

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1986 - 91

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, July 24, 1990

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 12.20 p.m. o'clock.

PRESENT

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

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

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

Hon. E. E. GREAVES, B.A., Ed.M., (Minister of Trade, Industry and Commerce)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mr. E. BOURNE

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. - 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, the 17th July, 1990.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Minutes of the proceedings of this Honourable Chamber for the meeting that was held on the 17th July, 1990 be taken as read and approved, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: There being no corrections or observations, let these Minutes stand confirmed.

PAPERS

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Prime Minister and by the command of the Cabinet, I beg to lay:

The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) Order, 1990.

The Defence (Rate of Pay and Allowances) (Amendment) Regulations, 1990.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

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

A Bill to amend the Stamp Duty Act.

I also want to state, before I take my seat, that, with the leave of the House, we will seek to have this matter done in all stages today, if that is the will of the House.

FIRST READINGS OF BILLS

On the motion of Hon. P. M. GREAVES, seconded by Hon. B. M. TAITT, a Bill to amend the Stamp Duty Act was read a first time.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Mr. SPEAKER: Government Business is the Order of the Day. Order No. 2.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (GENERAL) (AMENDMENT) ORDER, 1990

Order No. 2 was called - To move the passing of a resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) Order, 1990.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker this particular Order that is before us, the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) Order, 1990 seeks to increase the strength of the Royal Barbados Police Force. It is part of a response, Sir, to a request for an expansion in the force, as submitted by the relevant authorities.

What we are seeking to do here is to provide an additional intake of 25 Constables in order that the resources available to the Royal Barbados Police Force may be increased. This provision of 25 providing for an additional intake will enable an orderly and phased expansion in the resources available to the force, so that it can carry out its role of maintaining law and order in our society.

Sir, when we hear of the term "order", a number of responses are evoked and these relate to the need for people to go about their lawful activities in society without undue cause for alarm, without molestation and without cause for concern. The term "order" relates to a period of peace and harmony or a state or condition in which peace and harmony prevails, there is public tranquility, there is absence of confusion or disturbance. Sir, the term holds out * much emotional significance for people and sometimes politicians for their own purposes which may have very little to do with order in the society, use it for their own purposes as a political rallying cry. Such persons who seek to use the term in that way are speaking not from the perspective of strengthening the social fabric of society but they may have some ulterior motive from which they may be operating.

One thing is sure, Sir, if we are seeking to maintain a stable society, if we are seeking to work together co-operatively, in society, there are certain standards of conduct which must be enforced, which must be maintained and departure from the accepted codes of behaviour, deviance and other forms of non-conformity should be kept within certain bounds, all, of course, Sir, in terms of the fundamental rights and liberties that are accorded by our Constitution to the people of Barbados. 12.30p.m.

I do not wish on this occasion to go into any long historical derivation of how we have arrived at our position today, Sir, but I believe it will be recognised that each society has identified certain actions on the part of the members of that particular society as being inherently wrong, and there are other forms of actions which the society prohibits, because that particular society believes that those particular actions or activities should not be tolerated in the society.

There is a distinction which has been recognised long ago and I believe the former kind of actions or injuries have been termed *mala in se*, they are wrong in themselves, inherently wrong, and those which the society for reasons peculiar to that particular society determines should be prohibited, these may be termed *mala prohibita*. They correspond largely to those crimes which are considered as public wrongs - the public wrongs are termed as crimes - and those which relate to the private persons, the private parties, those kinds of injuries are designated as torts.

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Each society has had to devise some code of behaviour, some kind of law whereby the activities and the actions of the members of the society should be controlled. Some 2 100 years or so before the birth of Christ there was the Code of Hammurabi and in that we have a very early description of the *lex talionis* and responsibilities of «., individuals one to another, and if that particular responsibility was not carried out, then certain actions were taken against that particular individual.

Sir, then somewhat later we moved into the Mosaic law which sought to standardise the offences and which was based on the principle, or the theory largely of retribution. I will spare the House and the Member for St. Peter, for whom this is virgin territory, but I have always been a teacher of his, so he can learn in this particular regard, and I am sure that the Leader of the minority Opposition, if this kind of historical picture was not correct could, of course, learned Member as he is, certainly correct me.

I will not go through the period of the Anglo-Saxon rule and the actions of Alfred the Great in these particular areas, Sir, and how they organised their society for the preservation of law and order, but in those times a lot of the enforcement of law and order was a matter for individual citizens within their own community organisations to seek to enforce and to preserve.

If I can come down to the time 1829 when Sir Robert Peel started his reforms and introduced his arrangements for the London Police Force, the Metropolitan Police Force, Sir, that period of time from 1829 onwards is an important date for the development of police services, certainly as far as the United Kingdom is concerned.

What we note is that today all civilised societies, all societies, seek to have laws which they require their citizens to enforce, which they require their citizens to comply with. Sir, this is so basic and it is so because we cannot live in civil society unless there is respect for life, unless there is respect for property and unless the people who live in a community work together co-operatively for their common objectives.

Sir, from time to time, and at certain periods in the history of countries, people get particularly concerned and worried about law and order and the preservation of a state of tranquility. I recall that in the 1960s in the United States there was a lot of concern expressed about the state of civil society in that country, there were many protests and there were many other kinds of activities which tended to put the law enforcing agencies under considerable pressure.

Sir, today in Barbados some social commentators have referred to the fact that there are certain signs which indicate that there is need for a strengthening of the law enforcement resources so that those who commit themselves to deviant behaviour could be controlled within the framework of the laws that are on our statute book.

It is against that background, Sir, that my Government states that it is prepared to take whatever steps may be necessary to strengthen the law enforcement agencies so that they can carry out the functions as set out in the statute book of this country. 12.40p.m.

It is also within the framework of our Constitution and of our laws, we have a Royal Barbados Police Force and there are offences against the law which are set out. Persons who may be apprehended or who may be charged with offences against the law have guaranteed under our criminal justice system the kinds of resources which would enable them to ensure that they have a fair trial. But it is the function of the Royal Barbados Police Force to preserve law and order and to call upon agencies or individuals to assist them where necessary as determined by that body to carry out the mission which the body has been given under the law.

Now, Sir, what this particular Civil Establishment Order, 1990 seeks to do is to provide for the establishment of 25 posts of constable, and the cost is estimated at \$466 350, and it represents the first phase in the examination of a total request which the Ministry of Legal Affairs, as the Ministry responsible for Police matters has been considering. The total request is as follows: 100 special constables - this is as determined by the Ministry of Legal Affairs - to be deployed as station drivers, sentries, miscellaneous drivers and at the courts, and 68 constables. The 25 constables which the House is now being asked to provide affirmatively are included in that number of 68. These 68 constables are being requested for general patrol, for CID activities, for the drug squad and task force within the Royal Barbados Police Force. The Ministry is also seeking some 55 clerical officers to allow the police officers presently carrying out duties in areas such as telecommunications, personnel, general clerical duties and operations control to be released so that they may undertake those tasks which require the kinds of training for which they have been exposed.

Sir, the total cost of the staff I have just identified, that is, the 100 special constables, the 68 constables and the 55 clerical officers would amount to some \$3 million, and that does not take into account the cost for the 25 posts of constable which I have already indicated is estimated at \$466 350.

Sir, a number of issues have been raised recently in respect of the classification, and I would like to clear up a few issues here because this seems to be the season when persons for reasons best known to themselves seek to create all kinds of misunderstanding and to try to make out that things are so much worse than even they themselves are saying. I would just like to make the point, Sir, that the vast majority of people in Barbados are law abiding citizens who seek to go about their activities in a lawful way, and the law breakers represent a small percentage of the population of this country, but it is a percentage which if it is not held within the limits of discipline and of the bounds of law and order could get out of control. We do not wish that to happen and we are taking the necessary steps in order to do this. This particular action that my Government

is taking here today represents therefore a positive response to the need for additional resources to keep the line against persons who would seek to destroy the social order in Barbados by their deviant behaviour.

At the final meeting of the Classification Committee, Sir, with the Police Association, which was held on 30th January, 1990, I am advised that the principal difference with the Association was in three parts. First of all, the Association was contending that the maximum salary of constable should be increased to \$24 000. The Committee had recommended an increase from \$20 556 to \$22 440. Secondly, Sir, the differential between the minimum salary of the Superintendent and that of the Senior Superintendent was too great; that was the second difference as I understand it that existed between the Association and the Classification Committee. And the third area of difference was, Sir, that there were some senior constables who were unlikely ever to be promoted and who should therefore be adequately remunerated. That was the argument advanced.

In this respect the Association considered that 16 years' service before the long service increment is awarded was too long. In a memorandum dated 9th February, 1990, to the Association, the matters raised by the Association were responded to with some proposals for adjustment, and what was proposed, Sir, from the negotiators on behalf of the Government was that the figure of \$24 000 per annum being the maximum of a constable's salary would be achieved no later than the next salaries revision; so we were addressing that particular point by saying that at the next salaries revision we would seek to achieve the maximum of \$24 000 for the constable. 12.50 p.m.

In terms of the second point that was perceived to be the difference, the proposal from the negotiators was that the salary scales of the Superintendent, the Assistant Superintendent and Inspector would be adjusted to reduce the salary differential. The minimum of the Superintendent's scale would be raised from P8 to P6 and the Senior Superintendent's salary point is, of course, at P4 so the negotiators were attempting to address that particular second point of difference that the differential was too great and a proposal to narrow that particular differential was made.

Then in respect of the third point, Sir, the long service increment would be paid after 15 years' service, that is, a Constable would proceed to the salary point P21, Sir, after 15 years of service rather than the 16 years of service which had originally been proposed.

On March 26, 1990, those recommendations of the Classification Committee in order to address the questions raised by the Association had been approved by the Cabinet, no response to the matters having been received from the Police Association, I am advised. In order not to

delay the exercise any longer, those three being, as we understood it, the main points of difference raised by the Association, we proceeded to finalise the arrangement.

I am further advised, Sir, that up to this particular time there has been no formal response to the appropriate governmental authority on these particular matters.

Sir, the decision on the levels of remuneration for the reclassification, and in this instance in respect of the Police Force, was sent out by circular and it was in the original package that every policeman who was in posts on March 31, 1988 should have benefitted from the reclassification exercise and should have received an increase in salary from April 1, 1988. That was in the original circular and I have a copy of that circular here.

I am making this point so that there can be no misunderstanding about the reclassification of posts and those who should benefit from the reclassification. It was specifically outlined in the circular that every policeman who was in posts on March 31, 1988, should have benefitted from the reclassification exercise and should have received an increase in salary from April 1, 1988.

There was, Sir, a misinterpretation or a misapplication of the circular that was sent out and some of the lower ranks of the Royal Barbados Police Force did not, therefore, get the benefit from the reclassification that was clearly intended in the circular.

Aside,

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I am saying, Sir, that by circular sent out all policemen who were in posts on March 31, 1988 should have benefitted from the reclassification exercise and should have received an increase in salary. I am referring particularly to the Constables, Sir, because it is at that level that there has been some claim that they have not benefitted....

Aside.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:....and with some justification but I am saying if there is a problem, we believe that the problem should be drawn to the attention of the authorities in the normal way and we seek to correct the problem, if there is a problem. The problem was not one in the actual reclassification exercise. There was a problem in the interpretation of the circulars that were sent out and, therefore, when the computation was being done, there was a misinterpretation. I believe, Sir, that the misinterpretation or the misapplication was the result of a genuine error. I am not saying that the persons carrying out the computation in the Accounts Department or wherever it is for the Police Force were acting in any way that would show some kind of intent. I am not saying that at all, Sir.

What I am saying is that there was a misinterpretation of the circular. Of course, the circular was worded in the kind of language that normally comes out from the Public Service. If I can put my hands on the circular I will read it, Sir.

There were actually two circulars. There was an original circular and then there was an amendment to that circular. I am trying to put my hands on the amended circular. Let me start, Sir, with the circular and I will read this for the benefit of the House. There is a circular dated today's date to the Commissioner of Police. 1.00p.m.

It reads as follows. I will make this a document of the House.

Asides.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Sir, we are a consensus Government. We are not concealing any information. For the benefit of all those who may wish the information, I place it at their disposal. It would stop some of them from getting on with the mischief propaganda that they may be spreading.

Laughter.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I am surprised you are laughing today.

Sir, I am reading from a circular dated 24th July, 1990, and the title is "Reclassification of Posts". It reads as follows:

"It has been drawn to my attention that many Policemen, especially in the grade of Constable have not received any adjustment in salary as a result of the Reclassification Exercise. It seems that the reason for this is a mis-interpretation of the conversion principles which were included in the circular that was issued after action on the relevant legislation was completed.

2. The circular which contains the instructions on conversion is No. 8/1990 of 1990-05-11, from the Ministry of the Civil Service, as amended by No. 12/1990 of 1990-06-15. The relevant section reads as follows:-

Where the old scale has been upgraded by reducing the number of segments at the lower end and/or by extending the scale above the old maximum, conversion with respect to a person in a post on 31st March, 1988 should be to a point in the scale which is one increment above the salary of the old scale. Where the number of segments at the lower end is reduced, the officer's incremental date should be 1st April but

where the scale is extended above the old maximum, the officer should retain his incremental date.

With respect to a person who was first appointed to such a post after 1st April, 1988, conversion should be to the corresponding point in the new scale and the officer should retain his incremental date."

I have said that this is in good Civil Service language, officialese and those who have the art of interpreting these kinds of words would understand, clearly, what these words meant or were intended to mean.

But, Sir, the persons who work on these matters understand the language and so on.

"3. On the basis of this principle every constable who was in a post on 31st March, 1988 should benefit by at least one increment with effect from 1st April, 1988. An additional increment should be awarded if the Constable's salary was at the old maximum for a complete year or more. Maximum salary in this case refers to either P26, P25 or P24 of the old scale."

Aside.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: No. That is not confusion. These are the maximum points in the police scale.

"4. It would be appreciated if the content of this memorandum is drawn to the attention of the members of the Police Association. If further assistance is required by the Accounts Section, personnel from the Ministry of the Civil Service should be contacted."

Sir, the main point that is being made here is that - particularly the Constables, who are saying that they have not benefitted - that within the terms of the circular that was sent out, the circular, as amended, there was provision for those Constables to benefit in the arrangement. But, as I have indicated, due to some misinterpretation or misapplication, that was not done and the opportunity is being taken to correct that particular matter, Sir.

I believe, Sir, in the original circular and the original decisions relating to the conversion arrangements for regraded posts, the following terms apply. I am setting it out clearly so that there can be no misunderstanding because it is well-known that my Government, and my party, has been the party, the Government, that has looked after the interest of the Royal Barbados Police Force down through the years. We have always sought to improve their

terms and conditions of service. We are not going to allow any Opposition sources to seek to distort the record or to pretend that they are friends of the Royal Barbados Police Force in order for them to seek to gain some assumed advantage.

Sir, those terms are in respect of the conversion arrangements for regraded posts, as stated originally, and were as follows. This was in the original circular No. 8/1990 and it reads as follows:

"Where the old scale has been upgraded by reducing the number of segments at the lower end and/or by extending the scale above the old maximum, conversion with respect to a person in post on 31st March, 1988 should be to a point in the scale which is one increment above the salary of the old scale. Where the number of segments at the lower end is reduced, the officer's incremental date should be 1st April, ...

With respect to a person who was first appointed to such a post after 1st April 1988 conversion should be to the corresponding point in the new scale and the officer should retain his incremental date."

The upshot of all of this, and the main point that has to be made, Sir, is that it was because a misinterpretation that certain police officers, particularly the Constables - I believe there must have been about 400 of them, I am not too sure of the number - who have not benefited. But this is being rectified now. As soon as it was discovered, the Ministry of the Civil Service took appropriate action to seek to correct the matter. I hope that that lays the whole matter to rest.

Sir, there has also been some misinformation put out that, of the approximately \$33 million which the reclassification exercise is estimated to cost, the Royal Barbados Police Force would benefit only to the tune of some \$1.2 million. 1.10p.m.

Now, Sir, that kind of propaganda that is put out is also a misinterpretation. It is true that the Police element is \$1.2 million, but that is the annual figure out of \$11 million annually for the regrading exercise. Annually, it is estimated that the regrading exercise will cost \$11 million and of that annual figure the Police element is \$1.2 million estimated. For someone to say that it is \$1.2 million of the total amount is putting out some misinformation, and I am setting the record straight on all of these matters, great or small, so that there should be no misunderstanding.

I should also like to point out that policemen at the level of Constable, like all other Civil Servants in the beginning ranks, are allowed increments for qualifications up to a maximum of nine; five 'O' Levels and 2 'A' Levels

give double increments. So they are entitled to the same increments that persons in the General Service in the relevant ranks would get.

Sir, as I have indicated, there has been no further communication, as I have been advised, from the Police Association to the Ministry of the Civil Service since the discussions on 30th January, 1990, but I would expect that if there are outstanding issues or problems the necessary communications would be established and/or re-established, and that we can proceed with the business that is in hand.

Perhaps I should take this opportunity, Sir, to indicate that maintenance work has been carried out at a substantial number of police stations up to June 1990. In fact, I would not be surprised if work has been carried out at all of the stations, but the major repairs have been carried out at the Central Police Station where some \$147 685 has been spent. At District "A" the sum of \$177 107 has been expended. At District "B" the figure is \$84 254. At District "E" the sum of \$35 724. At Oistins the sum is \$67 513 and at Crab Hill \$24 697.

Construction is continuing on the new Band Headquarters at District "A" and the target date for completion is April 1991, at a cost of \$5 million. Sir, that is not all. Plans have been approved for the construction of a new complex at Holetown to replace the existing station. We will get there an ultra modern station and other ancillary facilities that will be in keeping with the environmental ambience of the particular area. Tenders have been received for that particular project and construction is expected to start some time later this year, between September and October.

Our plans are in train. We are looking at District "D" Police Station; we are also planning the construction of a replacement station and we are looking somewhere in the St. Thomas area, possibly near the Cane Garden area, as a suitable location, but work is going on. I am advised that that is an area which would give easiest communication as far as the parish of St. Thomas is concerned, and we are proceeding ahead with this.

After giving full consideration to this matter, what we are seeking to do in this particular Order is to provide an additional intake of 25 Constables so that additional resources will start flowing to the Royal Barbados Police Force. I believe last week I indicated that vehicles should arrive some time within the next three months or so for the Royal Barbados Police Force. They are on order and they should be arriving shortly, so that both in terms of equipment and of personnel we are taking the steps that are necessary to give enhanced authority, power, to the Police Force to carry out its particular mandate. 1.20p.m.

