think that the Honourable Member should look first at how those 60 lots could be utilised for the people of St. Thomas before going somewhere else.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Sir. He said 50 lots at one stage, he said 60 lots at another. This is the first time the House has been told there were 60 or 50 lots available at Cane Garden. I was not taking him anywhere other than another quarter of a mile up the road, round the bend, past Bridgefield and into Vacluse Tenantry, still in St Thomas. I will not carry him out of the[^] parish.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker, I do not know the exact number of lots that will be left back, but they will be about 50. The point I am getting at, there are about 50 lots remaining in Cane Garden after the remaining Venezuelan houses are built. A construction firm has written the Ministry asking that they be allowed to enter into a joint venture with the Ministry with those lots and we have put that on hold for the time being, until we have discussed the matter with the representative for St. Thomas* He already has 50 lots, so there is no sense going on a visif[^] where he has the lots already.

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

QUESTION TIME

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St."^{v*}
John, Question No. 108.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, Question No. 108 reads as follows:

To ask the Minister of Transport and Works:

1. Is the Minister aware of the absence of a tenantry road at Sunbury, St. Philip? „
2. Is the Minister aware that there have been over J specific promises by successive governments to effect the building of the road? „
3. If the answer to 2 above is in the positive, will the Minister please state the date of the proposed commencement of building the road?

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, the reply Parliamentary Question No. 108 asked by the Honourable[^] Member for St. John is as follows:

The Minister is aware of the absence of a proper road at Sunbury and proposes to undertake construction of a new road in the Development Plan period within the context of the special tenantry roads programme. r-

Mr. SPEAKER: Question No. 119, the Honourable Member for St. Thomas.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, Question No. 119 reads as follows:

To ask the Prime Minister:

1. Will the Minister please state:
 - (a) how many public officers have been granted study leave to pursue a course of study leading to an award of the Bachelor of Laws Degree at the University of the West Indies for the academic year 1989-90;
 - (b) the positions or status of said public officers in the Civil Establishment of Barbados;
 - (c) whether the said public officers have been granted leave on full pay, half pay or no pay?

RL Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, the reply to Parliamentary Question No. 119 asked by the Honourable Member for St. Thomas is as follows:

Three public officers consisting of the Chief Labour Officer and two Police Sergeants have been granted study leave to pursue the Bachelor of Laws degree at the University of the West Indies for the academic year 1989-1990. They have all been granted study leave on half pay.

Mr. SPEAKER: End of Question Time.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, that brings us to the end of Government Business for the day. I move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 20th February, 1990 at 12.00 noon.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly. 5.05 p.m.

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