I believe I have dealt thoroughly with this particular matter. I wish to make it clear that we are looking at a variety of approaches. There is no country that I know of that can provide a policeman at the elbow of each citizen to ensure that that particular citizen follows the law in all of its respects. Conformity to the social order and to the laws of a country start from within the individual. It is a question of self-discipline, and there is compliance to the laws of our country by the vast majority of people in the country. What we seek to do is to provide additional resources as the demand indicates and after due consideration in terms of the objectives, and we also seek to ensure that the resources provided may be utilised to the fullest.

We believe, Sir, that there is a case for an examination of the deployment of the resources of the Royal Barbados Police Force. This is being looked at, Sir, to see how we can get even better responses from the resources that are currently available; so deployment is one issue, equipment is another issue, an increase in the strength of the Force is another issue, and, Sir, there has been from time to time also suggestions that Island Constables or Special Constables should be considered as well. All of these are very weighty issues, Sir, they are very important issues, and they have to be treated to the fullest examination possible. That is what we are doing, and in the interim we are providing these 25 constables so that there can be a phased intake of additional resources to ensure that the Royal Barbados Police Force is able to carry out its function.

Sir, with those words of introduction, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr, Speaker, when I likened to the Rt. Honourable Member who just sat down introducing this matter relating to the Royal Barbados Police Force, one would have thought that there must be a continuing unawareness of the serious problems relating to law and order in Barbados today. However, I believe that some slight advance has been made, unfortunately, Sir, in the absence of the Honourable Attorney General, in that there was some admission that there are significant problems in that area. As we know the Honourable Attorney General does not share the view that there are significant problems relating to crime and law and order in Barbados.

Now, Sir, what must be particularly bothersome to the people of Barbados is that the Prime Minister of this country in dealing with a matter of this nature spent about ten minutes dealing with the history of law and order from the year 2000 BC and appeared to have forgotten the problems facing Barbados as we approach the year 2000 AD. The second part lasting roughly 35 minutes dealt with the mumbo jumbo relating to a circular where there was a clear intent to deprive the majority of constables in the

Police Force of any benefit from any regrading exercise. If it is being corrected now, that is a problem for them. But the point is that my understanding was that any rational interpretation of the circular by anyone responsible for paying out money would have interpreted it in that way. If the Ministry of the Civil Service now wishes to put another interpretation on their own words and pass that on to the various accounting officers or whoever are responsible for paying out Government money, then that is another matter; but there can be no doubt, Sir, that there is widespread dissatisfaction in the Royal Barbados Police Force and that there is a considerable loss of confidence by the police in the capacity of the Government to deal with the problems affecting them. In the meantime, Sir, all Barbadians today are deeply concerned over the very significant deterioration in law and order that has taken place in this country in the last few years. I think it is important that we recognise that this is a major problem in the society and that unless appropriate steps are taken to deal with the matter now, it can only get worse.

I speak, Sir, with the benefit of some hindsight. I recall over the past 12 years there have been repeated concerns expressed on the Floor of this House about the state of law and order in Barbados, the state of the Royal Barbados Police Force and the allocation of resources to the Royal Barbados Police Force. During that same period, Sir, we have seen a progressive deterioration in law and order, and this has increased at a tremendous pace in the last two or three years. At the same time Sir, we have witnessed a significant deterioration in the capability of the Police Force to deal with the ever increasing crime in this country. Not only is crime increasing, Sir, but also the nature of crime. There is far more violent crime; far more people breaking into people's homes, far more personal assaults on people, far more robberies; recently moreover we have seen the introduction of armed robberies in Barbados, shoot outs between gangs, and people living in Barbados in this day and age actually deriving the existence of gangs in Barbados, when the Royal Barbados Police Force came out at that time and clearly stated that there were gangs. But at that time only a few months ago they were using knives; today they are using guns, and the point has to be made that we cannot continue to fool ourselves into believing that crime is not on the increase and that ever, the type of crime we are seeing in Barbados today is far more violent than anything seen in recent years in this country. The fact is, Sir, that our citizens are deeply concerned by the failure of the Government who has responsibility for law and order in this country to deal with the matter, and now what we have here today is an increase of 25 constables in the Royal Barbados Police Force.

The second statement is that the Police have the power which is right, they have the authority to call on other people to help them. The only two indications we have had today in a speech which lasted almost an hour and was very careful about it, of anything being done is (1) that the Force

is being increased by 25 constables, and (2) that the Royal Barbados Police Force under the law can call on citizens or other institutions to assist in the maintenance of law and order. I will be dealing with that very shortly, this business of calling on other institutions to assist them in keeping law and order. 1.30p.m.

The reality is, Sir, that the Royal Barbados Police Force is under-staffed. We in the National Democratic Party are of the view that, as rapidly as possible, the number of policemen available should be increased about 300 people to the level of 1 500. That may seem a significant increase. It is only a 25% increase in the numbers in the Force but there has been a far greater increase in the number of criminal events taking place in Barbados, in the number of people participating in serious crime in this country. That is step 1.

Secondly, I think it is important to recognise that we have to have a careful look at the resources of this country that are available to the Defence Force and the resources available to the Royal Barbados Police Force. I think the time has come when we have to recognise that one of the problems facing the Police Force is the fact that, because of the heavy expenditures on the Defence Force over the years the Royal Barbados Police Force has been starved of resources that should have gone their way and we have to take a firm decision whether we want to spend more and more money on an army or we want to spend more and more money on the Royal Barbados Police Force.

I am of the same view now as I was in Opposition that the resources should go to the Royal Barbados Police Force because I am sure if we had an efficient, well-equipped, well-staffed, well-trained Police Force today, there would be considerably less crime in Barbados. Let us get that record straight what our position is.

We will be stressing the importance of the Royal Barbados Police Force in the maintenance of law and order and that will be our priority as far as the forces of law and order in this country are concerned.

The other point that it is important to recognise is that whatever the Prime Minister might have said about the regrading exercise, the fact is that the Police in this country are grossly underpaid. He has talked about the maximum salary of a Police Constable of \$21 000 a year or somewhere in that region, \$21 000 a year. He did not mention what was the beginning salary, nor did he mention how long it would take to earn \$21 000 a year by a Police Officer who remains in the rank of Constable.

We have no doubt, Sir, that the time has come when we have to regard the Police Force of Barbados as a highly professional body and that we have to provide financial inducements in terms of salaries and conditions of work,

not only for the Police Officers, but to recognise the special problems that the families of Police Officers face and make sure that, as is done elsewhere, certain provisions are made towards the protection of the families of Police Officers.

The situation has been reached in Barbados, Sir, where today any policeman on the beat, quite differently from what obtained 10 or 15 years ago - I am quite sure now that it would have to go through the Police Officer's brain some time - somebody might shoot him. This is something that never happened in Barbados.

The whole idea that you could be exposed or a Police Officer could be exposed to acts of violence and so on, is something that was unheard of in this country. What is shocking, Sir, is that we have to recognise that this thing is largely a recent development and whatever the factors causing it, it has certainly happened in recent times. There can be no question, Sir, about the very, very low morale in the Royal Barbados Police Force.

I also have serious concerns about the management of the Force and whether the Force itself is throwing up out of its own ranks the kinds of persons who are competent to manage a Force of the size that I envisage, 1 500 and, at the same time, provide the kind of leadership that is required for such a modern Police Force.

I believe, Sir, as I said last May, that it is time that we stop fooling around with this matter. I believe that when such an important organisation as a Police Force finds itself with this low level of morale within it, the time has come when there should be an outside examination.

I am firmly of the belief that, as has been done in the past, there should be a Commission of Enquiry into the Royal Barbados Police Force. That has nothing to do whatsoever with trying to create problems for anyone in the Force. It is in the national interest in order to tell us (1) the question as to how the resources presently available are deployed, (2) what additional resources the Force needs, and (3) how they should be deployed. I believe that an outside look is important bearing in mind the structure and the legal situation with regard to our Force in the context of the Constitution of Barbados.

Therefore, Sir, I am making that call again, 14 months later, for a Commission of Enquiry in the Royal Barbados Police Force. I think it would help all of us. It would probably make recommendations as to what should be the types of levels of remuneration of the entire Force, and tell us about what is happening in terms of the management of the Force and where it needs to be strengthened.

All these things need to be looked into and I do not see those kinds of problems being solved with the kind of virtual confrontation that we have witnessed particularly over the past two years between the Ministry of Legal

Affairs and the Police Association and so on. I do not think it is good for the country and I think the time has come in the interest of Barbados that we should establish such a Commission of Enquiry so that proper planning for the Force can take place over a period of time.

Sir, there is training of the Force. Almost the entire age of training to cope with modern crime has by-passed the Royal Barbados Police Force. The whole age of computerisation has largely by-passed the Royal Barbados Police Force. Today, in many small communities in the United States and Britain you can get a fingerprint matched by a computer in a matter of minutes. I understand that in Barbados an investigation may be held up four months because the officer matching fingerprints under the old methods cannot get around to doing it by which time the criminal would have left the country or something of that nature. 1.40p.m.

It is just an example of the extent to which we have let down the Police Force and have failed to bring modern technological development to bear on the force, adequate training, in a modern age, to deal with the modern day criminal.

What resources has the Force got to deal with significant white collar crime that everybody recognizes is on the increase? How many officers in the Police Force are trained to seriously examine corporate balance sheets in Barbados? How many are trained to go into a bank, if they suspect that there has been laundering of money or some other criminal activity? How many are trained to go in there and analyze the accounts in a bank?

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I regret, Sir, when you deal with that quality of ignorance, you do have a special problem.

In every single police force, whether it be the Metropolitan Police Force, whether it be the RCMP, whether it be any police force in the United States, there is a corps of police officers who are trained to deal with the problems of white collar crime. What I am saying is that they do not have this kind of thing here.

There are provisions, of course, under the very laws that we passed here only recently, in relation to the Proceeds of Crime Bill in relation to drugs. That Act makes provision, for example, to go to the court and get an order to examine certain accounts and so on. When you have got the order, who is going to go in there and do it? Who in Barbados has the skills in order to trace interlocking accounts, the problems with interlocking companies that might involve fraud and so on? Nobody. That is a whole area which has been left unattended.

All that would happen, Sir, is that the white collar crime would continue in Barbados because there is nobody to investigate white collar crime, at that kind of sophisticated level.

We can go on and on and we can select many other areas. The question of the capacity of the Royal Barbados Police Force to respond to cries for help is one of the biggest jokes in Barbados. If you drive down Hastings Main Road, there is a police station just past the Garrison there. There is another police station in Worthing and there is another police station in Oistin, three police stations in a matter of a mile, two miles. When you have a problem in the area, you call the police and you see how long they take to get there. Often they do not have vehicles to respond to a call. Only on Sunday someone made a call and they were told they had no vehicles; somebody had robbed them of a significant amount of money. They asked the person who called in to try calling Headquarters or something like that.

If you go down that same road, Sir, you would see vandalism of buildings and so on taking place day after day. The police have not got the resources to deal with it. These are serious matters.

We have to recognize that if we are going to protect the lives of our people, if we are going to protect the property of our citizens, if people are going to feel comfortable in their homes, then we must improve the capacity of the Royal Barbados Police Force to respond to these situations and stop just talking about it. We have talked about it and talked about it year after year. It has got worse.

I challenge anyone in this Honourable House to deny that the situation has not got worse, despite the fact that it has attracted parliamentary debate on numerous occasions in this House of Assembly down the years.

We in the National Democratic Party are prepared to do something about it because we recognize that the stability of this country is being undermined by the significant increase in crime in Barbados.

Sir, I mentioned the need for a Commission of Enquiry into the force. I want to deal with this business of calling on other institutions, other organizations and other individuals to assist the police.

I recall, not so long ago, there was a fire in Bridgetown. The Defence Force appeared on the scene. I recall what the Honourable Members on that side were saying at the time. I was saying the same thing then that I am saying now. I do not think that we should find ourselves in a situation, except in a matter of a national emergency, where a state of emergency has been declared, where the

Royal Barbados Police Force should have to call on the Defence Force to assist them in the maintenance of law and order on a routine basis.

I think that is very dangerous. I think it is sending the wrong signals. Members of a Defence Force are not trained in the maintenance of law and order. They are trained for other purposes. It is quite wrong to get involved in that kind of exercise.

I distinctly recall, Sir, the numerous debates that we have had in this Honourable House on the proper and improper use of the Defence Force. I am shocked to learn that, in a situation where you may have masses of people on the streets of Barbados enjoying themselves, where there might easily be some disturbance for one reason or another, you may have these people juxtaposed against armed soldiers. We are asking for trouble.

I want to make my situation absolutely clear right here and now that, if that is the intention to use the Defence Force at Crop Over to assist the Police, I am totally against it. Let me get that straight. Because one has seen on numerous occasions, in various parts of the world, what happens when even a crowd innocently, an inebriated crowd, a crowd enjoying themselves go probably making fun at a young soldier, we have seen blood flow in the streets in many parts of the world. Incidents starting in that kind of way. I think it is a very dangerous thing to do.

I believe that the answer to the problem is to try and get the numbers of the Police Force up as rapidly as possible, if necessary by a crash programme for training more and more police officers, and try and make sure that we have enough people in this island to deal with events like Crop Over at the level of the Royal Barbados Police Force.

I think that we need to have strict rules as to how the Defence Force is used in this country. I have been told that you can bring them out and take the bullets out of their^ guns. People would know you have mock soldiers there. I am quite sure the Honourable Member for St. George North who himself has spent some time in the army would not be part of that kind of exercise because he knows you are just making a fool of the soldiers if you bring them out under those circumstances.

Sir, I wish to make our position clear. Sometimes you have to take a situation that may be popular or unpopular but if you believe that it is right, that that is the right position, then you have to take it. In my view, we have to be very careful how the Royal Barbados Police Force should call on the military for assistance and the circumstances in which they should do so. This should be clearly set out in the law. Certainly in any situation involving crowd control up front, unless there is a situation

resulting in a state of emergency, it should not be done. I believe we are absolutely clear in our views on that one.

Take a simple thing like transport. I want to get back to this question of transport. It is not only a matter of provision of vehicles. It is typical of the present Administration. The police are short of vehicles, so you start buying vehicles. 1.50p.m.

I am not saying you do not need to buy some vehicles, but the other problem is that you have a number of vehicles which are broken down and there are no proper facilities for the rapid repair of vehicles, so that the usefulness of a vehicle when it spends so many days waiting to be repaired and waiting for parts and this kind of thing is substantially reduced. I think it is important to look and see how you can keep on the road the vehicles currently available and at the same time make sure that if you need a few additional ones, you keep the ones that you already have on the road by an effective programme of repair.

The other area, Sir, where I can see motor cars coming from very rapidly is if the Government would implement its stated policy to get rid of all the MP cars. I do not think the Police would have any problem of having cars. Do you remember, Sir, that the MP cars were to go to the Police? The MP cars were to be all removed from the hands of those who were using them and go to the Police. The only person who has claimed that he has stuck loyally by that policy is the Honourable Member for St. Philip South-who says he has solved the problem because he does not drive an MP car, he drives an MP jeep. That is absolutely true, so he has stuck by the Manifesto policy.

There is no point telling this Honourable House that you are ordering some vehicles. What this Honourable House would like to know is, what are you doing about the existing vehicles? What percentage of those vehicles are idle because of the inability either to buy parts or to have them repaired expeditiously? I think you will probably find that if an effective programme of maintenance and repairs were put in place for the existing cars available to the police, then the demand for new cars would be substantially reduced.

I am quite sure the Honourable Member for St. Michael East, who refuses to respond when he is called upon in this Honourable House, should be able to bring his experience at the Transport Board, because he has again and again indicated on the Floor of this House that you can reduce the demand for new buses by effective programmes of repair and maintenance, so you do not have to listen to the Opposition, listen to another member of the Cabinet. That is his policy. His policy is a programme of preventive maintenance, effective programmes for repairs, having stocks of parts and all these things like that. I think he reckons that he can probably get 25% more work out of the existing fleet of buses. I am quite sure the same thing will

happen with the police cars, so it is not a question of spending more and more money, and not spending the money sensibly, it is a question of getting the cars that you have lying idle around the place, because of lack of parts or lack of some maintenance programme or because of some repair problem, in proper working order.

Now, Sir, I want to mention one or two other things. There is one area where I believe it might be proper to relieve some 10 to 12 Police Officers immediately and have them available to fight crime. My understanding is that the Guards at Government House are entirely ceremonial and that there is nothing in conflict with accepted principles relating to the proper use of a Defence Force, whether a Defence Force could take over that function on a ceremonial basis and relieve 10 to 12 officers immediately for work in fighting crime.

I am advised, Sir, that that would be strictly within the usual understanding of relationships between the Police and the Army if the Army were used for a ceremonial purpose of that nature, so there probably we can get 10 to 12 officers, like tomorrow, Sir. What is more, Sir, we will give 10 or 12 people in the Defence Force some work to do at the same time.

I would like to hear whether or not the Honourable Member for St. Michael West would dare to get up in this Honourable House and differ in principle from anything I have said today.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. It is very difficult for anybody to differ or not differ with what he has said, because he has said nothing.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Well, Sir, since I have said nothing, it means that the Honourable Member has been saying nothing in this Honourable House for a very long time, since he was saying the same things that I have been saying. He now confirms that he was saying nothing down the years. That is what it actually adds up to.

As I said, Sir, this would be an appropriate function for the Defence Force. Certainly the idea of removing Police Officers from doing routine clerical work will help, but there is something to remember as well. A lot of those officers who do clerical work are there usually because of some health problem which removes them from the beat, either temporarily or permanently, and that is why they are doing those jobs. That is my understanding of the situation. So if there are 55 people there it may not be that you can remove 55, or if you remove all 55 you might find yourself with the situation where an officer has some back pain and you cannot risk to put him on the beat, but he is prepared to go and sit down and do some work, because he is highly motivated to work, and he may have to be sent home for the full duration of his illness.

This is why it is so important that you have a Commission of Enquiry. This is so important that you look at the rational use of these resources, because by simply looking and saying you have 55 people doing clerical work, therefore you put 55 clerical persons to relieve 55 officers, that does not necessarily follow.

I have had a long association with the Police Force in these matters from a professional point of view, and other points of view, and I know exactly what happens. People who get those jobs are people who really can work and can contribute in the meantime but cannot do the active work of a Police Officer. That needs to be looked at very carefully. That is why sometimes when you look at numbers the numbers do not tell the full story.

Sir, there is one final point I want to deal with. That relates to the general approach of the Honourable Prime Minister in relation to the responsibilities of citizens themselves for the maintenance of law and order to some extent through compliance and through a good ethical approach to citizenship. I would go further and say that it is the responsibility of a Government not to put its population under undue stresses but to create an environment which will relieve those factors generating the increase in crime in the country. I specifically refer to the question of unemployment. 2.00p.m.

I am absolutely sure, Sir, that every Honourable Member on the opposite side will recognise instantly that the publication of bogus figures on the level of unemployment would not contribute to any relief in the escalation of crime in Barbados. If we had got in fact 6 000 people in jobs in the last quarter of last year, Sir, I would say that that would have had a significant impact on the reduction of crime in Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, it does hurt hie when I drive through your constituency and from time to time I stop and talk to those youngsters and recognise particularly in certain parts of the Farm and so on that those youngsters have nothing to do, and they have had nothing to do for a long, long time, and therefore it is very important that we recognise that as a Government you have a responsibility not only to assist by making resources available to the Royal Barbados Police Force, but also to relieving some of the problems creating the situation for increased crime.

Similarly, Sir, in the area of drugs, let me say that I believe this Legislature has failed the people of Barbados on the question of the control in the traffic of illicit drugs in this country, and I say this for this reason: I recall when I was elected to Parliament in 1978, two of the key issues in my campaign related to gambling and drugs. Sir, I was concerned about it because I had spent most of the previous fifteen years going to the Bahamas almost every month or every two months, and I had seen over a ten to twelve year

period an entire generation of young people destroyed by drugs. Twelve years later I say that Barbados is now where Nassau was in 1978 with drugs, and we have done very little to deal with the problem. It has got worse, it is getting worse day by day. There has been a lot of talk and nothing done about it. So when we talk about increasing the Royal Barbados Police Force by 300 people, I would believe that you would probably need to deploy maybe 100 to 150 of those people to deal effectively with the drug problem. You have already seen how that drug problem manifests itself from the Diplomatic Pouch to the east coast. It has now been found on the east coast of Barbados on two occasions.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, it is two o'clock and I wonder if you could discover from the Honourable Member whether he intends to continue his harangue for much longer or whether we could go to lunch now. I beg your pardon, I mean his speech. I said "harangue", I am sorry. I wonder whether he intends to go on much beyond now, because we would want to suspend.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I realise, Sir, the acute discomfort of the Honourable Member because today when he woke up, he recognised that he is faced with a very serious threat on his own borders. If I may continue, Sir, I intend to wind up in a minute or so. I don't need to go beyond that.

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: A very serious threat on your other border; but we understand each other, and I know you would do everything in your power to make sure that that threat does not materialise.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is that part of the Resolution? Dr.

R. C. HAYNES: Yes, Sir.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Sir, I would not like the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central to mislead the House. He has just said that this House has failed the people of Barbados in not doing anything about the state of crime as it relates to drugs. I wonder if he would admit that within the past two months this Honourable House has passed two major pieces of legislation relating to drugs; one was the Proceeds of Crime Bill. I wonder if he would admit that?

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Yes, Sir, I very readily admit that, and I hope that the Honourable Member for St. Michael South would also admit to the reality that if that same legislation had been in place twelve years ago, it would not have resulted in one person in Barbados being

apprehended. I have looked at it and for the very reason. I have made an enquiry from someone who should know whether there was any case that came before the courts of Barbados which would have been assisted by the existence of that legislation, and he told me he knew of none. The point I am making, Sir, is that in the case ...

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Sir, the legislation which the Honourable Member for St. Michael East introduced in here in 1983 had a provision that at the time was thought to be sufficient to deal with the profits of drug related crime and so on. It called for the confiscation of conveyances of drugs, cars and vehicles. It is to my knowledge that on two occasions, certainly in 1985-86 the Police impounded vehicles which were found transporting drugs and I believe since then too, since the Government has changed; so I am saying that there was legislation in place for it before. It was not as sophisticated as now, because the movement towards confiscation was only feeling its way in 1983. There has been an international movement and we are in the main stream. I have no objection to getting in line with the main stream of contemporary thought on legislation.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: The point I am making, Sir, is that you can pass any kind of legislation. There is excellent legislation we have on the book to deal with praedial larceny. You can pass the legislation, but unless you provide the support for the forces of law and order, nothing will be achieved, and this is the problem that we are faced with. The reality is that the statistics tell the story. The fact is that despite whatever we have done legislatively, nevertheless the amount of crime and the amount of usage of the illicit drugs have increased not arithmetically, but geometrically and logarithmically over the years. That is what has happened, so the point I am making, Sir, is that we must support any legislation that we bring before the House with appropriate resources. I say this, Sir, and I am glad the Honourable Prime Minister raised it; do you see that Drugs Act? In order to efficiently police this country and bring that Drugs Act to bear, you have to have a sophisticated division within the Royal Barbados Police Force to deal with white collar crime.

I thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.
2.10p.m.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the sitting be suspended until 3:10 p.m. today.

The question that the Sitting be suspended until 3:10 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the Sitting accordingly. 2.12p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

Mr. SPEAKER: This Sitting is resumed.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Sir... Mr. SPEAKER:

Three Members?

Mr. R. P. BYER: Two Members are coming in. I would like the Chair to recognise this Member for St. George South.

Sir, on August 1, 1989, I tabled a Resolution on behalf of my party calling on the Government to take steps to arrest the deterioration of law and order in Barbados. Now, since that time, Government has implemented a few pieces of legislation and a number of measures, apart from those pieces of legislation that have attempted to deal with the problem.

One would remember the Proceeds of Crime Act and also the law relating to Possession of Narcotics. This Act was revised and a new Act was placed on the statute book. Then very recently we had the amendment to the Supreme Court of Judicature Act which established a Court of Appeal.

Now, Government's latest foray in this area of crime prevention is very recently when we had the Barbados Defence Force being deployed at Farley Hill to be on hand in case something went wrong at the dub concert. Now, today we have before us the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) Order where Government is asking for the establishment of 25 additional posts of Constables in the Police Department; so we have had some activity very recently in so far as the preservation of law and order in this society is concerned.

But, Sir, when we lump all of these together, it is my own view that, in relation to this area of concern in Barbados, Government is merely tinkering with the administration of justice in Barbados and also with the criminal justice system in its attempt to arrest what is rapidly becoming a deterioration of law and order.

Now, these initiatives, to my mind, do not even scratch the surface of our problem and we need to embark upon and institute other measures which should arrest this problem. The problem is fast becoming one that is getting out of hand and some concrete measures, some comprehensive measures have to be introduced to deal with the problem.

To my own mind we cannot continue to tinker, as it were, with the system of administration of justice in Barbados neither can we continue to tinker with the criminal justice system in Barbados. Whatever happens, this approach must stop.

As the Leader of the Opposition was saying, for several years now in this House and out of this House there has been considerable debate as to what should be done to deal with the situation of law and order in Barbados. A lot has been said, a lot has been spoken about this problem and this is why I will support this call for an investigation into the Royal Barbados Police Force. I think that an enquiry needs to be carried out.

The Prime Minister said - if I may refer to his exact language - that there is a case for the examination of the deployment of the Royal Barbados Police Force but then he went on to say that there were other aspects in this area having to do with the equipment and the increase in strength in the Force.

My point is that there has to be more than an examination of the deployment. We need a full scale investigation into the Royal Barbados Police Force. The attempt here, Sir, will not be to put our fingers on wrongdoers. We will merely be having an investigation to find out, for example, what would be the manpower needs in the Royal Barbados Police Force over the years, also, what is the thrust of administration in the Force. All of these are matters that have to be looked at.

We are not calling for an enquiry to ferret out wrongdoers or to see who in the Royal Barbados Police Force might be on the take or something like that. That is not the purpose of the enquiry that we are calling for. That, to my mind, Sir, would be a negative approach to dealing with problems as we perceive them in the Royal Barbados Police Force. There must be a full scale enquiry so that we will be able to determine what the Police Force would need to better equip them for their work both present and future. To my mind, Sir, there is nothing wrong with an enquiry of this sort and I would hope that the Government would heed the warning of the National Democratic Party in this area.

Sir, we are dealing now with a Police Force that is very militant, a Police Force that is not afraid to speak out, a Police Force that is prepared to stand up for its rights. Under the law it is not allowed to form itself into a trade union but, at the same time, one must recognise the sense in using trade union tactics to achieve what they need or what they have to achieve and there is nothing wrong with that as long as they are active within the four corners of the law.

We have to pay particular attention to the kind of salary scales that we are paying our policemen. Our policemen are exposed to considerable danger and it is my opinion that we have to take this into consideration when we are structuring a salary scale for them.

I think we might very well need to consider whether we ought not to bring the Police Force outside of the

establishment in terms of pay and establish our own salary scale for them because it is my view that, if their salaries are calculated within the present structure, other civil servants might want to say that their salaries ought to be like the policemen, but we must recognise that the Police are exposed to considerable danger and that whatever pay they receive ought to reflect this consideration.

The Force today, Sir, is more professional and it is, I would think, better trained. Many officers go abroad to be trained in various aspects of policing and all of these things have to be taken into consideration.

Now, it is not without surprise, Sir, when one noticed recently that the Police had a poll to decide whether or not they would accept Government's latest pay offer and then they rejected it. The major arguments, as I perceived them at the time, had to do with the inequities that resulted in the system because of the reclassification.

A number of areas were highlighted by the Prime Minister in his address when he was introducing this matter but my opinion is that efforts should be made at this stage to deal with these inequities. A dissatisfied Force is not one that we would want to have at this stage when we have noticed increases in crime, when we are noticing increases in sophisticated crime, all of these things we have to address.

I would hope that the Government heed our plea and make some effort to deal with the problems of the Police Force. They have to be dealt with in the atmosphere of an investigation or an enquiry into that body. It is not enough for us, Sir, and this is my considered opinion, to continue to tinker with one aspect of the Police Force at this stage when we are looking at salaries. We have to look at other aspects of it. 3.30p.m.

We have got to look at the body as a whole in an effort to come up with some concrete proposals as to what direction the Force should go in, in terms of its employment, in terms of its overall manpower needs and in terms of what equipment the Force ought to be given to fight and combat crime today.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Resolution before us which calls for the establishment of another 25 posts has the support of the Barbados Labour Party.

Without reflecting on any previous debate, Sir, a few months ago, I made a speech in here, about three hours, and dealt with this matter. I still remain unconvinced that additional men all the time is the solution to the problems associated with the control of crime in this country.

The Honourable Leader of the Opposition asked for 300 more. I am not going to go down that road, Sir, because, at the same time as he was asking for 300 more, he was espousing the programme that I outlined in here some months ago which called for a redeployment of members of the Force and greater civilianization of the Force.

I hope the House remembers. This is not by way of any attack, I am not attacking anybody. But I think we should all be cognizant of the facts that the Annual Report of the Commissioner of Police for 1986, page 45 shows the strength of the force in the years 1984, 1985 and 1986. We can go back earlier in some of these similar reports, going back to the year 1975 which we got from the Library today and they show that in 1975, the establishment of the Police Force was 883. By 1980, it had increased to 1 035, in 1981 1 050, in 1985 when I became Attorney-General, Sir, it was at 1 050, according to this and by 1986 when I left, it had gone to 1 200. The last 83 passed out in December 1985. The Barbados Labour Party's record for the gradual increase in strength is there for anybody to see, Sir, from 1975 to 1985. It increased by 317 persons. We still had problems of crime, throughout the years.

In 1987, when the present Government had a chance to do something about it - do you remember Appendix G, Sir, to the Estimates of 1987? There was no increase for the Police Force. There was a massive increase for the Defence Force. Now I hear about increasing it by another 300? No, Sir.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You all would know. It is no good they asking who was the Minister of Finance? All of them supported him then.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. I asked *sotto voce* and you, Mr. Speaker, did not hear. I do not deny that I supported him then. What I want to know is who it is I supported. That is all I ask the Honourable Member to say.

The Leader of the Opposition was the Minister of Finance then. I want the Honourable Member for St. Thomas to say so. That is all I ask him. I would admit that I supported him. Press on.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Now, Sir, in 4 years there has not been any substantial increase in the numbers of the force. But it is undoubted that there has been an increase....

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Wait, wait I am not attacking anybody today. You can draw your inferences.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member was addressing the Chair.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am grateful for your protection, Sir. Today's edition of the NATION publishes a statement in the form of a letter which I issued to the press on the weekend, Sir. I want to focus first on the reality of criminality in Barbados today. We cannot deny the statistical evidence, that in the first six months of this year, there has been a startling increase in the number of crimes committed particularly against households and individuals. A startling increase!

At the same time, there is enough evidence to show that the youth of this country are arming themselves with offensive weapons and with guns. The police also know of a man who was walking around Barbados with guns in a suitcase selling them for \$100, not \$1 000. A hundred dollars. As cheap as that! Everybody is aware of the size of the drug problem. We had evidence last week of some washing up in St. Andrew. Six hundred pounds is still missing. Government would be well advised to alert St. Vincent and St. Lucia of the possibility of that washing up, if you get a little bad weather and it churns up from the bottom of the sea.

I have intelligence just like the Government ought to have intelligence. The Government ought to know that that was connected with the boat that they had in here a few weeks ago.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You remember last time you all challenged when we said there was dope in the Diplomatic Bag, the Honourable Member for St. Philip South said "Foolishness". The Prime Minister had to tell him it is not foolishness. A substance did come in. Do not challenge me on these facts. I would tell you privately.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am not going to divulge my sources to you. You take it from me or leave it. If you do not want to believe it, that is a matter for you. All of that is happening in Barbados.

Government's response partially to deal with that and partially to meet some of the dissatisfaction that exists in the Police Force - on which I will speak later - is to amalgamate the Defence Force and the Police Force at public, social events in an effort to control lawlessness and

to bolster the public conscience in the belief that Barbados is safe.

I wish to make it clear because I understand some nitwits called one of the programmes yesterday and talked a lot of foolishness. I want to make it clear. I support the present deployment of police personnel and Defence Force personnel at this time in Barbados with a view to controlling criminality. I have had responsibilities on that side already and not for the sake of any votes am I going to take any line for popularity. I have a duty to this country nationally, especially where it pertains to national security and the security of citizens and residents in Barbados. I am not going to shrink from that! 3.40 p.m.

Tough measures are necessary now and I support the Government for the measures which they have recently implemented. Let nobody misquote me, please, but as I said on Sunday and in the letter which appears today, these rfeasures can only be temporary. None of us in here today, I am sure, wants to see the present situation of what I call virtual militarisation persist for years in Barbados. So I support it as a temporary measure.

There is a social problem which we are facing and it behoves us to find a solution to that problem in the medium term and in the long term. I may be wrong, but I am suggesting that Government should approach this matter on four premises.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: My friend from St. Peter is adding a fifth, Sir, capital punishment. I am not getting down that line today, everybody knows my position on that. In order to find a permanent solution I think it is important first of all for Government to search for the causes of crime in this country.

I believe I was the first Barbadian who ever studied criminology, in 1964. It is a matter of some regret. I do not have the time to do the research and to engage upon the kind of work that I think we in Barbados need to better inform ourselves of some of the causes or reasons for the social problems that exist. I would like to really see somebody, apart from attempting to look at the criminal statistics, do an in-depth and sophisticated intellectual piece of work surrounding the problems of the youth of Barbados. They have people at the University who should be able to do it, they have people in social work courses who should be getting to grips with some of these problems.

We have never had a study on violent crime in Barbados. I think we need to do these things because, without that basis of information, each one of us is throwing out a subjective opinion as to why there is restlessness and lawlessness in Barbados. That cannot be

good enough for us in Barbados. You must have a proper basis done in an analytical way.

I think, Sir, that Government must first of all commit itself, even if it means bringing somebody from overseas to train a few people in the area and do the necessary social work that has to be done, to help inform them and inform the public as to the causes of crime. To the untrained, broken homes are offered as causes of crime. Unemployment, television, all kinds of subjective criteria are offered, but the best evidence in criminology does not say that and I cannot myself be so cavalier as to use any single example of a social problem as a cause of crime, because it is a multi-factor theory that we are dealing with. There are several factors: broken homes, unemployment, one-parent families, all these things may combine and conduce ultimately to crime, but there is no one explanation.

Government, in my submission, should be approaching the problem at the highest possible level of research to assist us generally in identifying the problems of crimes. That also includes talking to the restless youth and finding out what is going on in their heads, why they are behaving like this. I have tried to do it in my constituency with some success. We had problems in Melrose and Shop Hill, which everybody read about, and I went up there several nights and spoke to the youngsters and we have not had any more inter-district fighting since the first flare up last year. But I am not saying that everything is, as they say in the States, hunky dory. There are still little problems, but not inter-district.

If only we could do it among ourselves as politicians, especially now as we approach an election, really meet the people and talk to them, find out from the youngsters what is happening, why they are behaving like this, because I certainly will make it a point of duty to feed back to the Ministry of Youth Affairs whatever I can find, as I think this is a national matter that has to be approached on that basis and not on a partisan political basis.

I am going to say that there is a problem which exists and I am going to apportion blame, Sir, but I am saying that in terms of trying to find the solution I think we all must muck in and try and find the solution.

The second thing I think Government must do is to ensure that the Police Force is satisfied. The Leader of the Opposition, I believe, in his address -1 came late, Sir - did pass on that matter and it is something to which the Government must pay attention. There has been a breakdown in the relationship between the Police Force and the Attorney General for some considerable time now, but the relationship has got worse since the reclassification and the regrading, and Government had better believe it. The reality is not only in the Police Force, but throughout the Service, that a few have been seen to be the beneficiaries in

a major way - some as much as \$18 000 worth - some have been seen to be the beneficiaries of the reclassification exercise and others have not got, in the words of Little Rick, something even to buy a brown mint.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Government brought it in here; Government must not now criticise its own reclassification. They brought it in here, foisted it on us and boasted what a wonderful job they had done, costing \$33 million. 3.50 p.m.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Just on a point of order, Sir, the Honourable Member said we foisted it upon them. I think that the Honourable Member does not mean foisted, because he was free to accept or reject. I am sure he does not mean foisted.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: As a Member of Parliament you really can't properly use the word "foisted" because I had as much right to speak as any other Member. I withdraw the word "foisted". Government were quite satisfied that they had done a job which would have satisfied the whole of the public service, but the reality is not one of satisfaction, but one of dissatisfaction among 18 000 public workers including the Police who have been , badly treated.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am not talking about that. I am talking about the public workers out there. We can wait. If the Government Members are themselves dissatisfied with the reclassification, have the guts to get up and say that. I am not saying it for them. We on this side are not bothered; we will wait....

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir, I was just merely saying *sotto voce* that we did not hear any reaction from the Opposition, so they must have been satisfied with the non-classification.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: All I can tell the Honourable Member, Sir, is that the electorate are waiting to reclassify and regrade them as soon as the bell is hit to the ranks of Opposition. I want to hear them get on a platform and appeal for the votes from everybody while now only giving money to some. You give some money, but you want the votes from all. That can't work out. That is not an equation that is known to commonsense. That is a matter for you all; that is how you will put it over on the platform too.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I say you have to have a satisfied Police Force, and therefore the problems of reclassification must be addressed now by Government. I am not making any mischief, Sir. The Honourable Member is in a playful mood today, Sir. I have a lot of respect, let it go down in Hansard, for the Honourable Minister of Health. I say that and I am sincere about it and I want it to go in Hansard. He has a greater sense of the need for stability in the family as the bedrock of the societal fabric than any of the others over there, and for that I compliment him and I want Hansard to reflect it. He is a big man. If you went by popular vote, he would be the leader of the DLP.

Let us get back to where we were before. I think allied to the question of a satisfied Police Force, the numbers, whether there are 1 200 now and 1 225 as soon as this thing is passed and the men pass out, it does not matter; these numbers have to be differently deployed. I believe we have all come to appreciate that. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition made some of the points that I made in the three hour speech before, and I am not going to rehash those points today, but we have areas where I think civilians could better do jobs. There is no need for policemen to be involved in the research department. That is a job that in some forces in Canada and England is done by professors. I am not saying we need a professor, but we ought to be able to find within the Caribbean if not in Barbados, somebody with qualifications in sociology with emphasis on criminology, or a Barbadian in the States who could come back and head up that department. There are areas where we could cut back on the use of policemen and use civilians. In the Criminal Records Office why do you need policemen to fill out conviction cards and tell the number of convictions somebody has had? That can be civilianised, as well as telecommunications and so on. I am not going to go into the list in half an-hour, but just to give an idea.

Fourth or fifth, whichever it is - I see the Honourable Member for St. James South is making a note, so if this is note number 5, let it be - I think we have to approach the question of new penal policy and a new penal system. Let us assume that these 25 Policemen are going to assist us in better detection and apprehension, it is no good having the same old system that we had from the 1940s in 1990; it can't work, Sir. The police have done some things to their credit to modernise: the Juvenile Liaison Scheme, the Neighbourhood Watch and so on, but the penal system *per se* needs to be tackled.

The big catchment area for crime in Barbados is between 17 and 24 or 25. The vast majority of them get involved in drug related crimes and petty wounding and a little thieving and so on, so we need to do something with them. Modern penalogical trends are not towards greater incarceration, but sadly in Barbados we have just Dodds and Summervale and the Prisons to deal with people who are convicted. I believe, Sir, that we have got to address the

question of a network, a new regime of penal institution to deal with the different types of offender.

Now take inter-district violence, short of shooting and so on, but fellows fighting and behaving badly on a minibus persistently, whatever, there is no way if you arrest a person this evening for some crowd disturbance, bad behaviour at the stadium or something that you should remand him ideally to Glendairy to mix with the hardened criminals and to develop all the learning process of crime. What you ought to do in my submission is to have a place to which you could remand such a person away from the seat of criminality, a remand home for the time being. When he is punished and sentenced, he does not have to go back to Glendairy for six months; there should be an institution in Barbados where he would be sent for an indeterminate sentence. I don't believe with these youngsters you should sentence them to three years and five years. Everybody knows I spent twelve years when my father was in charge of Dodds, so I know a little bit about this area, and I know that the boys in there used to count. You ask a fellow "how long have you been in here?" Do you know what he would tell you? He would not tell you "I have been in here two years." He would tell you "I got two years and days to do." He knew he had three years or four years or five years. There should be introduced in the law of Barbados an order for training and discipline of indeterminate length. The fellows who smoke the marijuana, first and second offenders, with the two or three marijuana cigarettes, don't send them to prison for a year. 4.00 p.m.

They should be sent to an institution where they would be treated, rehabilitated, but put under the heaviest possible manners of discipline. You would have to get up at 4:30 a.m., take a cold bath, march, fall in, "Yes, Sir: no, Sir: present, Sir": get some breakfast and out to do some trades and some agriculture.

The fellows who smoke, the rastas and all of them who are telling you about itals, go and find a farm with about 50 acres and send them up there, let them grow all the cabbages, okras, tomatoes and what else. Let them do something productive. Let them feed themselves and help feed the community and bring down the price of vegetables. Put them under some manners, discipline. When a fellow has been responding positively to the regime, he comes before a board and he is sent out.

I have not said flog them, lock them up or beat them. I have said put them in there, give them some discipline and let them be productive, learn trades and so on as part of the rehabilitation process. These ideas would be more fully developed as we get closer to elections. Now, that is just an idea of the kind of institutions that we need, Borstal type, to deal with the 17-24 age group.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The Honourable Member for St. Peter has begged me to say, Sir, of course we must maintain capital punishment as it is, reserved for the worst and we must have a committee that will not bend at the knees to some of the most heinous crimes. When it is real bad, go through all the appeal processes, go to the Privy Council. Once they say you lost, "goodnight nurse". I have got off 25 out of 26 that I represented. I know what I am talking about.

Now, Sir, talking to the youth - I will say this is limited to St. Thomas - I have picked up a lot of the frustrations and problems that are bothering them. Unemployment undoubtedly is one of them.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I have talked about parents in here before. I have talked about the Church and all those things but these are youngsters, some of whom have "O" Levels and cannot find a job and they are cynical of politicians on both sides - well, now, on all three sides - because politicians made them promises of jobs and have not delivered and they are acting out these frustrations against the society at large.

We remember the Honourable Minister of Health (he has gone outside) his speech on television, May 25, 1986 "A vote for the DLP is a vote for a job". I remember my opponent having been beaten. On the day after the elections he was parading all through St. Thomas saying he is going to be a Senator, come to him within a couple of days and get fixed up for a job. He was not able to deliver. Far from that he went to Canada.

Now, all of those things are eating at the hearts and souls of the young people. They see in the paper about a fall in the level of unemployment. The Government is saying that at the end of last year it was 13.7%. What the Government is not telling them that in the first quarter of this year it is 15.3% without any imputation for margin of error like 1%. It might be 16%. It is 15.3% for the first* quarter of this year and I challenge anybody in the Government to deny that.

The Governor of the Central Bank would have had his Press conference at 3:30....

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Oh, he is having his Press Conference! He would have his unemployment figures. They are not in this for June 1990. Page 87 does not exist in this one. In the Contents it says you will find the labour statistics on page 87. When you get to page 84, you "gone" like the Concorde straight to page 89. Pages 85, 86, 87, 88 are gone. That is the part dealing with the labour statistics but we know....

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: This is the Central Bank Economic and Financial Statistics for June 1990.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Unemployment is lower than when we left office? We left when it was at 15.6%. The second quarter of 1987, just before the Honourable Leader of the Opposition left it was at 18.8%. Check it in a good version of them, not that one. Good.

Sir, we have to be very careful now as to what signals we send to the young people as politicians. I think we have all come to realise the folly of promises which cannot be easily kept. We have to bring some realism into the political domain in the months coming. We have to be realistic and ^ truthful with the people.

St. John was realistic and truthful. He lost his seat for it. He is comfortable in his mind today because he knew that he did what was right.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I do not know why these are worrying with the youngster from St. John, Sir. He is doing his legal work. Do not mind these. Go ahead.

Sir, I today wish to counsel the Government to use their resources quickly to try and put a programme in place, a programme for the restoration of law and order in Barbados and a sense of balance and proportion among the restless young people of Barbados. It is critical.

I saw that the Ambassador to the OAS last week was reminding people in America that one of the things we have *, always boasted about and on which we pride ourselves is stability - political stability, social stability and so on.

I wonder if, in the light of events in the last four years, we can still feel complacent about that former stability of which we boast. We had rows in the DLP causing spin-offs into a new party, continuing rows in the last couple of weeks, in-party warfare, all of that instability, disequilibrium within, too many bad candidates over there within the party. *_
4.10p.m.

And now we have outside of the Party but in the society at large, these social problems.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Yes. Alright. I am not saying that other countries do not have the problems. I am saying that, knowing that other countries have the

problems, we cannot afford to be complacent because there are young people who watch what is happening in the world, read about it and so on. There is always the fringe element that would be easily taken in. I am saying to the Government, if you say that you are aware of the problems, then let me see you do something about them, because ultimately, in order for us all to survive, in order for us to be able to offer the services we all agree Barbados ought to be offering in the nineties and beyond, as a service economy, the social fabric must be stable. The social element must be stable. I hope that what I have said has not fallen on deaf ears.

I am not going to speak on the BDF today, the Defence Force, other than to ask Government to look at the question of developing a pension plan for members in the Barbados Defence Force and ensuring the early phasing out of the overseas personnel, who still form part of the Defence Force, to provide avenues of mobility for the Barbadian officers to go up, Sir.

I think I have expired....

Mr. SPEAKER: Long time.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am very grateful to you, Sir.

Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, I rise to make a very brief intervention on the discussion in this Resolution. I wish to support the Resolution in terms of Government's effort to bring some resolve to the problems that we are facing in our society.

Except for a very brief departure, Sir, I would wish to commend the Honourable Member for St. Thomas for the contribution he made because, to some extent, he echoed some of the thoughts which I have on the problems that we face in our society. Like the Honourable Member and indeed, like the presentation made by the Right Honourable Prime Minister, I am not satisfied that the total solution to the problem that we face in this country resides with the numbers which the Honourable Leader of the Opposition stated as a requirement for the Royal Barbados Police Force.

In keeping with the thinking of the Right Honourable Prime Minister, in terms of looking very seriously at the deployment of the numbers of the Royal Barbados Police Force, I would hope that greater resolve can be found in that exercise than just the increase of numbers all along the way.

A few things have been said during this debate so far that tend to bother me. In the presentation by the Honourable Member for St. George South, I got the impression that he was saying that the dissatisfaction of members of the Royal Barbados Police Force had to do

with the salaries that they were getting. I have to believe that money is the means through which people can provide for themselves a comfortable way. In that regard, I have no problem with people requiring better salaries.

But what I cannot accept is the system where you are going to tell me that a person who accepts to do a job can only do that job, if the money that they are getting satisfies them as individuals. I believe that, if you have a job to do, that the importance of that job is doing it well and thereafter all other things can be considered and made right.

I am not going down the road talking about the members of the Royal Barbados Police Force not being able to do a good job because they do not get the kind of salaries that they are asking for, because what you are saying is that the short end of the road is that the members of the Royal Barbados Police Force as the custodians of law and order in this country can become corrupt because they are not getting the kind of salaries they are asking for. When you look at the magnitude of the problems that we face, we have to be very, very serious in our approach to the solution. So let us be very, very serious in our approach to the solution to the problems that we have and recognize that these problems that we have in Barbados are problems for each and every one of us, not only as members of Parliament, not only as members of the Police Force, not only as members of the public, but as parents, as schoolteachers and headteachers, as clergy. At whatever level we hold positions of leadership in our community, we have to recognize that the problem is bigger than any one sector.

My call therefore, Sir, is just to realize it is the call for all of us. In this regard, Sir, the Honourable Member for St. Thomas made the point that it is not easy to isolate any one area. I wish to support him on that.

But when you go down the road of considering that it is a matter of unemployment that causes people to get into the kind of acts that bring the Police Force into question, I have a little problem with that. I have a little problem with it, Sir, because on a programme which I saw on television a week or two ago, I think the title of the programme is, "Heart of the Matter" one of the students from one of our secondary schools made a very strong point that there were students in forms beneath his who he knew were involved in taking drugs. Now do you want to tell me, Sir, that unemployment is the reason for them taking drugs and possibly, going down the road and getting into problems?

I am saying, Sir, that it is a bigger problem that.... I am not saying that unemployment is not a problem. It is a big problem. But I am saying that unemployment is not the reason, basically, for the problems that we are facing in our country.

We have to accept that morals of our people have declined to some extent and, if that is so, the whole

society has to bear some responsibility for what is going on in it.

Let us stop casting blame in the area of politics. Let us recognize that from the cradle and even before the cradle, we have to take our fair share of responsibility in providing for this country the citizens of whom the country can be proud.

In the area, Sir, of the drug problem I have a little difficulty in accepting some of the statements that are made by senior members of the Royal Barbados Police Force. They do not seem to me to give any indication that they have any intention of dealing with the problem of eradicating drugs from our society.

I feel, Sir, that if you are trained in the science of dealing with people who have gone wrong with the law, then you do not arm them with the kind of information that is coming from certain leaders in our society. 4.20 p.m.

I believe that we have to accept our responsibilities very seriously and recognise that if you are leaders then you have to lead from in front, you have to do the things which will provide and produce the results that are requisite in your environment.

To sum it all up, Sir, I do not think that the provision of these 25 additional persons to the Police Force, even though it will help, is the sum total of the kind of improvement that we can look for. In that regard, therefore, my call is for all persons of leadership in this country, be it politician, be it clergy, be it teacher, be it Police Force, whoever it is, to accept a personal responsibility to bring this country back to a sense of law and order, bring it back to a stage where all of us can be proud to be citizens of this country. Let us stop throwing blame here, there and everywhere and accept a personal responsibility to restore to this country the law and order that we have once felt very proud of.

Thank you, Sir.

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker, I am really stimulated to enter this discussion because of the intervention of the Honourable Member for St. Thomas. The Honourable Member for St. Thomas is now calling for what I vainly called for many years, which is a clear, comprehensive and coherent discussion on social policy, only to be laughed at, sometimes contemptuously, by a group of people whose orientation was toward a reductionist approach to politics, that is, treating everything as important only if it is measurable in terms of dollars and cents. The culmination of that outlook has been over the years a neglect of social policy, which in large measure has contributed to many of the problems of social dislocation that are now manifesting themselves.

Crime is an expression of deviance within a society and any society, no matter how well organised, at any given time accommodates manifestations of deviance. Deviant behaviour is traditionally defined as any behaviour that differs from a given societal norm. That is deviant behaviour. Some of it is socially pathological, other kinds of deviant behaviour are not and are indeed encouraged. The behaviour of a mentally disturbed person is an expression of social pathology, as is that of a criminal. It is an expression of social pathology.

The rebellious behaviour of a young person grappling for truth and making desperate efforts to use his God-given creativity is not a pathological expression of deviance, so deviance in itself and a resistance to norms within a given society are not necessarily pathological. There is a huge body of social science scholarship on many societies, from which Barbados does not differ in its fundamentals, which enables us to distil from this mass of information and apply certain important generalisations to the Barbadian context.

Society consists of people acting and interacting on reality and as such it is dynamic and not static. Wherever there is movement, therefore there is potential for deviant behaviour, and the movement in any given society, all modern societies, is a movement which is essentially informed by class interests. People act in accordance with the interests of classes or groups, whether it is a Veberian concept of class or a Marxist concept of class, groups act in accordance with such interests.

There are classes with special interests that control institutions and are therefore in a position to influence the lives of many persons. There are classes of people in a society that are powerless, and whenever we encounter a situation where a group of powerless people feel that they are not getting an equitable share of what society has to offer, then there is class conflict, and much deviant behaviour in Barbados, like elsewhere, can, without fear of being contested, emanate from class conflict. Much of it in Barbados emanates from race conflict and colour conflict as well, and unless we get to the essentials of social differentiation as the genesis of conflict within the society, then we will not know what the basic cause of deviant behaviour is. It is so not only in Barbados, but, in every given society where there is an oligarchic structure, deviant behaviour in the last analysis derives from social differentiation.

It is something that Barbadians try to run away from by planting the fig leaf of the legalism "Barbadian" over the nastiness and untidiness of social conflict in the hope that it will go away because it cannot be seen, and it will go away if one does not talk about it. So questions and analyses then of the causes of social conflict must be a necessary precondition for the treatment of the issue of deviance.

This Resolution today attempts to deal with the effects of the pathology of deviance and it is absurd to blame the police. The police in Barbados, like the Police Forces elsewhere in other parts of the world, are used to maintain the social peace by perpetuating the existing state of affairs. 4.30p.m.

In every single case therefore where a society fails to deal with the genesis of social conflict, the work of a police force increases, and you can multiply the police force indefinitely, there will never be enough policemen to deal with the problem if you do not treat it at its origin. It seems to me that we have to start from the position that in every dynamic society there are differentiations, differentiations based on class, in this society differentiations also based on race which are the cause not only of differentiation itself, but of conflicts that lead to the pathology of deviants. Some of the deviance which responds to it in my view, and this is a personal view, is not pathological. It is that when in 1916 the slaves in this Island rose up in rebellion, it was as a result of conflict rooted in antagonistic differentiation, and the deviant conduct engaged in by the slaves was not pathological, but a cathartic effort to heal the pathology of the society which was rooted in the differentiation and move on. That is why I do not subscribe to the view that we should talk generally about draconian measures of punishment.

This approach locates us conceptually in the 18th and 19th centuries and we become the spiritual brothers of the slaveholding class; whenever deviants manifest themselves, whenever behaviour of a kind that is different manifests itself, punish the object of that behaviour. That presupposes the worst kind of behaviouristic outlook. During the 1970s there was a man called B. F. Skinner who was the outstanding theorist on behaviourism in the western world, and the Skinnerian doctrines led to a position where he and those of his school argued that criminals, that is, deviant people, are deviant by birth, that the origin of criminality is genetic, and the behaviourists went so far as to assert "give them any child and they in a few months would be able to determine whether that child would become a criminal if his behaviour is not modified." Behaviour modification theories then permeated the penal system of many institutions in the western world.

I remember I used to conduct a research programme for Rickerds Island Facility in New York City, and whenever I went into this institution, or the day that I was supposed to go into this institution, I would see at least one inmate wheeled out of the prison surgery with his head bandaged. After a considerable time I discovered that it was part of the technique of behaviour modification in which it was felt that certain criminals who evinced what they called aggressive behaviour had to have this behaviour changed significantly before they were released into the community. They would then operate on the frontal lobes of the brain which was the seat of aggression and reduce the victims to

being very docile persons before they let them out again completely transforming the personalities of these persons. Devious practices were employed to get these men under the surgeon's knife. A fellow inmate more often than not was bribed to attack the other man and during the ensuing fight the guard would come in, crack the target over his head with a club and that would give him an excuse to subject him to brain surgery. During this entire period millions of dollars were spent on research and most of the psychologists and psychiatrists of that period presented massive documents indicating that what were called race riots, but which in fact were demonstrations by poor black people in the inner cities for their constitutional rights, were participated in by brain damaged individuals, and that justified picking up rioters and subjecting them either to lobotomies or something which changed their behaviour that they called psycho-surgery.

I heard echoes of this approach which can lead to the extremes of behaviouristic therapy as it was called when the Honourable Member for St. Thomas declaimed, put them on farms and so forth, suggesting a regime of conditioning which was necessary to change behaviour. I heard echoes of a behaviouristic orientation in his representation, and we must not be carried away. 4.40 p.m.

Social peace, social stability, the, protection of innocent persons from injury are desirable ends in themselves and are proper police tasks. The creation of a regiment to modify behaviour as a policy is bad in principle. Modification of behaviour must come from an elimination of the pathologies that use deviance in the first place.

A man who indulges in deviant behaviour because he is hungry is not a pathological exponent of deviancy. He is not a person, in my view, who then becomes a candidate for such draconian measures of retribution. I believe they are primitive expressions of class conflict in many cases, a racial conflict in other cases.

There is an abundance of literature there. Barbadians do not have to do any unique studies. This society is not unique. It is a human society and organised on the basis of class, class relations, and private property and mere is a body of social science from which we can distil the guiding principles that we need to apply.

I therefore, Mr. Speaker, in supporting this Resolution support it as a necessary practical response to an increase in the manifestation of deviant behaviour within the society. It is necessary to protect from injury individuals who are innocent. But at the same time for this Government, this is not all and this Government, certainly, the Attorney General in my many discussions with him on this problem, is exceedingly interested in looking at remedial policies that go to the root of the problem, that go to the causes and is

very cautious about being caught up in a maelstrom of revenge and retributive actions in which the Government then merely becomes an instrument for punishing persons who are victims of a condition of social differentiation which they have no part in creating.

I would look forward to the day when the Honourable Attorney General brings to this House some of the proposals which he has in mind to deal constructively with the root cause of the problem rather than spending our time in every debate arguing about the kind of retribution that is appropriate to visit upon persons who are responsible for deviant behaviour.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not intend to get into the philosophical principles which have been enunciated by the Honourable Member for St. Michael East nor, indeed, to range as wide as my friend the Honourable Member for St. Thomas did in looking at some of the fundamental criminological and other implications of the problems facing us in respect of law and order in this country.

I wish, however, to restate some of the concerns which have influenced the stance taken by the Barbados Labour Party, a stance which has been so admirably enunciated in this debate by the Honourable Member for St. Thomas. Not only have we stated our position in an admirable manner, but we have stated it quite clearly.

We are going to support the Resolution and we are going to support a temporary deployment of the other forces of law and order in this country, the Defence Force, for a limited time and under what I would hope would be very strict controls and regulations.

It would be less than human if I did not say, Sir, to the Government the wheel has come full circle. I bore the brunt of a criticism of several Members now on the Government side when they were then in Opposition when the Defence Force responded to a request from the then Commissioner of Police, Mr. Prescod, to assist in an emergency situation in a fire which took place in Swan Street and within a couple of days you would have thought that the then Government of Barbados had decided to rule this country by the military rather than by civilian powers.

I recognise that when people are in Opposition there is the tendency to be over-critical but having sat both in Opposition and in Government and having some idea of the responsibility that we should carry, and with the legacy of the Barbados Labour Party behind us, we have always acted responsibly when we come to deal with matters of this nature.

There are limited circumstances in which the civil power should call on military assistance. One of those is clearly in the case of national disaster and emergencies, and about which I think nobody should have any quarrel. The second is when law and order reaches the stage in a country that it obviously has become impossible for the Police Forces by themselves to control the normal incidence of Berime and the normal events that constitute breakdown in law and order.

In the second category of cases conventions have grown up in other countries whereby, subject to the Official Secrets Act certain information is shared. It is not an abdication by the Government of its primary responsibility for running the country and although the Government has not visited us with the courtesy of any consultations, based on the information available to us in the Opposition here, and the Government ought to know that it is not the only , repository of intelligence information, or how to gauge what is going on in this country, any serious Opposition must be apprised by legitimate means of what happens and based on the information available, we are satisfied at this time that, obviously, the use of the Defence Force in these circumstances cannot meet with an outright criticism from us.

I said the Government has not yet learnt that the maturity of our democracy demands consultancy at various levels but, despite that, we will show the maturity, and that is why the Honourable Member as the Shadow Minister of Law and Order in this country spoke very carefully and said that, at this time, subject to safeguards, we on this side, with the information available to us, legitimate information, we would be prepared not to criticize the Government about the use of the Defence Force in a limited manner and, subject to very stringent safeguards, in the events that would take place shortly. 4.50p.m.

I hope however that the exercise is not being looked at as a way of preventing a sick-out in the police force, if any such thing is being planned. I think there are ways to deal with those sorts of problems other than the use of military.

What I would wish to know however, at some stage, is the total safeguards which would be implemented by the civil force in order to ensure that the Defence Force does not in a militaristic way come into the job that it is being asked to do. I would hate to think that they are so armed particularly on Kadooment Day, that that in itself would be a provocation to the population.

Therefore I trust that the Prime Minister, before the debate finishes, will be able to give us the assurance that the natural and normal safeguards would be put in place. I read in the newspaper that the Commissioner of Police has said that they would be under his control and command. I would expect that this would call for putting in place certain

legislation on statutory rules and orders, if this is what is intended, if the statement is correct, that that would be put in place and we would not find the Defence Force therefore in a position that it is being used in ways that we are not normally accustomed to seeing the Defence Force used.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The Honourable Minister of Housing has said that I must forget the report in the paper. I have not seen any denial of the report from the Government side. I would welcome the denial. Nor indeed, have I seen other than a no comment from the Minister responsible for Law and Order who is the Honourable Attorney-General. I would wish to know what was the position.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: But, Sir, let me say that one of the things that Barbados is going to have to learn is to manage the military and to learn to deal with the situation where the civil authorities and powers may, from time to time, have to rely on the use of the military for normal, civil dudes in our country. We are a young nation, in this respect, and there is a tremendous fear on the part of the governmental authorities in our young nation, as there is in most developing countries, about the use of military powers.

I have been in this House long enough to hear the tremendous criticism of the then Prime Minister, Tom Adams, every time that he had to speak on this subject matter or call for the use, in any way, of the military.

I have been in this House long enough, on a Civil Establishment Order; to hear Honourable Members on that side taking the Prime Minister, Tom Adams and the Labour Party to pieces, even when we increased the pay of the Defence Force.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The Honourable Member said we never consulted. I am privy to many consultations that took place with the then Right Honourable Member for St. John on matters of law and order and national security in this country, Sir. I was a member of the Defence Board and I am still bound by the Official Secrets Act. I am bound in here and anywhere else by the Official Secrets Act. I would not lightly talk of certain matters, Sir.

I remember the consultation that used to go on, not only behind the Speaker's Chair, but in person and through an intermediary.

Aside.

Laughter.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I would tell you the name of the intermediary behind the Speaker's Chair. Be satisfied it is someone who is well-respected in this House, by both sides of the House, and whose advice is taken on such matters and ought to be taken, on such matters by people holding that role, by Prime Ministers and persons in charge of law and order. The Honourable Member will not hear me going out of the bounds of what is proper in such circumstances.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I know that they have not consulted the Honourable Member for St. Thomas. There is nothing that the Prime Minister or the present Leader of the Opposition can talk about that I would not know, Sir.

Laughter.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I know they have not consulted on these matters.

But, Sir, I want to deal with the problems of the Police Force because we have had this debate, in many forms, on several occasions. Sometimes I hear statements being made that really pain me. Sometimes they have been made by police authorities themselves and other times by political opponents.

But I think the Honourable Member for St. Thomas has spoken absolutely correctly when he said that, by 1985, all outstanding problems relating to the establishment and the strength of the force, as then before the Barbados Labour Party Government, have been dealt with.

When I became Attorney-General in 1976, the force then had an establishment of 883 people, according to their figure, Sir. That is the figure given to me. They were never up to establishment because there is always a lag in recruitment. You will see even now, that there are vacancies that remain unfilled. By 1981, we had moved this up to 1 050. By 1985, we had moved it up to 1 200 people. That was the total request that had been advanced by Commissioner Prescod when he took over, and indeed it was followed up by the present Commissioner, at that time.

We did that against the background not only of creating new posts and additions to the police strength, but we also, at the same time, took away, and released for full-time police work, policemen who were undertaking certain tasks; policemen who were undertaking the task of weights and measures, writ serving, licensing in traffic and immigration, in particular, I recall. We gave consideration, at the time, to releasing the policemen who guard the Governor-General, at the time His Excellency, the Governor-General. We gave consideration for releasing them from that task and having a complete military guard,

at Government House. I believe that we gave serious consideration to that point, Sir.

There is only one statement that I would make in relation to it. I am going to go into this debate with great care, Sir, because I do not really want to touch on security problems. 5.00p.m.

In considering these matters one must always be conscious of the fact that you must ask yourself who is going to guard the guards. Countries as small as our own, and countries as young as our own, in some respects need to have built-in safeguards against the very military itself. Therefore, if one was going to have a purely military guard at the seat of Government, which is a very sensitive area in this country, one would still have to build in from a security point of view a civil power.

It is necessary to have within the Police Force intelligence-gathering for various reasons, which I will not go into. I recognise that the Defence Force also has intelligence gathering, for reasons that I will not go into, but at the same time the civil power must be aware of its responsibility, given the nature of the military power, to have checks and balances on how these matters are conducted. Because of that I would find it a little bit difficult to support the blanket call for the complete removal of a police presence at the residence of the Governor-General. I cannot support that in that way.

There are certain safeguards that one has to be conscious of in running a country, and one has to be very, very careful about how far you go in certain matters.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I would like that there be no misleading of opinion or viewpoint in this Chamber. I want to make it absolutely clear, Sir, that I did not call for the removal of the police presence at the Governor-General's residence and I do not see how the Leader of the minority Opposition could get up and imply or state or suggest that in my address I have called for the removal of the police presence from the Governor-General's residence. If, Sir, he did not mean to say so, or he did not say so, I would hope that he would say exactly who made that particular statement.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I knew that relationships between the Right Honourable Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition had reached the stage where the party had ruptured and torn asunder, but I did not realise it had reached the stage where the Right Honourable Member is now turning off his hearing aid and not listening to the Honourable Leader of the Opposition when he speaks.

Mr. R. P. BYER: On a point of order. Mr. Speaker, my recollection in here today is that no person called for the

complete removal of any person from Government House. It was by way of a suggestion asking the Prime Minister, or whoever has that authority, to consider where it is a purely ceremonial presence, like at Government House, to consider whether removal of persons from there would help in the situation in so far as the numbers of policemen for duty are concerned. Nobody asked for that, Sir, so I do not know where that suggestion is coming from. Certainly the Prime Minister did not have his hearing aid turned off, he was listening very intently and he knew exactly what the Leader of the Opposition said, contrary to what the Member for Christ Church West might be saying now.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I understand and I am responding to a debate that has taken place in which various Members have spoken. I understand the statement being made that there were areas in which one could have a civilian presence, and one of the areas that came to the mind of the Member for St. Michael South Central, the Leader of the Opposition, was the removal of the police from ceremonial duties at Government House and the replacement by the military. I am saying that that is all they do at Government House now and I am saying that that recommendation could not meet with my support, for the reasons which I have set out in the debate. I am quite prepared to support other measures for ensuring that civilian personnel are used in the Police Force where they can be used without detriment to the proper functioning of the Force.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Oh a point of order, Mr. Speaker, at no point do I recall the Leader of the Opposition saying that a civilian presence could be employed at Government House, if that is what I understand the Member for Christ Church West to be saying. He never said that. At that point he was talking about the proper use of the Barbados Defence Force and he was saying that you could consider employing the Barbados Defence Force at Government House, as a suggestion, not civilian personnel. He never said that.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I have not made any suggestion about civilian personnel at Government House. Some civilian personnel are used at Government House, but I am quoting him when he talked about a military presence for ceremonial duties at Government House, and I am saying that one cannot accept that suggestion without a deeper analysis of the reasons why it has been turned down previously in Barbados.

Sir, let me advise Honourable Members. In 1978 a detailed study of the establishment and strength and the future needs of the Barbados Police Force was undertaken by Deputy Chief Constable, David Graham, of the Cheshire Police Force, with assistance from the British Government. That report, for reasons of security, has never been made public although the main proposals of the report were discussed with all ranks of the Force and indeed made

available to the Police Association at the time. There are certain sections of the report that obviously should not be published because of the security aspects of it, and in this debate I do not propose to address those areas, but what Deputy Chief Constable Graham recommended then, with the full support of the police authorities, is that the establishment should be built up over a period of years to 1 200, which would give Barbados a ratio of one policeman to 210 members of the population. Let me state that that ratio is the lowest ratio to be found among any Police Force in the Caribbean and it is one of the lowest to be found among Police Forces in developed countries. Let me make that for a start, Sir.

It is one of the lowest ratios to be found within the Commonwealth and among Police Forces in developed countries.

Mr. SPEAKER: Just one moment. The sensitivity of the microphones will not do very well for Members cross talking. I would wish that those voices would be toned down so that I can hear the Member who is at the time given the opportunity to speak. Continue. 5.10p.m.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Sir, I was saying that the ratio of police per head of population in Barbados by 1985 under the Barbados Labour Party, was and still is the highest in any part of the Caribbean, and it compares very favourably with the United Kingdom, with Canada and with the United States, taking into account both Provincial or State Police and Federal Police, and therefore that figure had been reached at the request of the police themselves and after a detailed and careful analysis which was carried out by the police authorities with the assistance of the United Kingdom.

Now, Sir, it is also significant that reclassification took place during this period of time, and I really want to read what was happening, because when I hear statements about things not having happened for twelve years and that the police were ignored which is an implied criticism of the Barbados Labour Party, I must respond to that, because what we are getting is a good deal of misrepresentation of situations in this country and a re-writing of history.

Now, Sir, in the Annual Report of the Commissioner of Police of Barbados for 1979 which was laid on the Table of the House, the Commissioner wrote in the Report himself and submitted it to the House, at page 5, Regrading of Posts:

"During the year discussions continued on the regrading of posts in the Police Department. The question of regrading arose out of discussions relating to the revision of salaries for the two year period 1978-79 and 1979-80. By the end of the year the regrading of all ranks had been agreed upon between

representatives of the Police Association, inclusive of the ranks of Constable up to Inspector, the Gazetted Officers' Association and the Government. It is expected that the necessary legislative approval will be given to the agreement early in the new year."

That approval was given. What I am saying is that by the year 1980 we had answered all of the requests of the Police Force in relation to reclassification and regrading. Now that must be made absolutely clear, and no problem of regrading arose immediately thereafter up to the time the Honourable Member for St. Thomas left his responsibility in 1986. Those problems had been dealt with. So what must be made quite clear, Sir, is that the problems confronting us cannot be looked at only in the terms of the establishment and strength of the Force, nor can we just pull figures out of the hat in dealing with this problem to say that the solution is just more policemen regardless of the consequences of how many more...

, Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, the Honourable Member continues to say "nor can we, nor can we". No one on this side has said that we are going to do anything. The only person who spoke today who said he is going to increase the numbers massively was the Leader of the Opposition and his colleagues in the NDP, and the Leader of the minority Opposition keeps misleading the House by not accurately pinpointing the issue to which he is responding.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The Honourable Member has come back to take on the role of a knight of not so shining armour, but I choose when I fight and with whom I fight, and how I fight, and the Honourable Member should know that, Sir, and when I fight and where I fight.

The position, Sir, is that we can't just look at the problem in this way. We have to look in the Force itself to see where we have gone wrong and what really is needed to take the reasonable strength of the Force and use it most effectively. My friend the Honourable Member for St. Thomas has given this House the benefit of his tremendous knowledge and expertise in the area of penal policy, the study of criminology - I think he is perhaps the only Barbadian, I don't know if there have been any since then who have studied it at the level at which he has studied it. He is probably not the only one. He is not the only one. There is the Commissioner of Police, I forgot that, and the Honourable Mr. Justice Belgrave and I am going to claim a little bit of credit for all except the Honourable Member. But he has given us the benefit of that. I should say, Sir, that even the Commissioner of Police and Mr. Justice Belgrave benefitted from that particular course at the University of Cambridge after I made the recommendation for them as I thought it was right that people who held the posts of Deputy DPP and Commissioner of Police should know about penal systems and criminology in great detail. So let me just put that in the debate, that in the overall

planning we were looking at the whole penal system in this country.

Part of the problem in the Police Force is a problem of recruitment. Nobody has addressed that problem here, Sir, and it is not an easy one to address with the Police themselves. On the occasions that I have had to discuss this question of recruitment with the Commissioners of Police or with the Police Association, it has always been a sensitive matter for them. But, Sir, we are in an area, we are all agreed, of sophisticated crime where criminal techniques and methods have varied tremendously, and it is obvious therefore that police manpower must be so trained and conditioned as to be able to respond effectively to the sophistication of the 20th century criminals.

There was only one occasion in the Police Force that we have had an accelerated recruitment of policemen - the Honourable Member says it was disastrous - and promotion of policemen. The Honourable Member for St. James South is saying it was disastrous. If it has happened only on one occasion and it has been disastrous as he is saying - and I don't think it has been - there is no reason why it should not be tried and tried again. There is room within the Police Force for a proper Officer Cadet Scheme in which you can recruit at that level people who have had a whole host of training, whether it be in chemistry, science or accounts, for specialised areas particularly in the Police Force and recruit them at the Officer level. This does not mean that you are denying people who have come through the ranks their well deserved promotion; but any Police Force that I have known that is really worth its salt, Sir, whether it be the United Kingdom, if you look at their separate Forces, such as the Metropolitan Police, or any other Country's Forces, in Canada, in the United States, recruitment takes place at different levels, and this is one level that we have been denying ourselves access to. As a result the Police Force has been starved of middle management and management at a higher level.

I became extremely conscious of what was happening and you will notice, Sir, that, given the parameters within which the Barbados Labour Party was then functioning, we had special courses set out for everyone, from the level of the present Commissioner right down through the ranks of Inspectors at that time. 5.20 p.m.

If you would read the Annual Report, Sir - I am going to talk facts - you will notice how many of the senior officers for the first time were sent on accelerated training courses and specific training courses in order to gear them for middle management and upper management level in the Service. But I would have been delighted if the final problem of that particular area of recruitment had been answered as well, Sir.

Now, Sir, training must also involve all ranks of the Force. One of the things that we did was to increase the effectiveness of training at the Regional Police Training College and, *p* fact, the College, which was losing its effectiveness as a training centre in the Caribbean, was revived and plans were developed for moving the Regional Training School to the level of a Regional Training College with a wider area of subjects which must be undertaken and * I believe, once again, that that is one area to which we should turn our attention. I do not know what has become of them and I would like to hear. I realise the Minister in charge of Law and Order is not here.

I said, Sir, there is usually a lag time between vacancies occurring in the Force and filling those vacancies. This, too, should be tightened up because any annual report would show you that the Force although it has a certain complement of men, is very seldom up to that complete complement and there must be an on-going **> process of recruiting people.

You will see that the number of applications for entry into the Police Force has quadrupled over the last four or five years and it seems to me that there should be no lag between a vacancy being available and the filling of the particular posts and the training of people. I think the initial training course is a period of six months. Sometimes we have had crash courses over a shorter period of about three <* months. But in my view, Sir, a minimum training period to put a recruit on the road where he can be of any genuine influence and effect in the maintenance of law and order is probably a period of six months.

Now, one of the things I have discovered as well is that that recruit having been trained once, a large proportion of them never went back for refresher courses and some of them, in fact, never gained promotion because they could not get past the qualifying examination and we had, therefore, once again to restructure training programmes in *** order to deal with this problem.

Sir, I understand that there is a concern in the Force at the moment that study leave is being stopped for policemen and I hope that this is not so. I understand that there are two policemen in particular who have obtained their Bachelor of Laws on their own and who are now to proceed to do their professional examinations in Trinidad and Tobago and they themselves cannot obtain permission to do that. I believe that this too should be encouraged.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Is it deferred? Well, I hope it will not be stopped, Sir.

I wish in the two minutes yet allowed to me to talk about Police Aides. Now, Sir, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South made the point that soon there will be

additional police vehicles available. Sir, I live in a parish that is served by a Police Station that looks after the Parishes of St. Philip and St. John. I know for a fact that, those parishes are served by one vehicle, a jeep.

The Rt. Honourable Prime Minister would have discovered this the night that he went up to District "C" Police Station late one night and would have been confronted with what I know existed for a long time.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The Prime Minister must know that I would know where he is. It is my duty to know where he is and what he is doing and he is not going to escape. I must know what he is doing, what he is saying and what he is thinking so that I can effectively shadow him, Sir.

The point is he discovered on that occasion a complaint that was well known in the parishes, that there was really only one vehicle available to District "C" Police Station in order to respond to the needs of the whole of St. Philip, which is a growing parish in population, and the Parish of St. John. And there were times that that one vehicle was broken down so that there has been tremendous need for proper equipping of the Force and, really, what I believe we should do is to have a long-term analysis of the Force's needs not only in terms of men but also in terms of the equipment over a period of five to ten years and plan, properly in order to answer this problem if the Force is to be well equipped.

The third thing is a matter for the Force itself in the last couple of seconds you would allow me and that is one of the deployment of men. The Force has taken every new fad, some of which would be beneficial in terms of the wider community, but it must recognise that as it takes on new assignments that it is doing this at times to the detriment of priority needs.

In my own constituency of Christ Church West in the last few weeks I have had to write to the Commissioner copying to the Superintendent in charge of the Southern Division and the Station Sergeants in charge of Hastings and Worthing about the increase in crime during the day, people walking into people's homes during the day in the area between St. Matthias/Pleasant Hall and Rendezvous and committing crimes. Now, the reason is that there is not a sufficient police presence and I ask for the reinstitution of people on the beat and people on horses from time to time.

Finally, Sir, I really could not finish this without making a point because the Honourable Member for St. Michael West is rearing to go after me. I recall very well the tremendous criticism of the Labour Party in 1961, as long ago as that, when we had police dogs operating in this

country. We were characterised as people who were willing to feed dogs and not look after human beings.

I brought in police dogs at the stations to help in the detection of crime, particularly drugs, Sir. We started buying the police dogs again and training them.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I do not know who took them out. The Honourable Member was not there in 1961 but he would know who took them out in 1961 and the criticism of the Barbados Labour Party then. That will show you. Sometimes you have to expose people to responsibility to appreciate the reason for action. What I am saying is that when we have tried and proved methods that have a purpose, we should not be too anxious for short-term political reasons to throw them through the water.

I believe that this is a serious subject. The Barbados Labour Party has always been stoutly behind law and order in this country. I have come out and spoken sometimes against the advice of people who believe in rhetoric on the necessity to strengthen the forces of law and order and to be very specific about people who likely abuse law and order, whether it be on our beaches, whether it be by the speed boats or whether it be by gangs, a subject which the Honourable Member for St. Thomas first raised and was severely reprimanded and criticised by those who said that there were no gangs in this country. But we are consistent. We are not in this business very lightly.

We have been consistent in saying to Barbados that we can only get the benefits of an increasing quality of life and standard of life if we are able to maintain stability and proper law and order in this country. That is the side on which the Barbados Labour Party will always come down and for which we will always be known, Sir.

Hon. B. M. TAUT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was not minded to join this debate until the Honourable Member for Christ Church West delivered himself of what was one of his marathon statements on law and order. 5.30p.m.

It is all very interesting when this debate of law and order takes place, no matter where it takes place, invariably the positions that are being taken can be identified as almost the same in respect of the particular perspective with which the person who is making the statement is looking.

I am minded to join the debate because I, through an enforced stay in London recently, was privy to an almost exact discussion which is going on in London about:

- (a) the sufficiency of the numbers in the police forces in various cities, particularly London;

- (b) the methodology that should be used to increase and improve the quality of the force;

and a whole number of issues, all of which have been canvassed in this House today, Sir.

With respect to something which the Honourable Member said about the accelerated recruitment, that is the issue that, in fact, is dividing the people concerned in Britain, at the moment, on this whole issue of whether the Government should bring persons in at the management level of the police forces in Britain. All of this has come about because of three or four cases, more particularly two cases relating to the unfair indictment and sentencing of members of Irish descent who lived in England and were deemed to have worked for the IRA.

It has come to the fore, in two of the cases so far, where large numbers of people were sentenced to long sentences in prison, that the police had acted in a manner which caused in the courts what is in essence a miscarriage of justice. This has opened a whole debate about police methods and whether, in fact, management of the force is not affected by the absence of training at a certain level.

These debates are not new because when I lived in the United States, and continuously throughout the United States, there was the constant cry on the part of administrations as that the Commissioner of Police has said: "We do not have enough manpower to perform all the duties that are required by citizens to maintain law and order." There are many politicians in the United States, and to a lesser extent Britain, who have come to office on the basis of a strong so-called law and order platform.

I never thought that I would live to see the day when, in Barbados, a politician would seek to use law and order as a plank to influence the society in a particular way.

I must confess, Sir, that I am disappointed in the Leader of the Opposition, in your throwing out wild numbers like 300 indicating that when the NDP gets into some position they are going to increase the Police Force by 300. I want to say that that is irresponsible, Sir. It is irresponsible for us, in the House of Assembly or in any leadership position in this country, to give the people the impression that all that is required to increase the surveillance in law and order or to increase the method by which we keep law and order is to increase the numbers, and that there is no cost to the society.

The issue is not whether we should have more policemen or policewomen. The issue is, what can this country, in its size, afford? That is the issue that has to be discussed, Sir.

We cannot go on discussing these matters in the trite manner in which some superficial letters appear in the

newspaper. That is an expression that is the privilege of every citizen.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I would never describe anything you write as superficial. I am not even aware the Honourable Member had written a letter.

But, Sir, there are some superficial letters written by some people who write everyday in the newspapers. They are entitled to their opinions. That is part of the essence of our democracy.

But when we are discussing these matters seriously and when we are doing an analysis of what it means to the country, I think that we are required to bring a much more disciplined approach to the analysis which we do.

What we have before us, Sir, is a decision by the Government to increase the numbers of the force by 25. I believe that I heard the Prime Minister in his capacity as Minister responsible for Establishments in introducing this measure before the House saying that this was a first step.

Twenty-five additional policemen in a society this size is a large number, especially bearing in mind what the representatives of the Barbados Labour Party have said about how they had brought the force to a number of 1 200 at a time when they had given the most careful consideration to what the requirements were.

I do not believe that any of us on either side of this House should seek to get political kudos from how much we have increased or not increased the numbers in the Police Force. I think it is important that we seek to give those who work in the Royal Barbados Police Force a sense of belonging, a sense of feeling that the job they do is worthwhile and that it is appreciated. And from time to time, as they seek to extract from the society the best facilities they can get, there would be some controversy and some contention.

But I challenge anyone to tell me that, if a man is working as a police officer for \$2 000 a month in Barbados at the beginning of his career, there is something fundamentally unfair about that. I challenge anybody in this country to come forward and look across the board at the salaries which people get in this country and tell me that \$2 000 a month is unfair. That is not to say that is all they deserve. That is to say, in the context of what is possible in this country, that that is not an unreasonable salary.

Now, someone would say, what is a reasonable salary for a Parliamentarian? Well, all a policeman has to do is become a Parliamentarian. It is not difficult. All you have to

do is offer yourself, get elected and you become a Parliamentarian. But that is not the issue. The issue is what is reasonable, in the circumstances, in this country.

I believe the police have a right to ask for and seek to get the best they can. But in pursuit of that goal, Mr. Speaker, we all have an obligation and, most of all, the Government has the obligation to ensure that there is parity and to ensure that, across the board, all of the persons who are working for the people of Barbados can feel a sense of satisfaction and justification.

We had a reclassification exercise. A reclassification is not a negotiation for salaries. A reclassification was the result of especially the Royal Barbados Police saying that, in relation to other organizations and other groups in the society, their position was an unfair position.

The fact is that, arbitrarily, the Government over the period of time between 1976 and 1986 made a decision to put one category of persons ahead of the others. From then it was skewed and from then there has always been confusion.

Mr. Speaker, I am responsible for one of the largest cadre of persons in the society working for the people, the nurses. I do not believe that the nurses receive the best possible salary that they should get, in relation to the skills they have and the duties they perform. They do not! They never have, Sir! Not only in Barbados, anywhere!

Sir, in relation to what the country can afford, I have had to say to the nurses that, you know, I would like you, in the interest of the country to accept that the country is doing the best it can, because, in the final analysis, all of us receive our salaries from each other. 5.40 p.m.

There is no ethereal fund from which we draw dollar bills. The dollar bills which pay the salaries of all Honourable Members and the rest of the society come from the equal society paying in sufficient and earning enough to pay. So that when the Government engages three-professionals and says to them: "You dispassionately perform the duty of telling us how to reclassify across the civil service", and those three professionals produce a report and we examine it and accept it in part, 95 per cent of it accepted without change, it seems to me that there is something fundamentally wrong with the thinking if people are allowed to believe that somehow they have been unfairly to the point where they did not get any money. There is a category of staff called a Senior Administrative Officer that has been reduced because, in the wisdom of the three professionals who did the reclassification, as they looked at all of the categories in the country, they concluded that they needed to make certain adjustments of a certain kind.

Mr. Speaker, they were at pains to identify the methodology which they used to arrive at their conclusions. We must recognise that not everybody would agree with what they said, but this Government never came to the population and said at any time that this is a salary increase. The reclassification followed a salary increase, and the reclassification was the keeping of a promise by this Government arising out of a complaint by the Police especially that there was need for a reclassification. I came back to this country to find that we are being personified as some kind of criminal element that refused to give the Police any increase, and gave the big fellows at the top a lot of money and the small fellows didn't have any money. That, Sir, is an immorality which we cannot condone and continue and pretend that because an election is around the corner we mustn't talk about it. That is immoral, Sir. In public life we have to deal with the realities of what is possible. I am not going to be party to any situations in which the Police might go on strike. I return to this country to discover that one of the fears we have is the newspapers on the one hand saying - and I invite you, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the country to review the newspapers for the last fifteen years and you will see that it is a recurring theme - about the lawlessness of the youth, and it comes at a particular time. I do not now accuse anybody of anything; I am merely saying that it is a cycle. Yes, Sir, there has been an increase in lawlessness; yes, Sir, there has been an increase in indiscipline, but we in the Democratic Labour Party Government are not the repository for everything that has caused the indiscipline, and I am not going to be party to acceptance of any responsibility as I read in the newspapers by some neophytes who have made no contribution whatsoever to the increasing of the society.

I want to suggest to you that if the Church calls a press conference to say that they want to increase Sunday Schools and they want to do a number of other things that you will not see it on page 1 or 2 or 3. I want to say to you, Sir, that in this country there are large numbers of young people, and when we had the 350th Anniversary Celebrations we saw and we spoke about it in this House, large numbers of young people who are leading an exemplary life, all things being equal in this country, but they get no publicity, they are not exemplified. What we have is a glorification of mediocrity, sycophancy and a number of other similar relationships which we are not translating into something else.

Now, Sir next week the columnists will say that I have my head in the sand, that I am not paying attention to the reality, but the truth is that we have a large number of young people in this country who are doing well, and who are not on dope, and who have good clean fun. I have a lot of them in my constituency, Sir. I also have some, Sir, who are on the other side.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: He is not a boy, he is a lawyer. There are no boys who are lawyers. The Honourable Member for St. John will tell you that most of the lawyers are not boys.

But, quite seriously, when we are looking at the causes of problems in this society, we have to recognise that these are not things peculiar to this society. Across the world we are having the same kinds of issues because the world itself is in turmoil. You cannot have the kind of rapid changes which have been taking place in Eastern Europe and not have some spill over effect on the rest of the world where they are beginning to wonder exactly what is happening and why it is happening. So we come to this issue of gangs. Now when the Attorney General made his statement about there not being any gangs in Barbados, the Attorney General was specifically referring, because I raised the issue with him, to gangs in the sense that at that time on CNN one was seeing that they had gangs in the United States who were killing each other as a matter of serious fun. In San Francisco there were people who could not walk about because of the gang warfare.

The Attorney General put out a statement in which he attempted to explain that he was not referring to gangs in the sense of where three or four are gathered together, and what happened is that it suited the purpose of a number of people to perpetuate the concept that the Attorney General said that there are no gangs in Barbados. In the sense that there are gangs in Barbados according to the people who speak, all of us were members of a gang at some time in that sense. You have the gang of four.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The point I am making, Sir, is that those of us, Mr. Speaker, as you will recall, who used to remove ackees and plums from their rightful tree without leave of the owner, those of us who used to have the* occasional...

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I think that there has been some loose talk about gangs, and that is why in my article I put it in inverted commas. A gang strictly so called criminologically is a group of persons who have certain common conditions of belonging. You have to take oaths, you have to believe in certain things, swear, move in a certain way, dress in a certain way. We have near-groups in Barbados, but loosely called gangs. Sociologists call them near-groups.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I am grateful for the Honourable Member's intervention because those of us who know the Attorney General know that the Attorney General is a very serious man who uses language very sparingly, and the Attorney General as he addressed the issue of gangs in the

United States, when he issued the statement he was speaking in New York City, and he said in relation to what they have in New York City we did not have any gangs in Barbados. The Attorney General is not so foolish, Mr. Speaker, the Attorney General is not so without knowledge of his own society as not to recognise that we have people who are wayward, who run around and who get involved. I am not defending any position, I am just explaining a situation that has been allowed to fester into an issue that is not an issue.

Be that as it may, Sir, we have some lawless people in this country and the Police have been doing a good job to a large extent, there is no question about that, and the Commissioner of Police has a responsibility to ask for more men. 5.50p.m.

He has a responsibility to defend his position but every time the Commissioner of Police says he wants something, he does not have to get it because the duty and care which we have is a higher responsibility than merely to the Police Force or to any single unit of the Government. It is the duty of the Government to examine requests made by the Commissioner of Police whose hands have been untied since 1986. It is the responsibility of the Government, therefore, to examine and make adjustments.

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

I was Attorney General from 1985 to 1986 and I did not have the Commissioner of Police's hands tied but I hope that the Honourable Member would understand if his hands are now untied, his tongue has been cut out by that Government.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, all I can say is that if his tongue has been cut out, God bless us. There is no one who can stop the Commissioner from saying what he wants to say.

But, Sir, the more important thing here is that we have to examine what has been done for the Police Force since we have had the responsibility. We have continued many of the policies that were in existence and a Police Force is not an agency that you should be stopping and starting and having knee jerk reactions.

The issue of training, and the Honourable Member who is not now in his place and who has explained that he has not to be in his place, made a comment that the training school was supposed to have become a college. I think he forgot that his Minister of Finance at the time made a definite decision that the police college would not, in fact, come about. That decision was made during the time of the Barbados Labour Party and one is not questioning whether it was a good or bad decision, just a statement of fact, because the Police Training College, you would recall, was

supposed to be constructed in the area of Wildey where now a private sector building has been built. That was a decision made by the Government of the day. I think the Honourable Member for Christ Church West just forgot that it was his Minister of Finance, the late Tom Adams, who was Prime Minister who made that decision

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT:.... as advised by the Honourable Member for St. Peter, properly advised.

Sir, you will recall that there was some question about the regional nature of the training college, that some of the other Governments made certain decisions that they wanted to train their own persons and that helped to withdraw the regionally and hence reduced the viability of a college as opposed to a training school.

Now, the quality of training which our police get here is adequate for what we are required to do but the question of new sociological crimes, white collar crimes, dope peddling and all of those new entrants into the issue of crime require that we become much more scientific in our approach. The mere addition of men will not in any way negate the difficulties confronting the law and order forces as they have to confront a new and enlightened criminal.

When we read in the newspaper here that somebody has been caught in London trying to move dope through the airports in London from Barbados, make no mistake about it. That is not a local Barbadian who engineered for this person to move the dope to London. That is an international cabal of high quality, high level criminals.

When you are discussing some of the criminal activity in Barbados we cannot discuss this in terms of how somebody used to run through the place, beat four policemen and the policeman used to grab him, he would get five years and when he came out you would know that he is out of prison. We are talking about sophisticated interlocking directorates of crime. We are talking about the same kinds of people who terrorise a whole country in Columbia. We are talking about people whose business is crime and crime is still, perhaps, the most profitable business as perceived by a number of people who are corporate criminals.

Mr. Speaker, we are not discussing ordinary people who would give somebody a lash in a rum shop after a couple of drinks. That is one kind of crime. We are talking about the invasion of our society by a new and sophisticated kind of animal who comes to Barbados to rob and plague in the same way that the robber barons used to come 100 years ago in a different guise. Therefore, responses cannot only be in terms of men. Responses must be in terms of material, it must be in terms of a new and different kind of thinking and what we have to do as a society is to put our heads

together and try to be one step ahead. But we also have to recognise that we are a small community with limited resources and that we might not always be able to stem the tide in one direction.

Mr. Speaker, if you consider that this is an island theoretically, if we can stop that...

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT:....well, sometimes when I hear some of the things that are said, I am not so sure. But if you consider this is an island, theoretically, we can stop the dope traffic because if no dope comes into Barbados, then there is none. But we have seen that they have tried every possible method. We have seen that they have identified the little children of the people like us.

The middle and upper middle classes of Barbados are besieged by those who recognise the methodology. The methodology is as quickly as possible, to get hold of the children or the close relatives of those who are in decision-making positions. They have a method which they try across the world. They first come in. They try to get the police. They try to get the Customs. They try to get all of the authority sectors of the society and they try to discombobulate them. They do it in a variety of ways.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Discombobulate is a proper English word and as my colleague said earlier, when it comes to the use of English Language, while we are not arrogant, we feel able to state that corrections come neither from the East nor from the West.

Mr. Speaker, if we are not able to stem all of the tide of the dope coming in or the other criminal activity, it does not mean that we must not try and, therefore, when we discuss the Police, I would like to see us move, as would the Honourable Member for St Thomas.

Now, Sir, we are not in a mutual admiration society but the Honourable Member for St. Thomas made a statement today which was not unreasonable and I think compared with the statement by the Leader of the Opposition, that is the preferred statement.

I think that when we discuss the issue of the police, when we discuss the issue of crime, we have to make the conscious decision to move it above the plane of common, ordinary politics. We have to recognise that we are discussing a serious national issue and while we may give each other licks in terms of policies, we must not move to the level of cheap politics where we seek to make what can only be the shortest term gain by apparent blandishments to those who might not know better.

The fact is that fighting crime in this country as we go towards the 21st Century is a serious business which requires serious attitudes and serious commitment and the Government of the day has to depend on the Opposition of the day to give its support to the measures, critical analysis of measures taken by the Government Reasonable, but broadside statements that are pandering to the broad masses in the hope that they will somehow influence the political position are not acceptable in 1990. 6.00 p.m.

It cannot be acceptable if we are to talk about the new horizons for our country and for our youth.

I want to finish, Sir, with one point. It is being suggested that the young people of this country are lawless to the point where we are under siege. As I said earlier, if you check carefully, you would see that this language has been used before and is a pattern.

What I am saying is that we have to qualify, we have to identify, we have to pull out and distinguish between those who are of criminal intention and the rest.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAUT: "Cool and the Gang" in the seventies. Precisely. All I am saying - Mr. Speaker, and I make no bones about being original, or new, or different, just reasonable - my claim, Sir, is that all we are required to do is to examine the situation critically and bring to bear a measure of analysis, when we look at it

I call upon the newspapers, especially the columnists - not to stop criticizing. I do not want them to stop criticizing - to apply a bit more analysis in the situation and do not use catch phrases. This country is done irreparable harm when you see headlines which suggest that we have more crime per capita, in Barbados, than anywhere else. It is simply not true. The statistics do not bear it out. It is doing our country a disservice. It is shooting ourselves in the foot. On the one hand, the Honourable Member for St. Michael West Central is going out telling the people to come to Barbados, it is a paradise. You can still walk about in Barbados at any hour of the day. The vast majority of people can walk about in this country at any hour of the day, without fear. You cannot do it in a lot of places, from whence come our visitors. It is not fair to ourselves to be portraying ourselves as some den of inequity.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to you, Sir.

Thank you.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I want to make a contribution to this debate for two reasons:

- (1) I think I am one of three Members in this Honourable Chamber who happen to be the children of policemen.

Aside.

- (2) A lot of comment has been - I am still my » father's child however you look at it - said about the youth of this country and I want to respond to it, because I was, more or less, bom into the police force, I have followed the progress and development of the police force. I think that a lot of us, in looking at what is happening today in the police force have not looked at the history of the police force.

Traditionally, in this country, the policeman was looked upon as the fountain of a lot of information and * knowledge. If a woman was pregnant, she called the police to see if he could help. If there was trouble in the house, they called the policeman to sort it out. If a child was giving trouble, the police would have to come and give some counselling. If you wanted to make a will, the policeman wrote the will for you. The policeman performed a lot of functions.

We are like the police force. The whole of the country «**. is going through a serious transitional problem. If it is going through that process, then you would have serious repercussions. Any time you are changing, even a'child going on to adulthood, when you are going through the changing of life in the teens, you have a lot of problems. We are going through it and the police force is seeing it. Any time there is a transitional period, there must be waves. We are seeing waves in the police force. No increase in remuneration, no increase in the numbers of the police force will solve that problem overnight.

I have listened carefully to the Leader of the Opposition. On the one hand, he has asked us to reduce the expenditure in this country. On the other hand, he is telling the nurses they are underpaid, the teachers are underpaid, the pensioners are underpaid, the policemen are underpaid.

If we were to listen to him carefully and increase the number of policemen by 300, looking at a salary of \$2 000 a month, it would be \$7.2 million a year in salaries alone. That is nothing to do with uniforms, accommodation, *et cetera*. You can look at \$10 million a year. Policemen are not foolish. They will not buy that kind of foolishness. I fraternize with the policemen a lot. I am the son of a policeman. I understand how they talk and how they think. All of those promises cannot fool the policemen of this country. They know better.

The policemen in this country know that if you increase the wages of the policemen, you have to look at the nurses too. The nurses are arguing now that they have to

spend three years in training and that they should be better paid than the policemen. At least, they have to be paid equally with the policemen anyhow, they are saying. The teachers have a case as well. When you tell the policemen, "We are going to increase your salaries", you have to tell the nurses too.

But yet, on the same hand, he is saying you have to reduce expenditure. Who is he trying to fool? Himself? Certainly not the policemen, Mr. Speaker.

Although I understand and would appreciate the dangers which a policeman has to go through, I know the anxious moments a family has to go through, because I have gone through them with my father, on night duty. I know how much the wives are cursed daily, by people, if a policeman has to carry out his duty. I know those things.

But at the same time, one has got to be very realistic and understand that the country can only afford so much. There is only one bucket, so to speak. It is not coming, like manna, from Heaven. If we are asking on the one hand to increase the police force and also increase the wages, the police would have to pay it in taxes. It is a simple matter. I think the police can reason that as well. I have not got to tell them that. It has to come from all the taxpayers of this country. One has got to be reasonable.

As far as the increase goes, as well, Mr. Speaker, we cannot afford to increase the police force for every eventuality. It is like saying that the Transport Board must have enough buses to cope with the rush hour. No Transport Board, in the world, no police force, in the world, will have enough policemen to cope - let us say, in England, let us say at Wembley or the Nottinghill carnival. You have got to understand what is a reasonable number in the circumstances. Take everything into consideration. So to increase it by 300 and say that is what you require is a joke. As I understand it, the Commissioner of Police realizing the situation, has asked for just over 100 and something policemen more.

We are saying, we are starting with 25 and when they review the situation, come and let us look at it. There are, for example, bigger countries like Canada and small countries like Bermuda, where they have a specialist constabulary. But on Saturdays, or at Christmas time, you put them to direct traffic, a presence, so to speak. In this way, you pay people for the hours they have to work, like part-time policemen. Very often, there are people who have other jobs anyhow and those supplement their wages. So that we can increase the police presence in given circumstances if, as requested, we have special constabularies. That would help solve the problem with the numbers.

I want to say - I think the Leader of the minority Opposition made a point - that one of the problems I found

in the police force is this that we are trying to copy what England tried and has rejected.
6.10p.m.

One of the problems I have found with the Police Force is that we are trying to copy what England tried but has now reverted to the past. You have in the Police Force a Drug Squad. You have the CID and within the CID you have the Fraud Squad. You have the Juvenile Liaison Service; you have now something dealing with youth disturbance, about ten different little groupings. Everybody is specialising. If you go to a Police Department and you want to complain about drugs, the chap tells you to hold on, he takes your name and address and he calls the drug squad. If they are busy, you are in trouble and you have to go back the next day. If you go and complain of a forgery of some sort, he calls the fraud squad. If the two of them are on holiday, you are in trouble. If you carry a juvenile there, he calls the Juvenile Liaison Service, so statement is taken. Before when you went to a Police Station, he took the statement from you, he was trained and he took action. They tried this in England and it failed because they were not training policemen, they were training specialists in areas and fellows did not even know the crime sometimes about which he was reporting, so therefore he could not take a proper statement. That is why so often when you go to a Police Station now there are two days before the Policeman arrives. I am not saying that you must not try new methods, but it is pointless copying methods from somebody else unless you are sure that those methods are working.

Similarly in the 1960s in Britain they put all the Policemen in vehicles so they were driving about in Panda cars I think they called them. You don't get information from cars, so they put them back on foot. They must go out there and walk and talk to the shopkeeper, go and talk to the taxi man, the prostitute, go and talk to people whom you do not know but who are looking at you during the day and who have the information, people in the underground. I don't care what sophisticated equipment you have, how fast the cars are, how many computers you have, and the Police cannot communicate with people, they can't get the information, and very often the person who gives the Police the vital piece of information is never called to give evidence, and that is the problem.

There was a time, and this might be old fashioned, when my father was in charge of Holietown Police Station that every Policeman had to know every shopkeeper in St. James, because when you went to fire a rum, the shopkeeper would say "listen fellow, this is what I saw and heard". You must know the people and you can't know them from being in cars, so if you believe that by giving Police more vehicles which I believe they might need that that would solve the problem, it will not solve the problem. I believe when the Honourable Attorney General spoke about Sherlock Holmes, that is precisely what he was

talking about, that yes, you must update the knowledge *et cetera*, but the basic still remains the same. But he was castigated because he talked about Sherlock Holmes, but the people who say so are not thinking.

Let me say as well that the Leader of the Minority Opposition spoke of recruitment. The trial of direct entry to the Force through accelerated promotion has been a total failure, not that there is not accelerated promotion in the Force at the moment. Chaps have gone in and after a few years and they show potential with certain qualifications have been promoted. But all the people who have had direct entry into the Police Force have failed miserably. I don't know why but those are the facts, and all of them are out now; not one remained. One has got to be very careful. I have not looked into it very carefully, so I cannot tell you why, but it is so.

I will say this too. I have discussed with the Commissioner of Police since 1968. We seem to think that if you have five "O" levels and two "A" levels you would make a good policeman, but you have got to recruit people for the job. The guy with five "O" levels and two "A" levels is not going to walk the beat. That does not say that you must not have some fellows with "A" levels *et cetera*, but if you want a policeman to walk the beat and direct traffic, you cannot have one holding "A" levels because he feels he must be a Commissioner of Police before he starts, and it is a serious problem in the Police Force because the guys who have worked hard believe that you can only be promoted if you have these paper qualifications and not work qualifications. I am saying that we have to look at how we recruit people to the Police Force.

There are a lot of youngsters who would love to get in the Police Force just to be in the Police Force alone. A lot of people are getting into the Police Force to use it as a stepping stone, and we are not the better off for it. I know we have a very good Police Force, but there are some problems in the Police Force which I would not care to mention now. There are too many policemen who are sick for too long. Something has to be done about it, and seriously too, and in that regard I think it needs to be investigated. You cannot have a disciplined Police Force or any disciplined military organisation in which so many people can go sick so often. I am not going to say much more about that, but that needs to be investigated, and they need weeding out.

Asides.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: I am not criticising Mr. Durant; he agrees with me. Disciplinary action needs to be taken against them. It cannot happen in the Army. They need going home and I mean going home without any gratuity too.

As far as using the Army is concerned, I believe that the use of the Army at this time is necessary. This is a situation in which you have large crowds. I believe that Trinidad and Tobago use the Army at carnival and they mingle with the crowd. At least there is a presence of some form of authority there. If you are doing nothing wrong, you have nothing to fear and you would not even see them. It is only those who are up to something wrong that would * see them and complain. In Germany surprisingly there is carnival too and the Police are out in full force and the Army. As a matter of fact, it is surprising that sometimes the people life them up and throw them around during the carnival, but they are there, and there is a reason. If as we are suggesting there are some lawless elements in the community, are they suggesting that we should not put people there to contain the lawlessness, or are they saying to let there be a breakdown in law and order and then bring in the Police and the Army after? Do you know what that means? People would begin to panic and then the trouble * would occur. That is what they want; they want absolute chaos in the country. Sometimes one wonders if this is not planned too, and that is what one has to be careful about, and if we were to put our ears to the ground, we might conclude that there is some element in this country trying to foment problems, but we are going to control it. 6.20 p.m.

It will be controlled because we have taken the right •** steps to make sure that it is controlled. Let those who would believe that because we might not come out and shout and scream that we are not watching the situation and monitoring it, but in the fullness of time we will say what we have to say about that.

Aside.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: I am doing likewise but I know a lot more than people think I know too so I am speaking with restraint as well.

Mr. Speaker, the youth of this country: Sunday morning at 7:45 I went to the airport to see 11 youngsters off to Montserrat. They are going down there to work with the rebuilding of Montserrat after the hurricane. I do not believe - I might be wrong - that I have seen it in any of the newspapers. If it is there it is hidden somewhere. I did not see one newspaper person there. It was too early for the Press. They do not get up. It was the same young people * they castigate, the worst in the world, carpenters, masons, plumbers, electricians have gone down to Montserrat.

Do you know if those same guys were at the airport throwing stones all the newspapers would be there and it would be on the front page, the back page and the middle page too? It would not be too early or too late, you know. It * would have been sufficient time to catch them and it would be on the back, front and middle page. They were youngsters going down to Montserrat. No pay but no word,

no picture at all in the Press. We saw in the bus stand two Fridays ago a fellow with a knife. I have not heard if they sent the picture to the Police. I guess they have because that is their duty so that the police can make an arrest.

This is the second group that has gone down. Three fellows have come back so far but there was, on return to Barbados, no interview as to the conditions down there. That is not important. What is important is if six fellows in some place threw some stones at a minibus. You would get the minibus man, and you would get comments from everybody in the area.

We have 600 young people working in summer camps throughout this Island. I cannot get anybody to interview them really and take some pictures. I saw an interview about one fellow saying the money is not enough and we know that. Six hundred but it is no big thing. There are 600 youngsters working in the summer camps for free, voluntarily. This is no big thing but if 6 of those 600 were to curse the Director then, you know, it would be news every day and all day for a week. It is a strange thing.

Are we conditioning our young people to behave badly or not? Sometimes we can condition people to do what you want them to do. The press can condition people if they want them to do that so one has to be very careful.

I notice that the Honourable Member for St. Thomas spoke of the social problems and the need to get a solution. I want to repeat something which the Honourable Member for St. Michael West has mentioned. The problems are not peculiar to Barbados. If we were to have watched on CNN, for example, something which had just happened in England over the weekend, over 500 arrested. I think the Commissioner of Police in Jamaica this weekend was complaining as well so that all I am saying is, do not let us go overboard and think that because of conditions in Barbados, unemployment, etc. that it is peculiar to Barbados.

One of the problems with employment or unemployment in Barbados is that some of the youngsters are not taking the jobs that are available and the parents are not even letting them take them either. Some parents believe that it is better to stay home and give them \$50 or \$60 than to go out and work and get some money.

A parent has told me already that her daughter was going to learn a trade or something and the chap was paying her to learn. She said "No, he did not give her enough. Come home and sit down". The man was paying her to learn the trade and she told the daughter to come home and sit down. She could look after her. You see the type of craziness that is happening in this country? Parents feel that even to pay them to learn something is not sufficient so where do we begin? The children, the parents, the society - it is a serious problem.

Like the Honourable Member for St. Thomas, I too believe in capital punishment. It should be used and possibly we have not used it - this is a personal view, it is not the view of the Government, I think on matters such as this you should speak from your conscience — it is time we use it for the most vicious crimes.

Aside.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: You support me? Thank you. We have to use it because a lot of these young people believe that they can kill and when they come back out they are still young. I am not talking about two friends fighting or a domestic quarrel. I am talking about a situation where a fellow comes into your house and kills you wife and children. What do you expect me to do? I cannot accept that.

The time is ripe when we should be able to see that we are taking action. You are talking about what we cannot do. We do not have the power to do it. There are other people who have that power and I believe the time has come when we have to execute the power and I am sure that however we are saying that it is not a deterrent, a lot of them who would take up a gun would think twice. I feel it is a deterrent. I may not have the proof but I feel so. But in any event, I think we have to show people that we are serious and that they cannot lose their lives just like that.

I too have had the opportunity to work in prison and I know how some of them behave in prison. I know that despite what a lot of people say, they would do it a second time, and a third time. I am not talking about the domestic murder or the two friends fighting and one fellow kills another. That is not murder. It can happen to anybody. I mean a guy who sits down and plans, and cold-bloodily goes to your house and shoots and comes back out and talks about how she screamed and all kinds of foolishness. He should not be allowed to do it, not for too long.

I believe as well that those who go to prison should work. Bring them out, let them cut the canes because if you are short by 1 000 people, and the cane crop has to be reaped, let them cut the canes. Let them pick the cotton. We were short by 600 people picking cotton. We have 400 people in prison. Let them pick the cotton. We are not depriving anybody of a job.

The fact of the matter is this, Mr. Speaker, that we find that we cannot get the workers. So bring them out! At least they will pay for their keep and they could pay for their families but it seems to me in this day and age more people are concerned about the criminals than about the victims. The criminals should be made to pay for the injuries done to the victims too. If you steal something you pay back for it. These are my views because prison is

becoming so easy these days that in some countries you have conjugal rights as well. 6.30 p.m.

Too many prisoners want to go back. Coming back to the topic, the policeman's job would be much easier as well, because we are talking about increasing the Police Force to cope with the crime. The policeman's job would be much easier, because people would think twice about doing things.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that I have more or less exhausted my time and I just want to close by saying that I support the Resolution, but that we have to look, as we are doing, at the total organisation of the Police Force.

I thank you.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, if I may just reply briefly to this debate, it has been a wide ranging one. In some aspects it has been a debate that has brought out the erudition and scholarship of some Members who have participated in the debate. In other aspects of it, it has brought out some good Bajan commonsense and in other aspects of it, mostly from the Leader of the Opposition, Sir, it has brought out some extravagant and reckless statements.

I do not believe that anybody in this Chamber or in the country has taken seriously the stance of the Leader of the Opposition - I am talking about the Member for St. Michael South Central - that we would just give the Royal Barbados Police Force everything it asks for. That is his solution to all problems now. Whatever the sugar industry wants, give it to the sugar industry. Whatever the Royal Barbados Police Force wants, give it to the Royal Barbados Police Force. Nobody would be carried away by that line of argument, which is really an abandonment of care, concern and prudence which should be the hallmark of contributions from Honourable Members.

Let me say generally, apart from that, that the proposals in this Resolution have found widespread support on all sides of this Honourable Chamber and I am glad that the stance we are taking in seeking, on a phased basis, to address the problems of the enforcement of law and order in this society is meeting with that kind of consensus, because this augurs well for not only an analysis of the nature of the problems facing the developing society but also some of the approaches towards the solution of the problem.

First of all, let me say, Sir, that nothing evokes more elemental feelings and responses than the question of law and order or capital punishment, the treatment of young offenders and the treatment of mature offenders. There is a gamut of views ranging from the very conventional, that one should go for an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth, to those who are more liberal in their approaches and who

believe that retribution is not the objective of punishment, or should not be the objective of punishment, that one should have a more liberal view than this.

Let no one misunderstand the position I am taking. I am a believer in capital punishment, but I am fully aware of the liberal stances that are adopted. In a debate I could », argue on either side, as also I know the Member for Christ Church West - in fact we have in another capacity debated these issues more than once - but my basic conviction is that the death penalty should be retained in this country and that it should be used for the very serious crimes. There is no whip on these issues over here, because we believe that these are issues which relate to the personal convictions and views of people. If ever that subject comes up for discussion we will have a free vote on it over here. That is the position, Sir.

✱

Sir, let me make it clear once again lest there be any misunderstanding. My Government will take whatever steps are necessary to maintain and preserve law and order in this country. If the preservation and maintenance of law and order require the use of the Defence Force working alongside or with the Royal Barbados Police Force within the framework of the laws of this country, I will not hesitate if called upon to authorise any such use.

✱

We are a Government of laws, Sir, and one of the purposes of society in this country is the maintenance of law and order. That is basic. Unless we have law and order, we will not be able to either achieve or maybe enjoy all of the other aims and objectives to which we dedicate ourselves in this country, and so this must be basic. It is a fundamental requirement of Government.

The basic question is, what are the resources required by the Royal Barbados Police Force to carry out the functions assigned to it under the Police Act? There are a * number of statutory duties which the Royal Barbados Police Force is expected to carry out, and under the law, common or statutory, the Police Force can call upon other persons to assist them in carrying out their lawful duties. But I am a firm believer that these things must be analysed very carefully and a case must be made out beyond the shadow of a doubt for any additional resources that may be required.

Let us understand that some of the functions which were previously carried out by and large solely by the Royal Barbados Police Force have been taken on by other agencies. When I was at school there was no large corps of security guards in Barbados, but today we have a large corps of security guards. There are different firms or ^ companies or businesses which are in the business of the provision of security and they wear some kind of uniform. Some of them are Island Constables and there is even legislation under which they are registered and regulated.

So we have the security guards, private security guards, as a corps of persons assisting in the protection of property and related duties. We have the public security guards, Sir, a growing force, also looking after the preservation of Government property, including Parliament itself, and other duties relating to security. Hitherto these functions were all carried out by the Royal Barbados Police Force. As far as the hotels are concerned, in many instances they hire their own security guards and some of them have also brought on additional watchmen.

So we have these kinds of additional resources which act in parallel with the kinds of security actions taken by the Royal Barbados Police Force. It is not, therefore, enough to say that the Force is short of resources and that there are additional functions to perform, without looking at both sides of the equation.

I am satisfied that there is a need for an increase in the personnel of the Force and that is why we have brought this particular Resolution before this Honourable Chamber. But the extent of that resource requirement is a matter for further consideration, as we examine it within the framework of most of the questions that have been raised here that we ourselves have been raising, namely the deployment of the Force, the equipment of the Force, the training of the Force and even the scheduling of the shifts and so on. There are different kinds of shifts that people can be put on to ensure that, on that shift which is considered to be the one where most of the problems occur, you have most of your resources out there at that particular time.

All of these are matters which have to be taken into account, and while they talk we act, while they complain we seek to redress the grievances. This particular Resolution before us is yet again an instance of the action being taken by this Government. As I have said, Sir, we are a Government that is fully conscious of our responsibilities in relation to the preservation of law and order and to the unique place of the Royal Barbados Police Force and the members of that Force in terms of the mission that has been entrusted to it under the laws of this country.

I would like to appeal to all concerned not to take stands and to adopt positions that would seek to make the task of the Royal Barbados Police Force more difficult. We are all operating in changing social conditions. All countries of the world are experiencing change - social, political, economic and cultural. In many countries there has been the complete breakdown of law and order and in some countries crowds have taken over completely the streets and societies and have refashioned the societies. Barbados is not in that particular position, because we have maintained our democratic stance and we have provided opportunities whereby persons are very free to express all kinds of opinions and views in this country. They can be respectful and they can be disrespectful, but so long as they

remain within the orders of the law, we have no quarrel with that, but if they step beyond the arm or the bounds of law, if they become defamatory in their statements, or if they become violent in their actions in a way that creates an offence against the person or in any other way, or the property of other people, then we expect that the law-enforcing agencies will take their particular position.

Sir, it is not for me to reply to certain statements which appear in the Press, which indicate some peculiar position of one of the Opposition parties, that is not really my function here. But when I read certain statements to the effect that no views as to a vision for Barbados have been expressed, I would say that that is not faithful to the record, and I will challenge anyone who makes that statement to produce the vision that has been enunciated by any political party in this country, whether it is the Barbados Labour Party, or it may not even be a party, Sir, it may be a gang. Let them produce that particular vision and give the time and date when the vision was put forward and I will find an Expression of a vision coming from the Democratic Labour Party or from myself. It is as plain and simple as that.

Let those who are so remain worried about the utilisation and the presence of the disciplined forces, let us say at a public function in Farley Hill National Park. I believe there were over 40 implements that could be used offensively that were recovered, and that does not relate to the ones which were tossed away into the cane fields when it was discovered that searches were being carried out. I am saying that the presence of the disciplined forces on that particular occasion clearly represented a preventive aspect of the work of the disciplined forces, and in this country we wish to place emphasis on prevention. We are not out hunting perpetrators as such, we want to prevent crime from being perpetrated, not necessarily to catch the perpetrators, but of course if the alleged crime is committed we seek to apprehend the person and then through the processes of the criminal justice system we seek to give them a fair trial and to get their just deserts. That is what we are after, Sir. 6.50p.m.

Let me make it clear, Mr. Speaker, I do not hang anybody. The laws are there.

Aside.

Laughter.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Sir, do you see the type of distortions that I am talking about? This has nothing at all Sir... I do not hang anybody. I do not dragoon anybody. I do not quarter anybody, Sir...

Aside.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: ... and I do not pressurize or remove. Let history take its course.

What we are seeking to do is to maintain Barbados as a society in which high regard is paid to law and order. Within that framework we are seeking to create this small society as a just society, in which the masses of people of this country can utilize their talents so that they can enhance their standards of living, improve the quality of their lives and make a better future for their children and their children's children. In that particular task and that particular objective, I commit this Government. I am happy to get the support of Opposition parties and Honourable Members who are on the other side. In that particular objective, Sir, I am happy to have the Leader of the minority Opposition as my shadow and he can continue to shadow until it is otherwise determined, at some future date.

I beg to move, Sir, that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 3.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY
ACQUISITION BY THE CROWN OF LAND AT
HOWELLS CROSS ROAD IN THE PARISH OF ST.
MICHAEL FOR THE PROVISION OF
ADDITIONAL CAR PARKING FACILITIES AT
THE BARBADOS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Order No. 3 was called - To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition by the Crown of land at Howells Cross Road in the parish of St. > Michael for the provision of additional car parking facilities at the Barbados Community College.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a resolution seeking the approval of Parliament to acquire land at Howells Cross Road for car parking facilities at the Community College.

I beg to move that this resolution do now pass. Hon. W.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 4.

STAMP DUTY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1990

Order No. 4 was called - To move the Second Reading of a Bill to amend the Stamp Duty Act.

RL Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on May 2, 1990, in introducing the Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals, I made the following statement and I quote:

"After very careful consideration of the requirements of the soft drink industry, I have decided that effective June 1, 1990 bottles, cans, lids and crowns from extra-regional or regional sources will be allowed in free of Consumption Tax and Stamp Duty."

It is following upon that statement and related statements, in the Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals that this Amendment Bill is before us.

The Stamp Duty (Amendment) Bill, 1990 seeks to give effect to proposals relative to the reduction and removal of Stamp Duty on certain imports, as announced on May 2, 1990, as I indicated.

Section 2 of the Bill seeks to correct an omission in Section 7D (i) of the Stamp Duty (Amendment) Act, 1988-17 which exempts a manufacturer of products from the payment of Stamp Duty in respect of raw materials and packaging materials imported exclusively for use in the manufacture of those products

In the 1988 Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals, Sir, Stamp Duty was removed from raw materials and packaging materials imported from extra-regional sources for use by manufacturers of products. However the Stamp Duty (Amendment) Act, 1988-17 which gave effect to that proposal, the words:

"from extra-regional sources"

were inadvertently omitted. We are now seeking to correct this by Section 2 of the Bill. The amendment is necessary so that the legislation would be in line with the Budgetary Proposals.

Sir, as far as Section 3 (a) and 3A of the Bill are concerned, this will allow spare parts for use in agriculture, fisheries and manufacturing to enter the island or to enter Barbados at 15% rate of Stamp Duty, instead of the current 20% rate of Stamp Duty which is applicable to extra-regional imports.

Spare parts for the following will benefit from this concession:

Machinery and equipment for use in manufacturing. Machinery, equipment, motor vehicles, as approved by the

Ministries of Finance and of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries.

Appliances, apparatus and boat engine for commercial fishing. Boat equipment, fishing gear and marine engines for use in agriculture and fisheries.

As far as Section 3(d) (h) of the Bill is concerned, this will remove the 10% rate of Stamp Duty on raw materials imported from Belize and St. Kitts-Nevis for use in the manufacturing industry.

Section 3(d) (1) of the Bill will remove the Stamp Duty on the importation of cameras and other photographic equipment and other equipment for use by professional photographers who are registered with the Customs Department.

The following stands to benefit from this concession, that is, the kinds of equipment:

Photographic and cinematographic cameras, video cameras and photo-graphic equipment, including photographic flashlights, apparatus, flash bulbs, sound recorders and sound reproducers, projectors, other than cinematographic projectors, photo-graphic enlargers, reducers and accessories for the above.

Sir, those who are specially expert in that area will recognize the kinds of equipment that I am talking about.

Section 7 (d) (j) of the Stamp Duty (Amendment) Bill will remove the 10% and 20% rates of Stamp Duty applicable to regional and extra-regional imports respectively from "bottles, cans, lids, crowns and other closures for the packaging of aerated beverages in the soft drinks industry and malt beverages."

Section (b) 5 to 7 and (c) are current sections of the present Schedule to the Stamp Duty Act, Cap. 91 which have been re-arranged to make for a better presentation of the Schedule.

I daresay, Sir, in closing that revenue for the Stamp Duty for June 1990 was approximately \$7.7 million and for the period April to June 1990 approximately \$22.8 million. Refund of Stamp Duty for June 1990 was approximately \$124 583 and for the period April to June 1990, it was approximately \$801 117. 7.00 p.m

Sir, this particular Bill is, as I indicated at the outset, to give effect to the statements made in the Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals. These already have the force of law but for them to continue we must bring this legislation before the Honourable Chamber within a four month period.

Before I sit down, Sir, may I state that there are probably about four other pieces of legislation required to give effect to the budgetary proposals and these should be coming before we rise for the summer recess. I hope to have these ready by that particular time. I think we have to complete our legislative programme as far as it relates to the budgetary proposals.

Aside

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: There are other things we have to do and other projects that we have to implement, so there is no need to get too anxious. Everything in due course.

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

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

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, I will not detain the House long. In relation to the concession to the soft drinks industry, it is very significant that very often when Government gives the private sector of Barbados relief of taxes such relief never seems to benefit the consumers of the society. One imagines that when these arguments are put to, the Government, as they were put to us when we were in office, that a justification for the relief is often sought on the grounds that some cost difficulty is being experienced by the manufacturer and that the public would benefit by way of a reduction in the price of the commodities concerned.

It is my view that whenever a substantial relief is given by the Government to the private sector, somebody in Barbados should benefit. In this particular case one is amazed that the soft drink industry in Barbados could be the beneficiary of the removal of stamp duties on what is for it a substantial cost, but there is no benefit accruing to the consumer from the fact that the Government has relieved that industry, which is making a profit to begin with, from the payment of that particular imposition. One therefore has to wonder what is the purpose of these kinds of things if somebody in the final analysis will not benefit.

As it stands now, Sir, if the soft drink industry was making profits before and they have not reduced their prices as a result of Government removing the stamp duty on their packaging, then it would seem clear to me that all this is going to lead to a situation where there were handsome profits before, which will increase, and I therefore must ask the Government in relation to this particular measure if it is the Government's intention to insist that the soft drink industry of Barbados give the consumers the benefit of some part of this relief which the House is being called to vote upon.

I must stand on this point, because I remember when we were in office, in 1985, the hotel industry asked us to remove the consumption tax on wines because the price of wines was a substantial cost to the tourists. We removed the consumption tax and there was no reduction in the price of the commodity. In every instance when things like this have come to the House, I think we have the responsibility to assure ourselves that if there was a justification argued for the relief of taxation, that justification should benefit some entity in Barbados. Why then has the price of soft drinks not been reduced subsequent upon Government removing a duty on this range of things used by the industry? As far as I am aware, Sir, the price is still the same. Is this merely to enrich and enhance the profits of the soft drink industry?

Secondly, Sir, should we not really have a general policy on packaging? What this seems to be reflecting to me is that perhaps some soft drinks persons went to the Minister of Finance and Planning and argued the case that the duty on packaging material is exorbitant and that they would be more viable if that were removed. I would myself rather support a general policy in relation to a minimum duty on packaging material, particularly packaging material used by industries that are earning exports and foreign exchange, than having a selective policy that benefits only the soft drinks industry of Barbados, which as we know has been very reluctant to date to go and earn foreign exchange for the country. Should we not be talking about a general policy in relation to the packaging and a policy in relation to low rates of duty on packaging particularly for export oriented industries, to make sure that the duty on packaging material is sufficiently low that it does not in itself limit Barbados' exports, rather than to just give this concession to an industry which, as far as I am aware, has not been at the forefront of earning exports for the country? Why the soft drinks industry, Sir? And why packaging only in relation to the soft drinks industry, as distinct from a general policy on packaging? Because there are other areas, food processing industries as well, which are even more serious about exporting than the soft drinks industry, which would be glad for this kind of concession but cannot, by reason of the limitation of this policy, obtain it.

Generally, Sir, I am sorry, since we are dealing with the stamp duty, that the opportunity has not been taken to iron out what is the real quirk in the stamp duty as it presently exists. That quirk is that any person in Barbados importing machinery or equipment valued at \$100 000 or more pays a specific rate of \$10, whereas a person who has to import machinery of \$100 000 or less pays at an *ad valorem* rate, which can go as high as 15%. In very many instances it creates havoc, and I am speaking on the basis of hindsight, but it is a problem and we must solve it. A big manufacturer importing a piece of machinery valued at \$100 000 or more pays \$10, whereas a person importing a piece of machinery for \$90 000 pays 10% of \$90 000.

I think this thing came in largely to help the Cement Plant. We brought it in and hence I can criticise it moreso than anybody else, but it is a quirk which we must deal with. I would want to suggest that a graduated stamp duty on equipment rather than the present system which allows the people importing equipment worth \$100 000 or more to pay \$10, whereas under \$100 000 you pay 15%, would *» really remove some of the irksomeness that presently exists in relation to this particular matter.

Generally, Sir, I also want to make the final point that I think the Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs should be given a certain discretion in relation to stamp duty, such as he can exercise in relation to import duties and consumption tax. The Minister of Finance would know, and the House should know, that the Minister of Finance has no discretion to waive stamp duty. If he has to benefit anybody in Barbados, no matter how serious the case may *** be, he has to come to the House, whereas he has a discretion to waive consumption tax or import duties, depending upon the circumstances, and the House should be told that there are some instances where one in the Ministry of Finance would love to be able to waive the stamp duty because of the stringency of the circumstances, but the law does not at present give the Minister of Finance a discretion in relation to the waiving of the stamp duty. 7.10p.m. *

I really feel that the same sense of discretion that has been exercised with prudence in relation to the waiving of consumption taxes and import duties, which I think have been dealt with with prudence historically, should be allowed in relation to stamp duties, and if the Minister of Finance feels that it would be an unnecessary burden on anybody in Barbados to pay the stamp duty, having analysed the situation, that that Minister of Finance should be allowed the discretion to waive it on the basis of the circumstances, and should not have to come to the House ** merely because the legislation now, Sir, does not say that the Minister can waive stamp duty. We should build those kinds of flexibilities into the legislation so that, as circumstances arise, Sir, economic policy could be flexibly administered, because what we want is an atmosphere in which policy can be flexibly administered. I say that merely to say that I trust that Government policy will become even more flexible, because when last I had the opportunity to speak on the stamp duty during the Budget, it was to make ^ the point on May 2 that, even as I was speaking, I said, that we were in the middle of a recession, and I must report to the House today that I understand that the Governor of the Central Bank has confirmed that the Barbados economy has continued its decline into the second quarter. I thank you, Sir.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: If I may reply very briefly to the words that have been said, the framework within which the concessions have been made in respect of the soft drink industry has been with the objective of

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making the industry more competitive. Those were the major grounds with which the arguments for the reduction were concerned and the arguments start from the base that they want to be on the same level on the playing field as their competitors in the CARICOM region. Whether the normal economic laws are followed in terms of when there is a reduction in your cost of operations, that this may be reflected in a drop in the final price of the product which you sell, I don't know if that is limited only to the textbooks or if it is actually so in practice. But I will bear in mind what the Honourable Member has said and I will monitor the situation very clearly.

The final comment that was made there about the state of the economy, Sir - I have made the statement on more than one occasion - that 1989 was in many respects a very good year for Barbados, a record year in many of the macro-economic indices. I have also said that there was a prediction that the world economy would not advance in as robust a manner as in 1989, and being in an open economy we are bound to be affected in one way or another by what happens in that world economy as indeed by some things that happen inside our local economy as well, so that we again will watch that situation very carefully.

I do not think we have to go into any doom and gloom situation. This is what has been predicted from the start. In fact I predicted a lower rate of growth this year than last year, and, of course, I will wait for the final figures at the end of the year, but the last point made related to the

discretion and I can give the Honourable Member the assurance that I will look at that particular matter in 1991 or thereafter.

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

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

Clauses 1,2 and 3 were called and passed.

On the separate motions of Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, each seconded by Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

THE ADJOURNMENT

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 14th August, 1990 at 12 o'clock noon.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly. 7.20 p.m.

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